

For the Least Reached

Prayer Guide



“Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance,
and the very ends of the earth as Your possession.”

— Psalm 2:8, New American Standard Bible 1995

Thank you for praying with us!

Welcome to the July Prayer Guide. This monthly prayer guide forms part of **For the Least Reached: A Year of Prayer**, our one-year prayer initiative.

Each month we unite with the body of Christ in prayer for one least-reached country around the world. Many of the people in these countries have never heard the message of the gospel, or it's difficult for them to learn about Jesus or worship Him.

Learn more at jesusfilm.org/pray.



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| <i>Bangladesh</i> | <i>Japan</i> |
| <i>China</i> | <i>Pakistan</i> |
| <i>Egypt</i> | <i>Russia</i> |
| <i>India</i> | <i>Thailand</i> |
| <i>Iran</i> | <i>Turkey</i> |
| <i>Indonesia</i> | <i>Vietnam</i> |

Nearly

75%

of all the world's unreached people—a whopping 3.6 billion people—live in the 12 countries that we will pray for this year.

WELCOME TO Russia!



The Soviet Union separated into Russia and 14 other independent countries at the end of 1991. This may seem like old news, but the complicated history between these countries continues to play into world events—the most prominent example being the war in Ukraine.

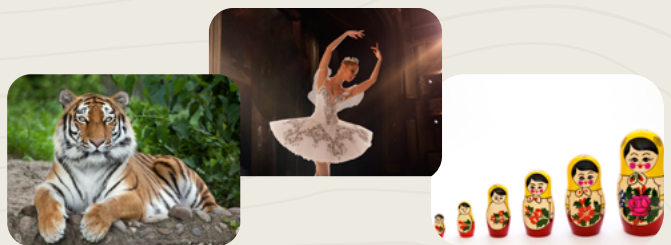
We continue to pray for Ukraine and for God to bring relief amidst the devastation its people are facing, but also for many Russian citizens whose lives have been impacted by embargoes and other consequences of war. Join us in praying for the war to end soon, and for God to open the hearts of those who don't yet know Jesus so that they can know hope in Him.



Russia and the United States are separated by just 2.5 miles of water. In fact, we can find just two islands in the middle of the Bering Strait: Little Diomed and Big Diomed. Little Diomed belongs to the U.S., while Big Diomed belongs to Russia.

Did you know?

- ▶ Russia's most famous animal species is the Siberian tiger, the largest cat in the world. Indigenous to the forests of eastern Russia, these endangered giants can grow to almost 10 feet long and weigh up to 661 pounds!
- ▶ Russia is known all over the world for its extremely talented ballet dancers.
- ▶ Russia is famous for its wooden dolls, called matryoshka, which consist of many dolls that fit inside of each other. These dolls are inspired by daruma dolls from Japan (the country we prayed for in May).
- ▶ In an attempt to modernize Russia, Peter the Great imposed a tax on beards in 1698.



Praying for Russia

Last month we focused on two key points we saw in Psalm 136.

1. Each of the 26 verses ends in the statement **“His love continues forever”**.
2. The psalm speaks of God’s power over all: **“God over all gods,” “Lord of all lords,”** and **“Only He can do great miracles.”** He is omnipotent, which means all-powerful!

Psalm 136 also both begins and ends with **“Giving thanks,”** like bookends holding books together on a shelf. It’s clear God places great importance on giving thanks, whatever the circumstances. In fact, we are told to give thanks throughout the Bible.

If your current circumstances are making it difficult to give thanks, lean on this truth for help: if you’re reading this, God gifted you life yesterday and today. It’s an easy thing to thank Him for. And He’s gifted you so much more. He’s the greatest gift giver of all. The planets, stars, flowers, animals and each of us—He didn’t need them. And they certainly didn’t have to be as beautiful and miraculous as they are. Above all, He’s given us His Son as a sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins. Because of Him, we who are trusting in Christ are free. We thank Him for His love, which continues forever.

What are five things you can thank God for right now? Thanking God for specific things—big or small, simple or complex—is an excellent habit to build, and good practice for hard times.

Thank you for praying with us.

Lucinda Mason

Jesus Film Project
Prayer Mobilization, Team Leader



Week 1: July 1-7, 2023

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

— John 3:16, New International Version



Week 1 Prayers

- Day 1** Russia is the largest country on Earth. It spans 11 time zones. Pray that God will raise up Christian workers across this great expanse and in each of its 180 people groups.

- Day 2** Pray for wise and faithful-to-God leaders and advisors at every level in Russia.

- Day 3** Using Scripture is a great way to pray for yourself and your family and friends—not just for people far away. Pray this over your loved ones and for every Christian in Russia:

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”
— Colossians 3:1-2, NIV


- Day 4** In Luke 10:2 the Lord calls us to ask Him for more laborers for the harvest; that is, for more believers to share the gospel, lead people to Him and mentor new believers. Join us in praying for more Christian workers to help with the harvest across Russia.

- Day 5** In addition to more laborers for the harvest, ask the Lord to bring trained men and women to lead these new workers. May they faithfully seek and follow His wisdom in all they do.

- Day 6** Sanctions have heavily impacted the ability of many to access funds across Russia. Please pray that God will open doors so that Christian ministry may continue and even expand.

- Day 7** Certain regions and people groups in Russia have very few Christians. Pray for the translation of Christ-centered resources into the languages of these unreached people groups.

Week 2: July 8-14, 2023

A photograph of two elderly women sitting side-by-side. They are wearing traditional, colorful headscarves. The woman on the left is wearing a blue and white floral patterned headscarf and a matching patterned top. The woman on the right is wearing a blue and red patterned headscarf and a dark green zip-up jacket. Both women are holding large bundles of dried, brownish flowers. The background is a rustic wooden wall.

“Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere Him.”

— Psalm 33:8, NIV



Week 2 Prayers

- Day 8** Praise God for the new churches planted in the past three years. Pray that God would raise up leaders and new believers to plant another 35 in His perfect timing.
- Day 9** Pray that Russian Christians will be emboldened by the Holy Spirit to live strong and daring Christ-like lives capable of transforming Russian society.
- Day 10** Ask for God to open more doors for women’s ministry, providing more relevant resources and inspiring more Christian women to forge new relationships so that all women throughout Russia can hear about God’s great love for them.
- Day 11** Pray that Russian people who do not yet know Jesus recognize Him for who He is and see their need for Him.

“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me... .’”
— John 14:6, NIV
- Day 12** Pray for healthy churches to grow and be able to multiply and for its members to help plant new churches in neighboring communities.
- Day 13** Pray that peaceful ways can soon be found to end conflicts with other countries.
- Day 14** The Lord often inspires believers to use new, creative methods to draw people into desiring to know more about His truth. Pray for those God has tapped in Russia to create the latest new tools. May they reach every segment of Russian society effectively.

Week 3: July 15-21, 2023

"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

— 2 Peter 3:9, NIV



Week 3 Prayers

- Day 15** Pray for the families of Christian workers in Russia to be strong in the Lord and lean on Him at all times, even in the most difficult times.
- Day 16** May Christians of all denominations, backgrounds and organizations come together as the unified body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.
- Day 17** Many Russians are not seeking God and are living in spiritual darkness. Ask God to break this darkness and spark a revival that draws Russians to Him!
- Day 18** Ask God for more church-planting teams to serve throughout the country, and that through them a church would be established within reach of every person in Russia.
- Day 19** The Bible teaches us that we have an enemy (the devil) who wants to keep Christians from trusting God. God wants us to stay close to Him and let Him fight for us. The Christians in Russia need to do this as well, so join me in praying God's Word for them.

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith..."
— 1 Peter 5:8-9, NIV
- Day 20** Pray for the growth and development of Christian outreach across Russia through creative strategies, training, mentoring and relevant, Christ-centered resources.
- Day 21** Pray that God will use Russian Christians to influence all levels of Russian leaders to make godly decisions.

Week 4: July 22–28, 2023



“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

—Matthew 11:28, NIV



Week 4 Prayers

- Day 22** Pray for Russian Christians to continue to share the gospel with those around them and help younger Christians grow in their faith.
- Day 23** Praise God that He has enabled Christians to minister to others during difficult times. May God continue to lead them in caring for family, friends and their communities.
- Day 24** Many Christian workers depend on financial donations from friends and churches to support their work. Please pray that the Lord who “owns the cattle on a thousand hills” will amply supply their every need.
- Day 25**
“How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”
— Romans 10:14–15, NIV

Pray that God will raise up pastors and Christians to take His gospel across the nation of Russia.
- Day 26** Pray that the Lord will lead Christians to unbelievers who are seeking the truth, bring them to Christ, disciple them, and train and mentor them in practical ministry.
- Day 27** Different forms of media—full length movies, short films, social media posts, ads—can all be used to share the gospel in culturally-relevant ways. Pray for God to give believers wisdom in creating and using each of these different methods. May they help connect not-yet believers with resources that explain God’s love and salvation message.
- Day 28** Ask God to prompt Christians across Russia of all nationalities and people groups to plant culturally-relevant churches for those around them. Pray that these churches are also able to offer a safe place to worship as well as a stable and healthy sense of community that draws people in.



Week 5: July 29–31, 2023

Week 5 Prayers

- Day 29** May God enable Russian Christians to continually choose to be loyal, faithful and dedicated to Him in the midst of hard times.

- Day 30** Ask God to provide all the basic needs of Christian workers and their families in Russia. May they trust in the Lord and experience His care for them, even during very difficult times.

- Day 31** Lord Jesus, we thank You for giving us a chance to pray for Russia each day this month. We believe You will continue Your work there until everyone has heard clearly about Jesus and been invited to follow Him. Someday we'll see how You answered our prayers. May heaven be filled with Russian who started to follow Jesus in part due to our prayers this month. We give you all honor and praise.



Resources

You can see these requests and others in our [Prayer Experience](#), a web based app.

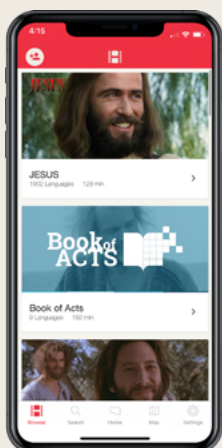
Joshua Project has a tremendous amount of information about every country. This link will take you to Russia: <https://joshuaproject.net/countries/RS>

Prayercast has great prayer videos: <https://www.prayercast.com/russia.html>

A great way to help someone learn more about Jesus is to share the *JESUS* film in their heart language. We have over 2,000 languages available on our website. <https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html>

We also have multiple other films and short videos available. <https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch.html>

For more Jesus Film Project® prayer resources—including access to each month’s family prayer guide—visit the prayer page on the Jesus Film Project website: jesusfilm.org/pray



The Jesus Film Project app is completely free and available on iOS and Android devices. Get the app now and start watching and sharing a huge library of Jesus-centered films.



Each month we will focus on a different least-reached country. Many of the people in these countries have never heard the message of the gospel, or it's difficult for them to learn about Jesus or worship Him. Nearly 75% of all the world's unreached people—a whopping 3.6 billion people—live in the 12 countries that we will pray for this year.

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