



Prayer Initiative STANDING IN THE GAP



together with



DAY 15

Adoration

*Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous;
Praise is becoming to the upright.* (Psalm 33:1)

*Walking in the way of Your laws,
O Lord, we wait for You;
Your name and Your memory are the desire of my soul.* (Isaiah 26:8)

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession

*Woe to us, for we are undone!
Because we are people of unclean lips,
And we live among a people of unclean lips;
For our eyes have seen the King,
The Lord of hosts.* (Isaiah 6:5)

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

¹³ *Now therefore, we pray to you, if we have found favor in Your sight, let us know Your ways so that we may know You [becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, recognizing and understanding Your ways more clearly] and that we may find grace and favor in Your sight."*
(Exodus 33:13) *Amplified Bible - AMP*

May we consecrate ourselves and be holy, because You are the Lord our God. May we keep Your statutes and practice them, for You are the Lord who sanctifies us. (Leviticus 20:7-8)

Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal.

Petition

May we examine all things, hold fast to the good, and abstain from every form of evil.

(1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

Faithfulness as a Steward

- Of time
- Of talents
- Of treasure
- Of truth
- Of relationships
- Special concerns

Intercession – Standing In The Gap

O Lord, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of Your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to You. (1 Chronicles 29:18)

Praying for the Persecuted Christian in Laos

OVERVIEW:

The government-controlled Lao Evangelical Church is allowed to exist, but the Communist government and Buddhist monks actively persecute Christians. Poverty, lack of infrastructure and mountainous terrain also make evangelistic outreach a challenge. Thanks to bold evangelists, the church continues to grow even as it experiences ongoing persecution.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

Most Laotians consider themselves Buddhist, but they practice a syncretistic version of Buddhism mixed with tribal animism.

PERSECUTOR:

Most believers are persecuted by family members or village authorities who are concerned that Christians offend the spirits. The central government persecutes Christians occasionally, but there are signs of improvement.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN LAOS:

Christianity is viewed as an American religion or as a tool of the CIA to undermine the Laotian regime. Many Laotians also believe Christians anger the spirits. House churches and church buildings exist, but the vast majority do not have a trained pastor. In most villages, no church buildings are allowed. If village leaders notice that a house church is growing, they will try to stop it. Christians often are unable to get jobs, most of which are through the government, and they commonly are denied medical treatment, education and other social services. There are no open Bible schools in the country. The Lao Evangelical Church is the only government-recognized church. Lao believers are often arrested and held for up to a week.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray that front-line workers will be responsive to the needs of persecuted believers.
- Pray that believers will grow in faith by hearing God's Word on electronic devices.
- Pray that evangelists will avoid arrest while "illegally" ministering outside their home districts.
- Pray that young believers will gain the knowledge and maturity to enter front-line ministry.
- Pray that new believers expelled by their communities will not waver in faith.
- Pray that shortwave radio broadcasts will reach new hearts and encourage believers.
- Pray that local officials will understand that Christianity is not an American religion.

Praying For The Unreached People of **NORTHERN KURDS IN TURKEY**

Population: 8,960,000

Christian: 0.01%

Introduction

The Northern Kurds of Turkey live in the most rugged part of Kurdistan. They are located near the Turkey-Iran border, and eastward along the Iraq and Syrian borders. In the mountain regions, winter temperatures drop to -30C. In the summer, they reach 45C. Water is scarce; and malaria, tuberculosis, and trachoma are persistent problems.

What Are Their Lives Like?

Kurds in Turkey make their living in the same way their relatives do in Iran and Iraq: farming, and raising cattle and goats. Although a few Kurds still live the semi-nomadic lifestyle of their ancestors, most now live in small villages of less than 2000 people.

Schools are ill-equipped and there are too few of them. Medical care is inadequate in the towns and almost non-existent in the rural areas.

What Are Their Beliefs?

Nearly all Kurds are Muslim, most being Shafiite Sunnis, and embraced Islam following the Arab conquests in the seventh century.

Although Kurds are predominantly Sunnis, there is stormy hostility between the Sunni Kurds and the Shi'ite Kurds. These differences have class overtones, and the lower class minorities are associated with the more unorthodox sects of Islam. These have proven to be the most fervently rebellious parts of Kurdish society.

Even among the Sunni Kurds, there are traces of an earlier pagan and violent type faith which sets them apart from other Muslims. In the rural areas, a few still believe in jinnis, demons, and elements of animal worship. Mullahs (Muslim spiritual leaders) play an important role in the social and cultural life of those living in the country. Religious fraternities operate throughout Kurdistan. In the past, some influential sheiks (spiritual leaders) even became members of parliament. However, as time went by, their authority began to crumble. Today, their spiritual and economic power is being challenged.

What Are Their Needs?

The Kurds have followed Islam for many years. Although the New Testament is now available in their language, there are few known Northern Kurd believers.

Physically, the Kurds live in very poor conditions. Good water supplies are scarce, and they are exposed to diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis. Politically, they are oppressed by the government. They need the liberty to educate their children in their own language.

Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord to call qualified Christian doctors who are willing to go to Turkey (as this may be allowed) and share their medical expertise as well as Jesus Christ with Kurds.
- Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect the small number of Kurds who are Christians.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Kurds towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- Pray that God will open the hearts of Turkey's governmental leaders to the Gospel.
- Ask the Lord to raise up a strong local church among the Kurds of Turkey.

Our Government

- Spiritual revival
- Local, State and National governments

Standing in the Gap for

- Friends
- Relatives
- Neighbors
- Special opportunities
- Special Prayer Request

Thanksgiving

Concerning the lost, Jesus said, "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes into his house, he calls his friends and neighbors together and says to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:4-7, 10)

Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.

Closing Prayer

*Now we know that the Lord saves His anointed;
He answers him from His holy heaven
With the saving strength of His right hand.
Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
But we will remember the name of the Lord our God. (Psalm 20:6-7)*

*Love the Lord, all you His saints!
The Lord preserves the faithful,
And fully repays the proud doer.
Be of good courage and He will strengthen your heart,
All you who hope in the Lord. (Psalm 31:23-24)*