UNITED FOR AFGHANISTAN

A PRAYER GUIDE FOR THE AFGHANISTAN OF TODAY

August 2021
WHY THIS GUIDE?

After 20 years of conflict, the United States is withdrawing most of its troops from Afghanistan. U.S.-led coalition forces invaded Afghanistan in late September 2001, and Bagram became a huge base capable of housing up to 10,000 troops, now occupied by the Taliban. They have now withdrawn after President Joe Biden promised that all U.S. forces would leave by September 11 (he then moved the date to August 31, 2021).

With the release of NATO and U.S. troops, the Afghan government has been weakened by a lack of its allies, and the Taliban have seized the opportunity to gain control of large areas of the country.

Gradually, targeted attacks have led the Taliban to take over towns, cities and entire regions of the country. This week of August 7-14 has seen a wave of foreigners and locals escaping certain regions controlled by them, with even the British and American governments sending soldiers to evacuate their citizens, and the American Embassy being evacuated.

We want to share with you some relevant and important ways to be able to pray for this situation that continues to evolve. We thank you for your prayers as we know that our God is greater than any circumstance.
PRAY WITH US THIS WEEK

PRAY FOR AFGHANISTAN WITH US
August 19
7pm CST

Sign up for the Zoom link:
https://pastunes.org/afghanistan
DAY 1

AFGHAN BELIEVERS

RECENTLY, A WAVE OF NEW BELIEVERS HAS EMERGED WITHIN THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY AMONG HAZARAS. IF THEY ARE DISCOVERED AS BELIEVERS LIVING IN TALIBAN-CONTROLLED REGIONS, THEY WILL BE TARGETED.
Pray for wisdom for believers to make decisions in the midst of this conflict (whether to evacuate and where to).

Pray for believers staying put, that God may protect them and their families.

Pray that they will have opportunities to share the gospel in their communities and that the church will continue to grow, even among Taliban ranks.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Matthew 5:11
DAY 2

AFGHAN REFUGEES

Many Afghans are desperately trying to leave the country. This means that a wave of Afghans is going to arrive in many places like Pakistan, India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Canada, the United States, etc.
PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the process of departure of many refugees. Many end up in very vulnerable and desperate situations with a lack of basic needs, and may fall victim to people who even promise to help them out and only steal, extort or take advantage of their families.

Pray that the church will respond in places where new Afghan refugees arrive and we can be the hands and feet of Christ helping them through such a difficult time for their families.

Pray against misinformation. Often rumors of how to leave the country surface that make it difficult for Afghan refugees to make decisions with accurate information.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9
DAY 3

WORKERS LEAVING AFGHANISTAN

WAVES OF WORKERS CONTINUE TO LEAVE AFGHANISTAN SUDDENLY; SEVERAL HAVE LIVED THERE FOR MANY YEARS AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN IT IS HOME.
PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for wisdom in next steps and direction from God on where to go (serve in another country or head back home)

Pray for God to walk with them during this season of mourning as they have lost their homes.

Pray that those who stay in nearby countries can have everything they need and can grieve.

Pray for new workers who have just arrived or those ready to leave who see their plans thwarted and have to change directions.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

Psalms 46:1-2
DAY 4

EXPATS STAYING IN AFGHANISTAN

REGARDLESS OF THE CURRENT REALITY, THERE IS A PERCENTAGE WHO WILL STILL STAY IN AFGHANISTAN THIS SEASON.
May every spirit of fear leave them and a spirit of courage and faith in God remain.

Pray for open doors at this very moment in sharing hope with the locals.

May God give them grace and favor with the Taliban.

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7
The Taliban's Advancement in Afghanistan

Status of Afghan provinces by threat of coming under Taliban control (as of Aug 13, 2021)

- Under Taliban control
- Under high Taliban threat
- Under moderate Taliban threat
- Under low Taliban threat

Source: Foundation For Defense of Democracies Long War Journal

DAY 5
AFGHANISTAN

WE DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE AFGHANISTAN TO STABILIZE AND WHO WILL BE IN CONTROL IN THIS NEXT SEASON.
PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray that different humanitarian aid organizations can be cared for and protected, to continue providing support to displaced Afghans from different provinces that are currently in tents in Kabul.

That the nation can soon revert to some sense of normalcy and stability.

That communication between people in the country and the rest of the world may remain open and flowing freely.

In the hands of the LORD the heart of the king is like a river: it follows the course that the LORD has drawn up for it.

Proverbs 21:1
DAY 6
TALIBAN AND AL QAEDA

These groups are gaining ground in the region and are responsible for horrible acts, however, they are not beyond the grasp of God’s love and might.
PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the Taliban, among them are believers who could not leave their armies because other Talibs threatened to kill their relatives.

Pray that many of the Taliban with black turbans (mercenaries from many countries), may see their attacks thwarted.

Pray for God’s might to stop the advance of Al Qaeda (entering through Kandahar)

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
Matthew 5:44
DAY 7
THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

Moments like this are crucial for us as believers. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ.
PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray that more congregations globally to join in praying for Afghanistan

Pray that we will be the hands and feet of the Lord

Pray that we may see and seize opportunities to send, support and pray for workers working with Afghans globally.

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
Mark 16:15