

A Christian Response to the Crisis in Afghanistan

All Saints PTC – Sunday Sept 5, 2021, 9:15 AM

Speakers: The Rev. Michael Fry, Rector All Saints
Mr. Daniel Thames, Delta crew member
Pastor Kai Omar, founder of Pamir Ministries
Chaplain Michael Spalla, U.S. Army

AFGHANISTAN



Location: Landlocked country in South-Central Asia
Size: 252k square miles (slightly bigger than France)
Population: 33 million (slightly more than Texas, but less than California)
Ethnic Groups: Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazras, Uzbeks...
Languages: Dari (Persian/Farsi) 78% & Pashto 50%
Religion: Predominantly Sunni Muslim (80-90%); Shia Muslim (7-15%); Christians are estimated to number at most 8,000
Select Wars: Alexander the Great; Muslim Arabs; Mongols; British; Soviets; U.S. – “unconquerable”, “graveyard of empires”
Taliban Control: 1996 –

Biblical Mandate

- Leviticus 19.34: You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt”
- Micah 6.8: “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
- Luke 10.25-37: “And who is my neighbor?” ~ *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*
- John 13.34: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- 1 John 4.7-8: “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
- Matthew 28.19f: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Current Situation

- As many as 3,000 Christians left in Afghanistan
 - Black ops land evacuations underway
 - Numerous NGO’s involved in fundraising and evac; others in outreach and evangelism
 - Resettlement needs unknown at this time (there are currently 2-3k Afghani refugees in the Atlanta area—mostly in Clarkston and surrounding communities)
- Refugees are being taken to U.S. Military installations and processed by the State Department

Response

- Prayer (see e.g. prayer guide below)
- Material Support (Finances, housing, goods)
e. g. Anglican Relief and Development Fund; <https://ardf.org>
- Relationship – partnering with existing parachurch ministries and NGO's

Afghan Prayer Guide, August 2021

Afghanistan today: On one hand, suffering and sadness beyond measure. On the other, a God who measures the Heavens with his fingers and the Earth on a balance. (Is. 40.12) Let's bring those hands together in prayer for Afghanistan this week.

Monday: The Vulnerable

Ask God to help and comfort all for whom the rug has been ripped out from under them by the Taliban takeover. Women, children, the disabled, girls, friends of former regimes, helpers of various militaries, and normal, half-hearted Muslims just trying to feed their families.

Tuesday: The Taliban

As they lead Afghanistan, ask God to give them wisdom to govern civilly. Ask him to hold back their arm of violence that Afghans may "live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (I Tim. 2.2) Pray for radical transformation.

Wednesday: The Afghan Church

Can we even begin to imagine what it's like for Afghans who follow Jesus? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill them with peace, power and wisdom to navigate these days. Some will leave. Some will stay. Some will die. May God use their faith in trial to spark a great turning to Jesus.

Thursday: Refugees

Upwards of 70,000 Afghans will seek asylum based on their service to the U.S. military. God alone knows how many more will simply run for their lives. Pray for safe passage. Pray for neighboring countries as they receive newcomers. Pray for our hearts, homes and wallets to be open to help Afghans find new lives in the U.S.

Friday: The Kingdom of God

Imagine what the fullness of the Kingdom of God in Afghanistan would look like and ask God for what you see. Pray in line with Jesus's prayer, "Our Father. . . let your kingdom come and let your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." (Mt. 6.9-10) Peace, security, joy, hope, freedom from fear, corruption, oppression. The abundant life of Jesus. Yes, Father, let your kingdom come, your will be done in Afghanistan.

More info at shanebennett.com