



# The Uyghur of Central Asia

Outside of major cities there are pockets of Uyghur in small villages. There is very little missionary focus on reaching Uyghur villages as they can be hard to identify and even harder to befriend.

Pray with us for more workers and a responsiveness to the Good News among these unreached Uyghur communities.

## The Homeless

The Uyghur people have been a people without a land of their own. When the Soviet Union fell, their Turkic brothers were able to establish “home-lands.” The Kyrgyz, Uzbek, Kazakh, Tajik, and other peoples have places to call their own. The Uyghur “motherland” has been controlled by China since the 1940’s.

The Uyghur are spread throughout Central Asia, with the largest concentration of 11.7 million being in northwest China, 250,000 in Kazakhstan, 55,000 in Kyrgyzstan, 47,000 in Uzbekistan, and more than 1,000 in Turkey. The Western world contains small pockets of Uyghur diaspora.

## Why Serve Uyghurs in Central Asia?

- Fewer efforts have been made to reach the Uyghur population in pockets of Central Asia
- Visas are currently easier to maintain in Central Asia
- There are many possibilities for ministry to expand to other unreached Muslim peoples
- God is moving in the hearts of people to reach Uyghurs in Central Asia —come and join the team!
- An opportunity for creative people who see possibilities and work to make them a reality
- Because you have a heart for the unreached, Central Asia, and the glory of God

## Who are the Uyghur People?

The Uyghur people are a Turkic people, with a culture and language very similar to other Central Asian peoples. They are a hospitable people, who do not hesitate to invite someone in for tea, naan bread, or an entire meal. Their Muslim faith influences their identity despite their tendency to be less devout.

Oppression in their motherland has caused anger and heartbreak among the Uyghur community globally. This oppression has resulted in most missionary efforts in northwest China to end abruptly as it became impossible for expats to live there. This has increased efforts focusing on the Uyghur diaspora in other areas.

Uyghurs living in Central Asia have many family members still in China. This can cause stress to the Uyghur community in Central Asia, even to the point of cameras monitoring them at local bazaars.

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# Restricted Access Doesn't Restrict the Gospel

## Kind Words Shine Light in the Darkness

*"The opportunities that doing business (BAM) can provide for the sake of the gospel are numerous. It just takes intentionality. Our business was able to offer a neutral space for other cross-cultural workers to meet with their local friends.*

*English Corners for adults and story time for children and their parents provided ways for locals to come and interact with the believers who hosted.*

*Employing local staff not only provided them with financial stability but also created a platform to see the Gospel lived out and opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them on a day-to-day basis."*



*On one particular occasion, we had provided coloring sheets for children. It was December and the Christmas Season was being celebrated. Our employee, Miragul, asked to take a coloring sheet home for her son. The picture was a depiction of the Nativity.*

*I took the opportunity to explain the whole story behind the nativity scene. At that time, the local 'minorities' were having to return to their cities of registration, much like the earthly parents of Jesus had to. This allowed for the story of Jesus' birth to resonate more fully with Miragul.*

*She had grown up thinking that Jesus was born in a stable because of the shame that a licentious Mary brought upon her family by becoming pregnant outside of wedlock. Now having the opportunity to hear the Truth, it paved the way to move the conversation to the fuller picture of the Gospel and why Jesus had to come, why he had to die, and how he is the Savior of all who believe."*

## Ministry Overview

People	The Uyghur
Language	Uyghur
Location	Central Asia
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business or market place employment</li><li>• Church Planting</li><li>• Discipleship</li><li>• Leadership training and development</li><li>• Networking believers</li><li>• Prayer ministry</li></ul>

## What types of people and skills do we need?

- Comfortable with ambiguity
- Perseverant people, not easily dissuaded
- People willing to give a lifetime to a part of the world that needs the Truth
- People faithful in evangelism
- People with business or professional skills.
- Teachers/ Professors
- Creative people, able to identify opportunities

Join the Team!

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