

You have the opportunity to make a difference in Southwest Asia. Are you up for the challenge?

Uzbeks

of northeastern
Afghanistan



"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
— Isaiah 43:19a —



The word Uzbek is said to be derived from the words 'uz', which means independent or self-ruling, and 'bek', meaning master. This is a fitting name as Uzbeks have maintained a level of autonomy from Kabul in Afghanistan's mountainous north where most Uzbeks live. Uzbeks are the fourth largest of a number of ethnic groups in Afghanistan with a population of three million, and around one million of these are in the country's northeast. Uzbeks in this region mostly live in villages, so access is difficult and it will require creativity and focus to live and work among them.



Opportunities to Engage

Most Uzbeks of northeastern Afghanistan live in rural areas and villages. This makes access difficult, meaning creative strategies need to be employed to build relationships. One example is living in a nearby town with a job that requires access to village areas. A team working among the Uzbeks of northeastern Afghanistan would also need to be focused so that the goal of working among this people group does not become a general goal of reaching out to the people of the town or city of residence. Possible industries to work in and job roles include farming and agriculture training; import-export business related to agriculture or animal husbandry, such as wool or camel hair projects; medical professions, as people from rural areas access medical and dental care in larger towns and cities; and, education, in projects such as teacher training or minority language primary instruction.

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”
— Isaiah 43:19b —

Ways to Pray

- Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go and share Christ with the Uzbek people of northeastern Afghanistan.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to soften and prepare the hearts of Uzbeks of this region towards Believers so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- Ask God to strengthen, encourage, and protect Believers who are working to take the Gospel to Uzbeks elsewhere.
- Ask the Lord to raise up a strong local church among Uzbeks.
- Ask the Lord to protect Uzbeks and their neighbors in northeastern Afghanistan from the influence and destructive power of the Taliban.

