



DAY 2

Adoration

*O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth!
You have set Your glory above the heavens!* (Psalm 8:1)

*Great and marvelous are Your works,
Lord God Almighty!
Righteous and true are Your ways,
King of the nations!
Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy.
All nations will come and worship before You,
For Your righteous acts have been revealed.* (Revelation 15:3-4)

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession

*The Lord is in His holy temple;
The Lord is on His heavenly throne.
He observes the sons of men;
His eyes examine them.* (Psalm 11:4)

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

O Lord we God, may we fear You, walk in all Your ways, love You, and serve You with all our hearts and with all our souls. (Deuteronomy 10:12)

We have not been made perfect, but we press on to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus also has laid hold on us. We do not consider ourselves to have yet attained it, but one thing we do: forgetting what is behind and stretching forward to what is ahead, we press on toward the goal to win the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:12–14)

Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal.

Petition

Our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in us, whom we have from God, and we are not our own. For we were bought at a price; therefore may we glorify God in our bodies. (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)

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

We must take heed to ourselves and to all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made us overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)

Praying for the Persecuted Church in Myanmar

Burma

OVERVIEW:

Christian faith in Burma traces its roots to the missionary efforts of Adoniram Judson, who arrived in 1813 with his wife, Ann. The Judson Bible is still the standard translation used by churches. Most Christians are from the Chin and Karen tribal groups, with very few of Myanmar's ethnic people group coming to faith. Many Bible schools exist throughout the country, and indigenous church planters and missionaries boldly proclaim the gospel. The church is growing despite widespread persecution by the government and the Buddhist majority. The Burman ethnic majority dominates and oppresses the other tribal groups. While political change has been much discussed in recent years, only superficial change has occurred. The

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

Most Burmese tribal members are Buddhist, while the Chin and Karen people groups are nominal Christians. Rohingya Muslims are a small but significant group that has suffered devastating human rights violations at the hands of the military government.

PERSECUTOR:

Buddhist monks, in cooperation with government officials, are the major persecutors in Myanmar, but local officials and tribal militias also persecute Christians. Families and villagers who practice animism often persecute those who convert to Christianity.

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN MYANMAR:

The widespread, long-running civil war directly affects Christians when they are targeted for attack by the warring factions. Villagers with animistic beliefs take vengeance against Christians, claiming they are angering the local spirits. Church gatherings and church buildings are allowed in many parts of the country, but tolerance varies from state to state. Active believers who share their faith face difficulties. Within tribal groups, families oppose conversion and new believers are subject to close government monitoring. Recently, Buddhist monks have actively opposed new Christian converts and evangelists. In general, pastors are detained for a few days at a time.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray that Bibles will reach believers who need them in remote villages.
- Pray that hostile neighbors in war zones will not target believers.
- believers in rural areas will reject drug abuse and the drug trade.
- Pray for the faith and health of nearly 100 Christians imprisoned in 2018-2019.
- Pray that young believers will be inspired to reach remote and dangerous regions.

Praying for the Unreached people of
Tajik in Tajikistan

Population: 7,118,000

Christian: 0.00%

INTRODUCTION / HISTORY

The Tajiks of Central Asia are the oldest surviving people group in that region. Their homeland, Tajikistan, is the mountainous center of Asia, surrounded by the Asian republics of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Tajikistan includes the Pamir Mountains, which reach altitudes of nearly 25,000 feet. Most of the people live in the parallel valleys below.

Tajiks have repeatedly been invaded and conquered throughout their history. The armies of Alexander the Great, the Arabs in the seventh century, Genghis Khan, the Turks, the British, and the Russian empire have all had a profound impact on these people. In fact, the numerous invasions have been the major factor in the dispersion of Tajiks to other locations. Many Tajiks have crossed over into Afghanistan and are still surrounded by war, ethnic violence, religious tension, and harsh living conditions.

After the breakup of the USSR, Tajikistan still suffered through years of a civil war which ended in 1997. However, tens of thousands had been killed and thousands of wives widowed. The economy collapsed, and unemployment was extremely high, up to 70% in some rural areas.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

Most Tajiks are mountain farmers and shepherds. Seasonal grasses create suitable pastures for raising sheep, goats, cattle, a few camels, and some horses. They also practice a remarkable system of terraced, mountainside irrigation so that wheat and barley can be grown at the higher, dry altitudes.

Green tea is served with most meals. Bread is a staple food, and the Tajiks bake bread out of anything that can be ground into flour, including a variety of peas and mulberries. They also eat starchy foods, rice, grapes, dried fruits, chicken, lamb, and vegetable dishes.

Poetry plays an important part in Tajik culture. It is read at important celebrations and often sung. Even the Koran has been put to music.

Tajikistan is the poorest of the Central Asian nations.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Nestorian missionaries first brought Christianity to the Tajiks during the 12th century. Today, Tajiks are Sunni Muslims of the Hanafite branch, although some Shi'ites exist. About one-tenth of the people are classified as non-religious. This has probably been a result of Russian atheistic pressure.

Tajiks tend to be spiritual people and are often open to at least a discussion of spiritual things. They understand the concept of sacrifice, which could be a redemptive analogy to the Lamb of God dying on the cross. However, almost all remain closed to the Gospel.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Jesus Film is available and has been shown on national television. Workers are very much needed to explain the Scriptures and disciple Tajik believers.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that Tajiks would not judge Christianity just as a "Russian religion," but see their own need for salvation.
- Pray for an end to the persecution of believers by Muslim relatives who believe Christians betray their ancestors.
- Pray that new churches would have the finances to register. This is a very expensive process.
- Ask God to send revival to Penjikent (the radical Muslim center) where there are no Tajik believers.
- Ask God to raise up long-term missionaries who will go to Tajikistan and share Christ with Tajiks.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will give vision for outreach and a genuine burden for the Tajiks to believers in this region.
- Pray that God will open the hearts of Tajik governmental leaders to the Gospel.
- Pray that God will call out prayer teams to begin breaking up the soil through worship and intercession.
- Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among Tajiks.

Churches and Ministries

- My local church
- Other churches
- Evangelism and discipleship ministries
- Educational ministries
- Special concerns

Thanksgiving

In Your unfailing love You have led the people You have redeemed.

In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy dwelling.

You brought them in and planted them in the mountain of Your inheritance—

The place, O Lord, You made for Your dwelling;

The sanctuary, O Lord, Your hands have established. (Exodus 15:13, 17)

You are the Lord our God, who brought Your people out of Egypt so that they would no longer be their slaves; You broke the bars of their yoke and enabled them to walk with heads held high.

(Leviticus 26:13)

Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.