



Prayer Initiative

STANDING IN THE GAP

NORTHWEST
CHAPEL

together with



DAY 1

Adoration

*The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men
And gives them to whomever He wishes
And sets over them the lowliest of men.
We will bless the Most High
And praise and honor Him who lives forever.
His dominion is an eternal dominion,
And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.
He regards all the inhabitants of the earth as nothing,
And does as He pleases with the host of heaven
And the inhabitants of the earth.
No one can hold back His hand
Or say to Him: "What have You done?"
We praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven,
For all His works are true, and all His ways are just,
And He is able to humble those who walk in pride. (Daniel 4:17, 34–35, 37)*

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession

I will cleanse them from all their iniquity they have committed against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities which they have committed against Me, and by which they have transgressed against Me. (Jeremiah 33:8)

Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Renewal

May we honor our fathers and my mothers. (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16)

May we not murder. (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17)

May we not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18)

Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal

Petition

In You, O Lord, we have taken refuge;

Let us never be put to shame.

In Your righteousness deliver us and rescue us;

Turn Your ear to us and save us.

Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;

You have given the commandment to save me,

For You are my rock and my fortress. (Psalm 71:1-3)

Faithfulness as a Steward

Of time

Of talents

Of treasure

Of truth

Of relationships

Special concerns

Intercession

Standing in the Gap

³⁰ I searched for a man among them who would repair the wall and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land so that I might not destroy it, but I found no one. (Ezekiel 22:30)

Praying for the Persecuted Church in Iran

OVERVIEW:

The Islamic Revolution of 1979, led by Ayatollah Khomeini, affected Iran more than any other event in modern history. It led to the establishment of the world's only country governed by an Islamic theocracy, now more than 40 years old. Today, many of those who committed their lives to Islamic rule are filled with despair. This disillusionment has opened new doors for the gospel, which is sweeping across the nation via satellite TV and the internet, and growing house church movements. However, the government continues its attempts to thwart this move of God. Christian leaders and pastors are often arrested and their families harassed, and some are left with no option other than to flee the country. Lack of access to Bibles and teaching resources has left house churches susceptible to false teaching. Christians inside and outside the country are working to strengthen and equip the church.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

Iran is the only nation in the world whose official state religion is Shiite Islam. As the world's largest Shiite country, it actively seeks the expansion of Shiite Islam by supporting the relatively new Shiite government in Iraq and Islamist terrorist organizations in Syria and Lebanon. The country is at odds with Israel and the West, as well as many nations that practice Sunni Islam.

PERSECUTOR:

Christians are persecuted by government authorities, which have a network of informants in each city. Family, friends and community members sometimes also persecute Christians, especially when news of a conversion becomes public.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN IRAN:

The Iranian government is among the most oppressive regimes in the world. It is illegal to leave Islam, and Christians face the constant threat of imprisonment and being falsely charged with "acting against national security." Christians are routinely fired from their jobs, and it is difficult for a known believer to find a new job. They also are often evicted from rented homes. Many Christians gather in secret fellowships and receive teaching through Christian media smuggled into the country and through satellite television programs, which broadcast the gospel and discipleship teachings in Farsi. Several Christians are currently imprisoned, and many others are under house arrest awaiting sentencing.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray that gospel broadcasts focused on Iran will bear much fruit.
- Pray for the boldness and wisdom of church leaders inside and outside the country.
- Pray that God will protect the growing church in Iran from false teaching.
- Pray for the discernment, wisdom and understanding of teams following up on inquiries made by Muslims seeking Christ.
- Pray that increasing difficulties in Iran will drive many to seek the Savior.
- Pray for the comfort and courage of those imprisoned because of their faith in Christ.

Praying for the Unreached People of Gujar

Hindu traditions in India

Population: 7,137,000

Largest Religion: Hinduism (99.81%)

Evangelical Christian: Unknown

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Ever since their conversion to Islam in the eleventh century, the Gujar have been bound by a life of poverty, illiteracy, and social oppression. In general, they are a simple, inoffensive people with a generous, hospitable nature. Today, most of the Gujar living in India live as law-abiding shepherds and farmers. Unfortunately, they are still belittled by those of higher castes (social classes), and often labeled as thieves and vagrants.

The Gujar living in the mountain forests of northeastern India raise buffalo. Unfortunately, the Indian government has imposed regulations on the number of buffalo one family can keep, and on how long they can live in the forests. This has been distressing for the Gujar, since this is their main source of income. For this reason, these nomads are constantly searching for new pastures for their herds.

The Gujar are divided into hundreds of clans. Their societies are patrilineal, which means that inheritances are passed down through the males. Marriages are usually arranged by the parents, and a bride price of either cash or buffalo is paid to the girl's family. They are permitted to marry outside their clans, and young couples generally live near the grooms' parents.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

A majority of the Gujar are Hindu, but there is also a significant number of Muslims among the Gujar, as well as a smaller number of Sikhs.

Because the Muslim Gujar share Hindu customs, they are not generally accepted by other Muslims. Nevertheless, in their desire for a unified front against the Hindus, the Muslim Kashmiri have agreed to accept the nomadic Gujar Muslims who recently entered Kashmir.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Ask the Lord to send forth laborers into India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan to share Christ with the Gujar.
2. Pray that God will encourage the small number of Gujar believers and give them a vision to reach their own people.
3. Ask God to send Christian teachers to live and work among the Gujar.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Gujar so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
5. Pray that God will open the hearts of the governmental leaders of India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan to the Gospel.

Our Government

- Spiritual revival
- Local government
- State government
- National government
- Current events and concerns
- Love ones who are incarcerated
- Protection for the police who are trying to protect and serve
- The church to get prepared to honor Christ in persecution
- For the churches to wake up from a comfortable gospel.
- Special concerns

Thanksgiving

*We will give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His lovingkindness endures forever.
We will give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love
And His wonderful acts to the children of men,
For He satisfies the thirsty soul
And fills the hungry soul with good things. (Psalm 107:1, 8-9)*

Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.

Closing Prayer

*Thus says the Lord, my Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
"I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit,
Who leads you in the way you should go." (Isaiah 48:17)*

*Lord, You have said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find
rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)*