



# Praying for *the Nations*



# 25 January

Home to over 800 million people from every country on Earth, Europe is one of the most diverse regions in the world. Despite Europe's population and rich Christian heritage, only 1.1% of Europeans are committed evangelical Christians.

- ◆ Russians, British, French, Italian s and Germans make up 55% of the European population.
- ◆ As of 2022, Europe hosts one in every three refugees worldwide.

**WITH ITS RICH HERITAGE** of Christianity and as the birthplace of the Protestant Reformation, Europe is a continent that has had a gospel presence for centuries. But over the last several decades, churches have been in decline as secularism has risen throughout Europe. Today, only 1.1% of Europeans are committed evangelical Christians.

Refugees from the Middle East and displaced peoples from Ukraine have made Europe a melting pot of nationalities and beliefs. Across the continent, missionary workers engage the lost by supporting revitalization efforts with local churches, equipping leaders to plant new churches, engaging in theological education and working to evangelize and train diaspora peoples, many of whom come from the most unreached regions of the world. In spite of rising secularism and declining church attendance, God is using workers in Europe to draw people from all nations to Himself.

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray for missionaries across Europe to have boldness and wisdom as they engage a culture that has increasingly lost interest in the gospel.
- 2 Pray for churches across Europe to shine a light in the darkness as they make disciples and plant new churches.

PRAY FOR  
*Europe*



25

# February

The war in Ukraine in February 2022 brought more than 200,000 refugees to the United States, with many settling in North Carolina. European people groups such as Ukrainians can be found in regions across the state, including the Triangle, Metro Charlotte, Fayetteville, Blue Ridge and the Triad.

◆ European people groups in North Carolina include: Ukrainians, Russians, Quebecois-French-Canadian

**UKRAINIAN:** Second only to the Russians as the former Soviet Union's largest ethnic group, Ukraine has a population today of roughly 46 million. The primary religion practiced by the Ukrainians is Orthodox Christianity.

**RUSSIAN:** Russia's population today is roughly 145 million, while about 852,000 and 5,600 Russians now reside in the United States and North Carolina, respectively. The majority of Russians claim Orthodoxy or Judaism as their religion, although the majority of Orthodox Russians are nominally religious. Orthodoxy often merely serves as a cultural connection into the Russian community.

**QUEBECOIS-FRENCH-CANADIAN:** People who today claim some French-Canadian ancestry or heritage number some 7 million in Canada and 2.4 million in the United States, with about 22,000 French-Canadians making North Carolina their home. The majority claim Roman Catholicism as their religion, but most often, they are nonreligious.

◆ **PRAY FOR**  
*Europe*  
**NC**

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray that N.C. Baptists would partner with evangelical Europeans in North Carolina to bring the gospel to the lost.
- 2 Pray that European refugees living in North Carolina would find peace that comes through the hope of the gospel.



# 25 March

With over 2,300 unreached people groups living across these regions, Africa and the Middle East are marked by vast spiritual and physical needs. And yet, God is on the move as churches across the continent experience a captivating resurgence unlike any other.

- ◆ Africa is the fastest growing continent on Earth, with the population expected to double by 2050.
- ◆ 739 of 794 people groups (93%) from North Africa and the Middle East are unreached.

**AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST** are regions facing urgent spiritual need. Although churches are growing rapidly across the continent, 1,600 unreached people groups still live in Sub Saharan Africa and more than 700 live in North Africa and the Middle East. Many people groups are also experiencing significant physical needs as countries are ravaged by poverty and warfare.

In spite of persecution, God is moving across Africa and the Middle East through local churches and missionary efforts. Across the continent, churches are growing — especially in Sub Saharan Africa, which is on course to becoming the largest Christian continent in the world within the next few decades. To the north, although many people groups in North Africa and the Middle East have traditionally been hostile to the gospel, God is working to bring the good news to these groups in new, creative ways.

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray that God would raise up national leaders in African and Middle Eastern churches to bring the good news to the many unreached people groups.
- 2 Pray that missionaries living in regions facing warfare and poverty will have courage to proclaim the gospel even as they meet physical needs.

PRAY  
FOR *Africa*  
/ MIDDLE EAST



# 25 April

Many people groups from Africa and the Middle East settle in the United States as refugees. They can be found across North Carolina in regions such as the Triangle, Metro Charlotte, Greenville, Fayetteville and the Triad.

◆ African/Middle Eastern people groups in North Carolina include: Hausa, Arab-Yemeni, Berber of Morocco.

**HAUSA:** The Hausa represent one of the largest ethnic groups in West Africa, with 38.8 million around the world and 2,200 living in North Carolina. Most Hausa people practice a religion that mixes traditional animistic rituals with Islam. Less than 0.01% of them are evangelical.

**ARAB-YEMENI:** God brings the Arab-Yemeni people to us from the country of Yemen, from the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula. There are over 7 million Arab-Yemeni people worldwide, but only a handful of believers. Many of the Arab-Yemeni men will come first to find a job at local convenience stores in more rural areas of North Carolina.

**BERBER OF MOROCCO:** The Berber people come to us from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, North Africa. There are almost 19 million Berber people worldwide, with only 0.02% being evangelical believers. They loosely adhere to the Islamic faith and enjoy conversations about God.

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray that God will call forth churches and individuals to boldly love and share Christ with these unreached peoples.
- 2 Pray that God will raise up faithful intercessors from North Carolina who will stand in the gap for their African and Middle Eastern neighbors.

PRAY  
FOR *Africa* NC  
/MIDDLE EAST



25

# May

A great need exists to send missionaries to the Asia-Pacific Rim, home to 30% of the world's population. Though the church has been working for centuries to bring the good news to the East, 95% of all people in this region live in spiritual darkness.

- ◆ 3,358 people groups — a total of 2.3 billion people — live in the Asia Pacific-Rim.
- ◆ 50% of the world's largest cities are in the Asia-Pacific Rim.

**FROM THE MEGACITIES OF CHINA,** Japan and South Korea to remote Mongolian grasslands and isolated Pacific islands, from the Himalayan mountains of Tibet to the rice fields and rainforests of Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific Rim is vibrant and diverse. It is also a land of vast spiritual darkness, as over 2 billion of the region's 2.3 billion population live without knowledge of Jesus.

While some areas in the Asia-Pacific Rim allow churches to operate openly, many countries require churches to remain underground. Churches in the Asia-Pacific Rim operate in a diverse religious context, where 27% of the population have no religious preference, 25% of the population follow ethnic religions, 21% are Buddhist and 11% are Muslim.

**PRAY  
FOR**

*Asia*  
◆ **/PACIFIC RIM**

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray that the unreached peoples living in the Asia-Pacific Rim would know the deep peace and joy that comes from a right relationship with God through Christ.
- 2 Pray that the church in the Asia-Pacific Rim will share the good news with clarity and confidence in a culture of religious diversity and unbelief.



25

# June

Men and women from the Asia-Pacific Rim have settled across North Carolina, establishing businesses, opening restaurants and studying in universities. They can be found in all the major metropolitan areas, including the Triangle, the Triad and Wilmington.

◆ Asian-Pacific Rim people groups in North Carolina include: Japanese, Thai, Khmer

**JAPANESE:** Racially, culturally and ethnically, the Japanese are one of the most homogenous people groups in the world. Most Japanese follow both Shintoism — the native religion of Japan — and Buddhism. There are almost 125 million Japanese people worldwide, with 0.48% claiming to be evangelical believers.

**THAI:** Thailand is a majority Buddhist country, and Thai people are considered to be some of the strongest adherents to Buddhism. There are over 68 million Thai people worldwide. Only 0.18% claim to be evangelical believers.

**KHMER:** The Khmer people come to us mainly from Cambodia. Worldwide, there are nearly 16 million Khmer people, with 1.68% being evangelical believers. The majority are Buddhist, although relics of ethnic religions (such as ancestor worship and spirit worship) are very important to them.

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of Asian-Pacific Rim peoples toward Christians, that they will be receptive to the gospel.
- 2 Pray that N.C. Baptist churches across the state would adopt these peoples, develop strategic plans for engaging them with the gospel and plant reproducing churches.

PRAY  
FOR *Asia* NC  
/ PACIFIC RIM



# 25 July

Located along the historic trade routes of the Silk Road, Central Asia is rich with history and culture but has had little to no exposure to the gospel. Almost 99% of Central Asian people groups are unreached.

- ◆ Nearly 400 million Central Asians comprise 386 people groups. Thirty-nine percent of these groups do not have church-planting efforts among them.
- ◆ Only a handful of Central Asians have been Christians for more than 30 years.

**CENTRAL ASIA** is in need of the hope of the gospel. The region is home to hundreds of Persian and Turkic people groups, and almost all of them are unreached. For centuries, Central Asians have followed the teachings of Islam, meaning that most Central Asians have no knowledge of biblical Christianity and are unaware that the gospel is good news.

Over the past few decades, however, God has been doing a new work in Central Asia to raise up churches. In spite of military conflicts, natural disasters and political turmoil, missionaries have taken a step toward these unfamiliar lands and are seeing fruit as a result. Many Central Asians are now turning to the Lord, in spite of the risk of persecution for “betraying” their former faith, traditions and family.

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray that young leaders in Central Asian churches would reflect Jesus’ sacrificial love as a witness to the unsaved world around them.
- 2 Pray that missionaries working in Central Asia would persevere to bring the hope of the gospel to a region where few people know the name of Jesus.

PRAY  
FOR

◆ *Central Asia*



# 25 August

Over the past several years, the United States has seen an influx of Central Asian refugees after Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in August 2021. In North Carolina, Afghans and other Central Asian people groups can be found around the Triangle, Metro Charlotte and the Triad.

◆ Central Asian people groups in North Carolina include: Afghan/Dari Persians, Persians, Turks

**AFGHAN/DARI:** Dari Persian is the variety of the Persian language spoken in Afghanistan. There are an estimated 12.5 million Dari Persian speakers worldwide, with about 155,000 and 2,000 in the United States and North Carolina, respectively. The vast majority of Afghans adhere to Islam.

**PERSIANS:** Today, ethnic Persians are scattered across Central Asia, but most remain in Iran. There are an estimated 61 million Persian speakers worldwide, with about 355,000 and 5,500 in the United States and North Carolina, respectively. Most Farsi speakers consider themselves Shiite Muslims.

**TURKS:** Considered to be a geographic and cultural “link” between the East and the West, Turkey is the only secular republic that has a majority Muslim population. There are an estimated 55 million Turkish speakers worldwide, with about 130,000 and 1,500 in the United States and North Carolina, respectively.

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray that churches in North Carolina will catch a vision to embrace Central Asian peoples.
- 2 Pray that the many Central Asians living abroad will be reached with the gospel and take the good news back to Central Asia.

PRAY  
FOR

Central Asia  
NC



# 25 September

The American peoples have a rich heritage of missions, yet more than 550 million American people are living without Jesus. Growing prosperity theology and folk Catholicism make the Americas an urgent mission field.

- ◆ Though many have heard of Jesus, fewer than 1 in 10 people in the Americas have a personal relationship with Jesus.
- ◆ An estimated 90 people groups live in extreme isolation in the Amazon jungle and have no contact with the outside world.

**THE AMERICAS** have a rich history of missionary movements as men and women have sacrificed much to bring the gospel to peoples across the continent. Together, we celebrate that God has revealed His good news to many — but we also realize that much work remains to be done.

Over the past several years, the Americas have experienced rapid growth of prosperity theology that has spread theological confusion. Additionally, many in the Americas have adopted distorted spiritual practices that combine traditional Catholicism with occult and new age beliefs. These misunderstandings have left millions without a true knowledge of Jesus Christ and a personal relationship with Him. A missionary presence is needed to point American peoples to the truth of the gospel.

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray that missionary efforts among the American peoples will result in the rapid spread of the true gospel.
- 2 Pray that churches across the Americas would remain healthy and persevere against false teachings and unbelief.

PRAY FOR  
*Americas*



25

# October

Immigration into the United States has opened up new opportunities for the gospel to flourish and for churches to be planted among American people groups. American peoples can be found in every metropolitan area in North Carolina.

◆ American people groups in North Carolina include: Mexican, Salvadoran, Honduran

**MEXICAN:** The United States is home to the second largest Mexican community in the world, second only to Mexico itself. Mexicans traditionally practice Roman Catholicism, while only about 6% of Mexico is considered to be evangelical Christian.

**SALVADORANS:** Salvadorans are a people of Hispanic origin. Some of the first Salvadorans to come to the United States in large numbers moved during the midst of the country's civil war, when 20% to 30% of the population fled. El Salvador's population today is roughly 6.5 million, while about 942,000 and 15,000 Salvadorans now reside in the United States and North Carolina, respectively.

**HONDURAN:** Honduras' population today is roughly 8 million, while about 258,000 and 12,000 Hondurans now reside in the United States and North Carolina, respectively. A majority of Hondurans are Catholic, although many immigrants in the United States are converting to Protestant Christianity.

## PRAYER POINTS

1

Pray for God to raise up believers from American people groups who can be mobilized and trained to take the gospel to the unreached, unengaged peoples living all around them.

2

Pray that N.C. Baptist churches would partner together to reach American people groups in their neighborhoods and beyond.

◆ PRAY FOR  
*Americas*  
NC



25

# November

Home to over 1.8 billion people who do not know Jesus as Lord, South Asia has the largest concentration of non-Christians on the planet. Only 1.5% of the population is evangelical Christian.

- ◆ South Asia is home to approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the world's Muslims, with over 500 million living in the region.
- ◆ South Asia is home to 1,975 unreached people groups.

**FROM THE HEIGHTS** of the Himalayas to the crystal-clear waters of the Maldives, South Asia is both awe-inspiring and heart-wrenching. It is the birthplace of several world religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism. At the same time, more Muslims live in South Asia than anywhere else on Earth. Missionaries are needed to reach this mission field now more than ever.

As the population of South Asia continues to grow, the gospel is going forth and bearing fruit. Today, more than 34 million evangelical believers live on the subcontinent, meaning that the church has significant potential to reach many unbelieving neighbors with the hope found in Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray that missionaries would partner with South Asian believers to shine a light in the darkness.
- 2 In a region with large concentrations of people and diverse religious practices, pray that the truth of the gospel would be irresistible to many.

**PRAY  
FOR**

*South Asia*



25

# December

North Carolina is home to numerous South Asian communities, presenting churches an opportunity to bring these people groups the hope of the gospel. South Asian peoples can be found in the Triangle, Metro Charlotte, the Triad, Fayetteville and Unifour.

◆ American people groups in North Carolina include: Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi

**HINDI:** There are an estimated 180 million Hindi speakers worldwide, with 607,000 and 25,000 living in the United States and North Carolina, respectively. The majority of Hindi speakers profess Hinduism, which is as much a lifestyle as a religion.

**URDU:** There are an estimated 137 million Urdu speakers worldwide, with about 263,000 and 6,300 in the United States and North Carolina, respectively. The majority of Urdu speakers adhere to Islam. The number of Islamic mosques being built by Urdu speakers will attest to the growing population of Urdu people in the metro areas.

**PUNJABI:** The Punjabi people originate from the Punjab region, which straddles the border between Pakistan and India. There are an estimated 141 million Punjabi speakers worldwide, with about 228,000 and 12,000 in the United States and North Carolina, respectively. Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism are all practiced by Punjabi people groups.

## PRAYER POINTS

- 1 Pray for N.C. Baptist churches to develop intentional church-planting strategies specifically focusing on South Asian communities.
- 2 Pray that South Asians living in North Carolina would have ample opportunities to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus.

PRAY  
FOR

South Asia

NC

