



*Great Commission
Prayer Initiative
May*

*Monthly Theme:
Love One
Another*

If we have got the true love of God shed abroad in our hearts, we will show it in our lives. We will not have to go up and down the earth proclaiming it. We will show it in everything we say or do.

-Dwight L. Moody

Weekly Themes:

Week 18 – Love one another

Week 19 – Mother's Day

Week 20 – Teacher
Appreciation

Week 21 – Regional Mission

Project in SLO

Week 22 – Public Servants

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:12



Great Commission Association
Connecting Churches for a Greater Harvest



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

May 1-7

Focus: Love One Another UPG: Punjabi-Speaking Sikhs

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for the Sikhs</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 1: 1Chron 3-5	Pray for the ability to perceive the needs of those around you	Pray that God will put a restlessness and curiosity within the hearts of Sikhs, so that they seek His true face
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 2: 1Chron 6	Pray for the self-control to pause and reflect before speaking	Pray that God will burden more Californian Christians with a heart for their Sikh neighbors
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 3: 1Chron 7-8	Pray for a compassionate heart to consider others better than myself	Pray that Sikhs would understand that they cannot earn God's grace; they need the forgiveness purchased through Jesus.
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 4: 1Chron 9-11	Pray for believers to love sacrificially as Jesus loved us	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would have a burden to reach their family and friends with the gospel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 5: 1Chron 12-14	Pray for courage to choose to love even our enemies	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would remain firm in their faith despite all persecution and suffering.
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 6: 1Chron 15-17	Pray for patience with our family and friends as an act of love	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would maintain a good testimony before their family and friends.
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 7: 1Chron 18-21	Pray that believers would love one another to give glory to the Father and to bear strong witness to the world	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

May 8-14

Focus: Mother's Day UPG: Uyghur Muslims

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." Proverbs 31:25-28

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Uyghur Muslims</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 8: 1Chron 22-24	Thank God for all the mothers, grandmothers and mothers-to-be.	Pray that the Uyghurs would rise up with identity restored, healed and bringing the Good News to the world.
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 9: 1Chron 25-27	Pray for spiritual strength and wisdom for our moms	Pray for Uyghur government officials and those in positions of influence
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 10: 1Chron 28-2Chron 1	Pray that moms will be a great model of faith and prayer for their daughters	Pray for the families of Uyghurs in detention camps
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 11: 2Chron 2-5	Pray for young mothers to find blessing in motherhood	Pray for God's plans for Xinjiang to come to pass and for the enemy's plans to be thwarted
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 12: 2Chron 6-8	Pray for encouragement and joy for single moms	Pray that people in Xinjiang would cry out to God in their time of trouble
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 13: 2Chron 9-12	Pray for spiritual mothers in churches to invest in younger women	Pray for Uyghurs in other parts of the world, such as Central Asia, Europe, and North America
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 14: 2Chron 13-17	Pray that all mothers will feel and know that they are loved and appreciated	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

May 15-21

Focus: National Day of Prayer

UPG: Nepalese

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone -- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.
1 Timothy 2:1-2

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for the Nepalese</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 15: 2Chron 18-20	Pray for Government leaders and judges in our courts, that God will grant them wisdom to act with integrity.	Pray for a window of opportunity among the Nepalese
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 16: 2Chron 21-24	Pray for the protection of military and law enforcement officers and their families.	Pray against the many human rights abuses in Nepal
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 17: 2Chron 25-27	Pray for churches to find new zeal and commitment to the Mission and glory of Jesus Christ	Pray for the socio-economic needs of the Nepalese
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 18: 2Chron 28-31	Pray for families to be strengthened and marriages to be guarded in Christ.	Pray for freedom of religion for the Nepalese
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 19: 2Chron 32-34	Pray for children and youth to meet Christ and to grow in their God-given potential.	Pray for the Church in Nepal to flourish
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 20: 2Chron 35-36	Pray for small and large businesses to flourish and for Christian workers to model Christ-like humility and integrity in their workplaces.	Pray for the next generation of Nepali Christians
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 21: Ezra 1-3	Pray for the truth to reign in the midst of all information and media platforms. Pray that Christians will seek and follow the Truth in the Bible, not public opinions.	Pray for Christian ministries to 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.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

May 22-28

Focus: Mission Engagements

UPG: Afghani Muslims

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Afghani Muslims</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 22: Ezra 4-7	Pray for greater missional focus for GCA churches and pastors	Pray for those Afghans being persecuted for their faith
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 23: Ezra 8-10	Pray for God's favor on ministry projects to extend the Love of Christ to the communities.	Pray for reconciliation among the Afghans
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 24: Neh 1-3	Pray for many young and old Christians to hear the call of God for their lives as missionaries and ministers	Pray for Afghan believers to seek unity
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 25: Neh 4-6	Pray for great openness in the community to the proclamation of the Gospel.	Pray for the Pashtun people to be reached for Christ. Pray for a complete Bible in print and audio.
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 26: Neh 7	Pray that many will come to saving Grace in Christ Jesus	Pray that God uses the Jesus film and Bible (both in Dari) to draw the Tajik people to Himself
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 27: Neh 8-9	Pray for increased passion for Jesus and love for the lost.	Pray for the Hazara people group to believe the good news
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 28: Neh 10-11	Pray for fruitfulness in all mission efforts	Pray for doors to open for the Qizilbash people group to be reached with the gospel



Learn about Your Afghan Neighbors

Afghanistan is a land of various people groups, such as Pashtun, Tajik, Quizilbash, and Hazara. Each group has its own language. Almost two-thirds of Afghanis living in the United States are ethnic Tajiks. Pashtuns are another large subgroup, representing both the Pakistani and the Afghan communities. Dari and Pashto are the 2 official national languages. Many Afghans speak more than one language.

The Pashtuns are the largest ethnic group in Afghanistan, yet there are very few Pashtun believers. The Tajik are the second largest and have emerging Christian leadership. The Hazaras make up the third largest ethnic group and are targets of persecution from the Pashtuns and the Taliban. Gospel access to the Qizilbash is limited.



Great Commission Prayer Initiative

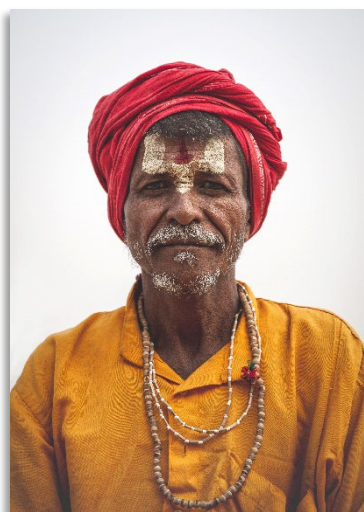
May 29-31

Focus: Military & First Responders

UPG: Hindi-speaking Hindus

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Hindus</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 29: Neh 12-13	Pray for Law enforcement personnel	Ask that Hindus would come across the truth of Jesus Christ and the Father through the internet, Christian witness and other ways.
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 30: Est 1-5	Pray for the fallen soldiers and their families. Also pray for active military personnel	Pray for Hindus to see that we were created to be transformed into Christ's image, not to be God Himself.
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 31: Est 6-10	Pray for local Fire Departments and Medical Services	Ask for Hindus to have a revelation of the greatness of God and that He alone is to be worshipped!



Learn about Your Hindi-speaking Hindu Neighbors

Hindi is the majority language spoken among Asian Indians. The counties of Alameda and Santa Clara top the list for Hindi speakers in the U.S., with 80,000+ combined. Many of the Asian Indians living in the Bay Area are specialized high-tech workers here on an H1B visa. Three quarters of all of HB visa workers are from India. Of all of the cities in the US where companies request H1B workers, three Santa Clara cities are in the top ten: Sunnyvale is #4 with 12,472 requests for 2020, San Jose is # 8 with 11,662 requests, and Mountain View is #10 with 9,625 requests. San Francisco is second highest in the US with 19,769 requests, but while many work there, most Indians do not live in San Francisco. These specialized workers are employed at Google, Infosys, PayPal, eBay, Wal-Mart, LinkedIn, and hundreds of other familiar companies, including perhaps, where you or members of your church work.