



Prayer Initiative

STANDING IN THE GAP



together with



DAY 13

Adoration

*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
With the oil of gladness more than your companions.* (Psalm 45:6–7)

*One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
We will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on Your wonderful works.
Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome works,
And we will proclaim Your great deeds.* (Psalm 145:4–6)

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession

*Purge us with hyssop, and we will be clean;
Wash us, and we will be whiter than snow.
Cause us to hear joy and gladness,
That the bones You have crushed may rejoice.
Hide Your face from our sins
And blot out all of our iniquities.
Create in us a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within us.
Do not cast us from Your presence
Or take Your Holy Spirit from us.*

***Restore to us the joy of Your salvation
And uphold us with a willing spirit.
Then we will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners will be converted to You.*** (Psalm 51:7–13)

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

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:8–9)

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:10–12)

May these beatitudes become a reality in my life.

Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal.

Petition

***We called on Your name, O Lord,
From the depths of the pit.
You have heard our voices:
“Do not hide Your ear from our cry for relief,
From our cry for help.”
You drew near when we called on You,
And You said, “Do not fear!”
O Lord, You pleaded the cause of our souls;
You redeemed our lives.*** (Lamentations 3:55–58)

Growth in Christ

- Greater desire to know and please Him
- Greater love and commitment to Him
- Grace to practice His presence
- Grace to glorify Him in my life
- Special concerns

Intercession - Standing In The Gap

We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Praying for the Persecuted Christian in Kazakhstan

OVERVIEW:

Formerly a republic of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan is one of the wealthiest Central Asian nations because of its mineral resources. Islam has experienced a revival since the fall of the Soviet Union, with many returning to what they consider the religion of their parents. Today Kazakhstan emulates its European neighbors, undertaking massive construction projects, enjoying a growing financial sector and adopting the Latin alphabet used by the Western world.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

The major religion in Kazakhstan is Islam (Sunni), and there are also many atheists.

PERSECUTOR:

Christians are persecuted by the government and their communities, but government persecution is inconsistent.

Some churches worship openly, but they are closely watched. Raids on unregistered churches are common, and believers in attendance are fined. Kazakhs are used to Russian Orthodox Christians, but they are suspicious of those who hold services in the Kazakh native tongue. All religious activities must be registered with the government. Believers are commonly fined for distributing religious texts, discussing religion or holding worship meetings. Christian children are mocked at school. The families of Christian converts often beat them or otherwise publicly humiliate them. Unregistered churches must meet in private homes. In recent years, three Kazakh believers have been imprisoned on false charges. All three have been released.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for churches that have been targeted by the government.
- Pray for "illegal" churches that face raids, threats and fines
- Pray that new laws prohibiting Christian activities do not pass.
- Pray that more pastors will be trained and more believers disciplined.
- Pray that Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers will not be forced to close.

Praying For The Unreached

Japanese People in Japan

Population: 120,934.000

Largest Religion: Buddhism 69.80%

Evangelical Christian: 0.30%

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Shintoism is the native religion of Japan. It is rooted in animism (belief that non-living objects have spirits). Its many gods or spirits are known as kami. Buddhism was introduced to Japan in the sixth century. Today, most Japanese claim to be both Shintoist and Buddhist.

Traditions of Shintoism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism have all contributed to Japanese religious principles: ancestor worship; a belief in religious continuity of the family; a close tie between the nation and religion; a free exchange of ideas among religious systems; and religious practices centered on the use of prayer meditation, amulets, and purification.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Many Japanese are indifferent to and skeptical of established religion. On the outside, they seem to have few needs. However, many have become obsessed with materialistic pleasures, careers, and possessions. Their greatest need is to be introduced to the Father through His Son, Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Ask the Lord to call laborers to go to Japan and share Christ with the Japanese.
- Pray that Christian businessmen will have open doors to share the Gospel with the Japanese.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Japanese toward Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- Pray that Japanese Christians will have opportunities to share the love of Jesus with their families and friends.
- Pray that Christian radio and television broadcasts will be effective in reaching the Japanese.
- Pray that God will raise up teams of intercessors to stand in the gap for these precious people.
- Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Japanese.

Churches and Ministries in America:

- NWC, Emanuel Community and AMFB Services for this Weekend
- Other churches
- Evangelism and discipleship ministries
- Educational ministries
- Special concerns.

Thanksgiving

***Surely the righteous will give thanks to Your name;
The upright will dwell in Your presence.*** (Psalm 140:13)

***The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him;
He hears their cry and saves them.***

***The Lord preserves all who love Him,
But all the wicked He will destroy.*** (Psalm 145:18–20)

Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.

Closing Prayer

***By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:
He who was revealed in the flesh,
Vindicated in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory.*** (1 Timothy 3:16)