



*Great Commission  
Prayer Initiative  
October*

*Monthly Theme:  
Pastors &  
Wives  
Appreciation*

This month we focus on our GCA pastors' and ministry wives. Ministry brings with it both blessings and challenges. Some of these challenges are obvious, others are unseen or unknown to many. Please lift up our ministry families and ask that God cover them with His wisdom, grace, truth and peace. We pray protection over their hearts, minds, lives and families. We pray for their greatest joys as well as pray for their deepest heartaches.

*Weekly Themes:*

Week 40 – Pastor & Wives  
Appreciation

Week 41 – Pastors' Int'l  
Mission Trips

Week 42 – Pastors' Families

Week 43 – Pastors' Wives

Week 44 – Pastors' Kids



*I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3*



**Great Commission Association**  
Connecting Churches for a Greater Harvest



# Great Commission Prayer Initiative

## Focus: Pastors and Wives Appreciation

### UPG: Nepalese

*Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for the Nepalese</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 1: Malachi 1-4</a>	Pray that the pastors and ministry wives would honor God.	Pray for strength, endurance and supplies for the Nepalese rebuilding their homes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 2: Matt 1-4</a>	Pray that God would strengthen their faith.	Pray for comfort for Nepalese grieving lost loved ones and healing for hearts and homes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 3: Matt 5-6</a>	Pray that God would draw both pastors and ministry wives closer to Him.	Pray for wisdom and guidance for Nepal's government officials as they assess needs and allocate resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 4: Matt 7-8</a>	Pray that God would remind pastors and their families of the calling He has placed on their lives.	Pray for community centers (i.e., hospitals, schools, churches) to be rebuilt in Nepal so ministry and education continue
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 5: Matt 9-10</a>	Pray that God provides wise accountability for pastors and their families to serve Him well.	Pray for protection from monsoon rains, landslides, and disease, especially for the impoverished and displaced in Nepal
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 6: Matt 11-12</a>	Pray that pastors and ministry wives would have the courage to respond with obedience to whatever He asks.	Pray for an opportunity to earn a livelihood, especially for Nepalese who are injured or care for many dependents
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 7: Matt 13-14</a>	Pray for God to bring encouragement and peace to pastors and ministry wives.	Pray for the government of Nepal as it works to implement a new constitution



### *Learn about Your Nepalese Neighbors*

Nepal is a multi-ethnic nation of 125 ethnic groups and 123 languages. It has the largest percent of Hindus in the world at 81.3%, and is 9% Buddhist, 4.4% Islam and just 1.4% Christian. However, Nepalese have been quite receptive to the gospel in recent years. While people of Hindu background are the most prevalent in the Bay Area, there are significant Theravada Buddhist groups from Nepal here, too, especially in the North Bay region. The US Census groups together Nepali, Marathi, and other Indic languages, but of this language grouping, most (we have informally discovered) are from Nepal. In 2019 there were 13,498 people over 5 years old classified as such in Santa Clara County, 6,133 in Alameda County, and 6,428 in Contra Costa.



# Great Commission Prayer Initiative

## Focus: Pastors' Int'l Mission Trip

### UPG: Afghani Muslims

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. I Chronicles 16:23-24*

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Afghans</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 8: Matt 15-17</a>	Pray that God would open doors for the Gospel.	Pray for the Kyrgyz people to find hope in Christ.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 9: Matt 18-19</a>	Pray that many would become Followers of Christ.	Pray for the Baluch people group to find their home in Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 10: Matt 20-21</a>	Pray for the country of Vietnam.	Pray for God to open doors for the Shugni people group to be reached with the gospel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 11: Matt 22-23</a>	Pray for safety and health of all those involved on the trip.	Pray for opportunities for the Wakhi people group to come to know Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 12: Matt 24-25</a>	Pray the for the country of the Philippines.	Pray for restoration and healing for the Afghan people
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 13: Matt 26</a>	Pray for protection and health of the pastor's family while he is away.	Pray for the salvation of influential leaders in Afghanistan
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 14: Matt 27-28</a>	Pray for encouragement and renewal for the pastor and leaders of the host countries.	Pray for the protection of life in Afghanistan



### Learn about Your Afghan Neighbors

Afghans are made up of a multitude of different people groups and tribes. The Kyrgyz have very little access to health care, markets, and schools. Due to harsh living conditions, they often turn to opium usage. The Baluch are tribal people who long for their own homeland. The Shugni and Wakhi are two small and remote people groups with little access to the gospel.

Afghanistan is 80% Sunni Muslim, 19% Shia Muslim, and just 1% anything else. The main difference between the Sunni and Shia is that Sunni Muslims rely on the Sunnah, a record of the teachings and sayings of Muhammad, while the Shiites rely more heavily on the teachings and edicts of their religious leaders, who they believe represent God (“Allah”) on earth.



# Great Commission Prayer Initiative

## Focus: Pastors

### UPG: Hindi-Speaking Hindus

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.*  
*1 Timothy 5:17*

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Hindus</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 15: Mark 1-3</u></a>	Pray for spiritual, physical and emotional renewal of pastors.	Pray that God will reveal Himself to millions of Hindus seeking the truth
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 16: Mark 4-5</u></a>	Pray that pastors would seek the Lord for confession, repentance and forgiveness as needed.	Pray for Hindus to realize the confusion and contradiction of their doctrines and teachings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 17: Mark 6-7</u></a>	Pray that pastors would lead their families and the church as God desires.	Continue to cry out to God for a hunger and thirst after Him to come into Hindu hearts
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 18: Mark 8-9</u></a>	Pray for God to give clear vision and direction to pastors.	Pray that Hindus will come to know the one and only God who created and loves us
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 19: Mark 10-11</u></a>	Pray that God would give courage and boldness to pastors to speak truth with love and grace.	Ask God to use Hindu community life to spread the good news so they become a community of faith in Jesus
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 20: Mark 12-13</u></a>	Pray for wisdom and discernment as pastors' minister and counsel.	Pray for GCA churches to adopt Hindi-speaking Hindus and pray for them
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 21: Mark 14</u></a>	Pray that pastors' spiritual walk with the Lord would be steadfast and strong.	Pray that God will reveal Himself to millions of Hindus seeking the truth



### *Learn about Your Hindi-speaking Hindu Neighbors*

Hinduism embraces many religious ideas. For this reason, it's sometimes referred to as a "way of life" or a "family of religions," as opposed to a single, organized religion.

Most forms of Hinduism are henotheistic, which means they worship a single deity, known as "Brahman," but still recognize other gods and goddesses. Followers believe there are multiple paths to reaching their god.

Hindus believe in the doctrines of samsara (the continuous cycle of life, death, and reincarnation) and karma (the universal law of cause and effect).

Hindus revere all living creatures and consider the cow a sacred animal. Food is an important part of life for Hindus. Most don't eat beef or pork, and many are vegetarians.



## Great Commission Prayer Initiative

### *Focus: Pastors' Wives* *UPG: Punjabi-Speaking Sikhs*

*Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. Proverbs 31:30-31.*

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for the Sikhs</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 22: Mark 15-16</a>	Pray for spiritual, physical and emotional renewal of pastors' wives.	Pray that Sikhs will be drawn to Jesus, who bore their suffering on the cross as if it were His own
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 23: Luke 1</a>	Pray for wives as they balance many roles and responsibilities both in and outside of church and home.	Pray that Sikhs let go of the pains of their past and know the comfort and reconciliation that only God brings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 24: Luke 2-3</a>	Pray for pastors' wives to stand firm in their faith.	Pray that Sikh-background-believers would have a burden to reach their family and friends with the gospel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 25: Luke 4-5</a>	Pray for provision for the families of pastor's wives – spiritually, emotionally and physically.	Pray that as Sikhs experience God's redemption and forgiveness, they are able to forgive others
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 26: Luke 6-7</a>	Pray for pastors' wives to have wisdom and discern as they minister.	Sikhs have become a respected people with great influence. Pray that they use their influence to spread the Gospel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 27: Luke 8-9</a>	Pray for the spiritual lives of pastors' wives to grow.	Pray that GCA churches adopt the Sikhs and pray for them
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Oct 28: Luke 10-11</a>	Pray for divine guidance as pastors' wives help their children.	Pray that Sikhs will be drawn to Jesus, who bore their suffering on the cross as if it were His own



### *Learn about Your Punjabi-speaking Sikh Neighbors*

Sikhism is a monotheistic religion which originated from India's Punjab region in the late 1400's. Sikhs refer to their God as "Allah," like Muslims do. There are about 25 million Sikhs worldwide.

The core beliefs of Sikhism include: faith and meditation on the name of the one creator; divine unity and equality of all humankind; engaging in *seva* ('selfless service'); striving for justice for the benefit and prosperity of all; and honest conduct and livelihood while living a householder's life. Following this standard, Sikhism rejects claims that any particular religious tradition has a monopoly on Absolute Truth. This makes them open to having religious conversations with believers of other faiths, yet slow to accept Jesus as THE way, truth, and life.



# Great Commission Prayer Initiative

*Focus: Pastor's Kids*  
*UPG: Uyghur Muslims*

*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4*

✓	<u>Read thru the Bible</u>	<u>Focus Prayer Points</u>	<u>Pray for Uyghur Muslims</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 29: Luke 12-13</u></a>	Pray for salvation of PKs who do not yet know Him.	Pray for the Chinese Church to hear and obey God's call to reach the Uyghurs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 30: Luke 14-16</u></a>	Pray that God would break strongholds in the lives of PKs.	Pray for open doors for Christ followers to be granted access to the Xinjiang region.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#"><u>Oct 31: Luke 17-18</u></a>	Pray for the faith of PKs to grow deep and that they would stand firm in the Lord.	Pray for Uyghurs being detained and persecuted to meet Jesus in their isolation and suffering.



## *Learn about Your Uyghur Muslim Neighbors*

The core beliefs and practices of Islam are called its "**Five Pillars**:"

1. **Profession of Faith** (*shahada*). "There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah"
2. **Prayer** (*salat*). Muslims pray facing the city of Mecca five times a day: at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and after dark.
3. **Alms** (*zakat*). Islamic law requires that Muslims donate a fixed portion of their income to community members in need.
4. **Fasting** (*sawm*). During the daylight hours of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, all healthy adult Muslims are required to abstain from food and drink.
5. **Pilgrimage** (*hajj*). Every Muslim whose health and finances permit it must make at least one visit to Mecca, their holy city, in present-day Saudi Arabia.