



Great Commission Prayer Initiative January Guide

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Monthly Theme: Repentance

Repentance means turning from everything I know to be sin today and anything God may show me to be sinful in the future. In other words, repentance is a thorough and complete change of mind about the sin in my life. It also involves full surrender to Jesus Christ as the Lord of my decisions, thoughts, behaviors, and priorities. Repentance requires that I make a clean break with sin; that I rid my life of sinful influence and instead pursue absolute, uncompromised purity in the power of the Holy Spirit. Begin by confessing the sins He has already revealed to you.

Weekly Themes:

Week 1 – Repentance

Week 2 – GCA Leadership

Week 3 – Gov't Officials

Week 4 - Sanctity of Life

Week 5 - Marriages

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14



Great Commission Association
Connecting Churches for a Greater Harvest



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

January 1-7

Focus: Repentance UPG: Afghani Muslims

"Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches." Revelation 2:5 (NLT)

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Afghans</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 1: Gen 1-3	Pray for the sins of thoughts	Pray for the Afghan believers to grow in maturity in their walk with the Lord and share the gospel with others
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 2: Gen 4-7	Pray for the sins of attitude	Pray for the over 60,000 Afghans in the Bay Area, that God would soften their hearts to the gospel of Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 3: Gen 8-11	Pray for the sins of speech	Pray for peace through Jesus to come to Afghanistan after 40 years of war in the country
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 4: Gen 12- 15	Pray for the sins of relationships	Pray for the over 2.5 million Afghan refugees in the world! Pray that God will mobilize his church around the world to reach out to their Afghan neighbors
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 5: Gen 16-18	Pray for the sins of commission (doing what we should not do)	Pray for unity in Christ for the worldwide Afghan church that they might reach their own people together. Pray for a pure gospel message to be proclaimed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 6: Gen 19-21	Pray for the sins of omission (Not doing what we should do)	Pray for the many remote ministries that are designed to reach Afghans via the internet, television, and radio.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 7: Gen 22-24	Pray for the sins of self-rule & self-reliance	Pray for the many Afghan "secret believers" who are isolated from other believers, that they might find fellowship and not fear.

Learn about Your Afghan Neighbors



Multiple sources say that the Bay Area, especially Fremont, hosts the largest Afghan population in the US. There is a cultural and commercial district called Little Kabul in Fremont, which serves as a hub for Afghans.

The most common form of greeting among Afghan women is hugging and kissing 3 times; men are more likely to put their hand over their chest and/or shake hands. Physical contact with a person of the opposite gender is avoided, except with close family.

Hospitality is important to the culture, and visitors are treated with much respect. Meals are often served while sitting on the floor. Zabihah.com lists local halal eating establishments and the kind of ethnic food served at each, making it easy to find restaurants owned and managed by people from Afghanistan.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

January 8-14

Focus: GCA Leadership UPG: Hindi-speaking Hindus

"...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 43-45

✓	Read thru the Bible	Focus Prayer Points	Pray for Hindus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 8: Gen 25-26	Pray for Dr. Mike Stewart (Executive Director of Missions)	Pray for Hindus worldwide to hunger and thirst for a deeper truth than what they currently believe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 9: Gen 27-29	Pray for Rev. Se J. Won (Associate Director of Missions)	Ask that God will supernaturally answer Hindus in their search, and many would turn to follow Christ as the one and only Truth.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 10: Gen 30-31	Pray for Lannette Lozano (Superintendent of Schools)	Pray that in their search to know 'god', Hindus will come to understand the triune God of heaven
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 11: Gen 32-34	Pray for the GCA Executive Board	Pray that Hindus will come to understand that God has given them eternal life only through His Son.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 12: Gen 35-37	Pray for the GCA Officers	Pray that Hindus will understand that Jesus Christ is the only WAY to truth and reality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 13: Gen 38-40	Pray for GCA staff	Ask that many Hindus would start exploring the Bible and that their hearts and minds would be opened to Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 14: Gen 41-42	Pray for GCA to exemplify love, wisdom, integrity, courage and excellence	Pray that Hindus will become hungry and thirsty to have a personal relationship with the living God in heaven.



Learn about Your Hindi-speaking Hindu Neighbors

Hindi refers to a language and Hindu refers to a religion. Around 80% of India identifies as Hindu, and Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world. It includes a wide range of beliefs, ideas, practices, philosophies, and traditions, and signifies a way of life. Hinduism does not teach belief in one god, nor in one prophet. For most Hindus, there is a unifying belief in Dharma, which includes certain duties, laws, conduct, and virtues that become essentially a right way of living.

There are 42,000 Hindu speakers in Santa Clara County that are five years and older. Many are short term workers and students who will return to India in a few years. Those who stay have ongoing relationships with family and friends in their home country. Most are able to speak English, so English speakers of many backgrounds can reach out to them.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

January 15-21

Focus: Government Officials

UPG: Punjabi-speaking Sikhs

...there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1b

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for the Sikhs</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 15: Gen 43-45	Pray for the President	Pray God would put believers in the paths of Sikhs, and that gospel conversations would begin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 16 Gen 46-47	Pray for the Vice President and Cabinet	Pray that God would allow you to meet a Sikh and for you to have the boldness to share the gospel with them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 17: Gen 48-50	Pray for the Supreme and Federal Judges	Pray that Sikhs would understand that they cannot earn God's grace; they need the forgiveness purchased through Jesus.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 18: Ex 1-3	Pray for Congress: Senate and House of Representatives	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would have a burden to reach their family and friends with the gospel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 19: Ex 4-6	Pray for the Governor of California	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would remain firm in their faith despite all persecution and suffering.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 20: Ex 7-9	Pray for our county officials	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would maintain a good testimony before their family and friends.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 21: Ex 10-12	Pray for our city officials	Pray that illiteracy among Sikhs, especially among women, would not hinder the expansion of the gospel.



Learn about Your Punjabi-speaking Sikh Neighbors

About 148,000 Punjabi speakers live in California. Almost 30,000 of those reside in the Bay Area. Most have roots in the Punjab region of northern India and Pakistan, where Sikhism is practiced by the majority.

There are five Sikh religious symbols: Kesh (uncut hair), Kara (a steel bracelet), Kanga (a wooden comb), Kaccha (cotton underwear) and Kirpan (steel sword). Sikhs (especially men) who wear turbans as part of their religious heritage are sometimes mistaken for Muslims or Arabs, but they are neither. Sikhism is a completely different world religion and is not related to Islam at all. Most people you see wearing turbans in California are Sikh. They assemble and worship in gurdwaras, which means "door to the guru." There are many gurdwaras in Bay Area cities.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

January 22-28

Focus: Sanctity of Life UPG: Uyghur Muslims

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
Psalm 139:13-14

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for the Uyghurs</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jan 22: Ex 13-15</u>	Pray that we, the church, and our whole nation would stand up for the sanctity of human life	Pray that the Uyghurs would rise up with identity restored, healed and bringing the Good News to the world.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jan 23: Ex 16-18</u>	Pray that the Lord will enable us to show the mercy of Christ to women and families in need.	Pray for Uyghur government officials and those in positions of influence
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jan 24: Ex 19-21</u>	Ask the Lord to show us how we can serve those women with our time, talent and treasures.	Pray for the families of Uyghurs in detention camps
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jan 25: Ex 22-24</u>	Pray that the Lord would send workers into the harvest, including us; and for true revival in our nation that focus on the sanctity of human life.	Pray for God's plans for Xinjiang to come to pass and for the enemy's plans to be thwarted
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jan 26: Ex 25-27</u>	Pray for the crisis pregnancy centers (local-state-national)	Pray that people in Xinjiang would cry out to God in their time of trouble
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jan 27: Ex 28-29</u>	Pray for a wake up call for all those who perform abortions.	Pray for Uyghurs in other parts of the world, such as Central Asia, Europe, and North America
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jan 28: Ex 30-32</u>	Pray for all of those who are suffering because of an abortion, that God will heal their hearts and souls.	Pray for the Uyghur Church, that Christian fellowships would be restored and strengthened



Learn about Your Uyghur Muslim Neighbors

Uyghurs are a Turkic Muslim people from Central Asia. Most reside in Xinjiang, a large autonomous province in the northwestern region of China. Around 100 years ago, many of the peoples who resided in the desert region's oases chose the name. The name 'Uyghur' is traditionally thought to mean unity or alliance to signify that they were one people. There are over 11 million Uyghur speakers in the Xinjiang area of China, though some sources say they number more than 20 million.

Nobody knows exactly how many Uyghur live in the United States, but most estimates are around 5,000. There are indications that this number continues to grow. The largest US concentration is in Washington DC, with other area concentrations in New York, Los Angeles, Houston, and the San Francisco Bay Area.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

January 29-31

Focus: Marriages

UPG: Nepalese

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh.” Mark 10:7-8

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for the Napalese</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 29: Ex 33-35	Pray for peace, love and joy in all marriages	Pray for a window of opportunity among the Nepalese
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 30: Ex 36-38	Pray for marital healing and the restoration of trust	Pray against the many human rights abuses in Nepal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan 31: Ex 39-40	Pray for wisdom in all the marriages	Pray for the socio-economic needs of the Nepalese



Learn about Your Nepalese Neighbors

People from Nepal are a fairly recent immigrant group to the United States, most having emigrated after 2000. Many came as political refugees, fleeing because of the political and economic difficulties caused Nepal’s long Civil War. Others fled after an earthquake (magnitude of 8.1) shook the city of Kathmandu, killing almost 9,000 and leaving 3.5 million people homeless. An estimated 70,000 Nepalese speakers in the US are actually Nepali-speaking Bhutanese who fled Bhutan and were resettled in North America after 17 years in refugee camps in eastern Nepal. Additionally, tens of thousands of students leave Nepal each year for colleges and universities in the United States and the rest of the world.