



Prayer Initiative

STANDING IN THE GAP



together with



DAY 25

Adoration

*The Lord is great and greatly to be praised;
He is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols,
But the Lord made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before Him;
Strength and joy are in His place.
We will ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
We will ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name
And worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
Tremble before him, all the earth. (1 Chronicles 16:25–30)*

You are the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac. (Genesis 31:42)

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession

*Save us from bloodguilt, O God,
The God of our salvation,
And our tongues will sing aloud of Your righteousness.
O Lord, open our lips,
And our mouths will declare Your praise.
For You do not desire sacrifice, or we would bring it;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
A broken and contrite heart,
O God, You will not despise. (Psalm 51:14–17)*

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 remove the places of idolatry from our lives, and like Asa, let our heart be fully committed to God all our days. (2 Chronicles 15:17)

May we trust in the Lord and do good; may we dwell in the land and feed on Your faithfulness. When we delight ourselves in the Lord, You will give us the desires of our heart. We will commit our ways to the Lord and trust in You, and You will bring it to pass. You will bring forth our righteousness like the light, and our justice like the noonday. May we rest in the Lord and wait patiently for You; We will not fret because of him who prospers in his way, with the man who practices evil schemes. (Psalm 37:3–7)

Pause to add your own prayers for personal renewal.

Petition

May we not pervert justice, show partiality, or accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. (Deuteronomy 16:19)

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

- Greater love and compassion for others
- Loved ones
- Those who do not know Christ
- Those in need
- Special concerns

Intercession

We are the fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death; to the other, an aroma from life to life. And who is sufficient for these things? (2 Corinthians 2:15–16)

Praying for the Persecuted Church of North Korea

OVERVIEW:

Due to the Communist government's secretive nature, little is known about the current status of Christians inside North Korea. Pyongyang, the capital, was known as the "Jerusalem of the East" in the early 1900s because of its 2,000-plus churches. The Communist government depends on Juche (the North Korean religion that requires worship and subservience to the Kim family) to maintain stability, and Christianity is considered subversive. Anyone discovered to be a Christian (or, in many cases, discovered to have had contact with Christian ideas) is considered an enemy of the state. The gospel is still proclaimed in North Korea through various creative means, including shortwave radio and bold evangelists who risk their lives smuggling materials into the country.

MAJOR RELIGIONS:

Religious freedom is nonexistent, and the government claims all North Koreans follow the Juche religion.

PERSECUTOR:

If discovered, Christians face harsh persecution from the government and from members of the community. In general, all North Koreans fear being accused of acting benevolently toward an "enemy of the state."

WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN NORTH KOREA:

Christians are sent to concentration camps, where they are starved, overworked and tortured. North Koreans have a saying: Whenever two or three people are gathered together, one of them is a spy. This is true even in family settings, as children are taught to spy on their parents from a young age. Therefore, North Korean Christians must be extremely careful in what they say, what they do and how they pray; all must be done in secret. When a Christian is discovered, the government punishes the entire family. Despite the threat of persecution and heavy social pressure, Christians in North Korea hold firmly to their faith. For example, one North Korean defector told VOM that her mother continued to shelter orphans even after they stole from her. Christian and secular analysts estimate that about 30,000 Christians are suffering in prison and labor camps.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- *Pray for "Brother L," a North Korean who was recently baptized in a neighboring country.*
- *Pray for North Koreans who hear God's Word via shortwave radio broadcasts.*
- *Pray for imprisoned Christians who are tortured.*
- *Pray for "Sister J" as she distributes audio Bibles inside North Korea.*
- *Pray for elderly North Korean missionaries who regularly risk their lives to share the gospel.*
- *Pray for an imprisoned Christian worker facing execution in North Korea.*
- *Pray that underground Christians will maintain a faithful witness in their villages.*

Praying for the Unreached people of **LOHAR (HINDU TRADITIONS) IN INDIA**

- **Population:** 9,443,000
- **Christian:** 0.01%

INTRODUCTION / HISTORY

The Lohar people of India are nomadic smiths who travel in order to sell their goods. They are descendants of high-caste weapon makers of the Mewar kingdom in India. Unfortunately, they became poor nomads when the kingdom fell in 1568, and they still are today.

WHAT ARE THEIR LIVES LIKE?

The Lohar lead hard lives. Although they work hard, they live in extreme poverty. This is partly because most people prefer to buy goods from stores and factories, not handmade items, which are more expensive and are of less quality. In addition, many are cannot read or write because of the nomadic lifestyle they lead, where few or none have gone to school. Also, because of the Hindu caste system in India, they are considered "untouchables" and are despised. Plus, there are stereotypes about nomads, such as the idea that they are all thieves or corrupt, even though they generally work up to 14 hours a day.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

As with most of modern-day India, the Lohar are almost completely Hindu. Hinduists believe in and worship millions of gods, the most important of which is Brahman. To them, salvation means escaping from the seemingly endless cycle of death and reincarnation (the principle that you are reborn as another person or even an animal after you die). This escape is achieved through knowledge, devotion, and deeds.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

The Lohar need business so they can feed their families. They need either more people to buy from them or become sedentary (the opposite of nomadic, meaning they settle down in one place like we do) and take up an entire other career, which would be difficult since so few of them (or maybe even none) have had the chance to go to school. Nevertheless, their most dire need is for the love of God. They are low-caste, considered "untouchable", and are often misunderstood because of stereotypes. They are the perfect example of a people in need of God's healing touch.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for their careers. Pray that their business success increases, or, if it is God's will that they become sedentary, that they receive the education they need.
- Pray that more audio and video resources will be created in their language, since very few or none can read or write.
- They have been deemed "untouchable". Pray that missionaries would feel a need to go to the Lohar and show them that God shows no favoritism. He accepts all people, even those considered "untouchable".
- Above all, pray for their hearts; for them to be open to God and His love.

Evangelism: Local and National

- AMFB Launching a outreach Ministry for the Harriet Tubman women's shelter this weekend
- Friends
- Relatives
- Neighbors
- Coworkers
- Special opportunities

Thanksgiving

*You have loved us with an everlasting love;
You have drawn us with lovingkindness.* (Jeremiah 31:3)

*You led Your people with cords of human kindness,
With bands of love;
You lifted the yoke from their neck
And bent down to feed them.* (Hosea 11:4)

Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.

Closing Prayer

*You are the Lord, the God of our fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.
This is your name forever, the name by which you are to be remembered from generation to
generation.* (Exodus 3:15)