



# Central Asia

## Kyrgyz

### Economic Hardship

The Kyrgyz people often suffer economically. It's hard to find a job that can provide well for the whole family. This causes many to have to move away from villages to large cities or even emigrate to other countries to find work. This often means that children are raised by a single parent or grandparents as their parents move away for most of the year to work elsewhere.

Those who come to faith and live in a more rural setting face additional economic barriers. By coming to faith, they invite persecution in the form of ostracism. Those with decent work can be fired, or those who own businesses can be boycotted. This ultimately forces most Christians in the country to populate the large cities, thus diminishing gospel witness in rural areas. Is there a way to overcome these challenges to the glory of the Lord and the prospering of his people?

### Small Business Entrepreneurship

There is a real challenge to create jobs among the Kyrgyz. Entrepreneurship coaching, training and practice could help strengthen a weak economy, provide jobs, and create natural opportunities to preach the good news. It could also be a way to equip believers or those who come to faith in rural areas to stay in their hometowns and continue to shine as ambassadors for the King.

### Who Are the Kyrgyz People?

The Kyrgyz people are a Turkic people with a rich history of nomadic tribalism. They accepted Islam centuries ago, with traces of folk religion still surfacing. As they follow a more traditional culture, it is not uncommon to see large families with many children.

Having formerly been a part of the Soviet Union, traces of that heritage can still be found throughout their culture. However, since Central Asian states have become independent, they have tried to rediscover their heritage through increased Islamic teaching and/or "returning" to their native roots.

Shepherding and rural life are still very much a part of their culture, evident by the enjoyment of many products derived from mare's milk and their famous honey. The Kyrgyz are a friendly and hospitable people who like to invite others over for *borsok* and tea.

### Why Serve Among the Kyrgyz?

- Orthodox Islamic teaching is on the rise throughout the region.
- Only 0.11% of nearly 6 million Kyrgyz proclaim Jesus as Lord.
- The light shines brighter in the dark...in a region more than 90% Islamic, why not choose to be a faithful witness here?
- You have skills, abilities, and giftings that God will gladly utilize to build his church among the Kyrgyz people.
- The Turkic language speaking peoples of Central Asia are all least reached peoples, needing gospel witness.

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# Restricted Access Doesn't Restrict the Gospel

## Offering Help to the Broken

*Zak*, an alcoholic, fell into a depression due to his family's economic difficulties. Because of this, he began to drink even more. Previously, he would hit his wife on occasion, but it was very rare that he would hit his children. However, once he began drinking heavily, he started beating his wife severely and hitting his children. Eventually, his wife felt that she had no other option but to take her daughter and flee for safety. Unfortunately, there was no way for her to get away if she tried to take her son as well. Now, she is seeking a safe place to stay.

Christian friends are desperately searching for a Christian home or safe house to place her in so that, as she seeks to heal, she will be lavished with true love and hear the gospel. At the same time, people are praying that *Zak* would come to his senses and see the desperate situation he finds himself in. His family is about to completely fall apart, and his only hope of getting his wife and daughter back is to sober up.

They are praying he would be willing to enter a recovery program for alcoholics that has group studies in the Word each morning and times of prayer to seek deliverance from substance abuse. It is a safe, loving community where men like *Zak* can be reformed and, Lord willing, come to faith. May this broken family be made whole and holy.

There are many such instances of brokenness throughout Central Asia among the Kyrgyz people. These situations, whether because of spiritual oppression, economic depression, or self-inflicted difficulties, need the good news of Jesus Christ. These situations beckon people who are filled with the Holy Spirit and willing to take up their cross, to come with beautiful feet and strive to be a part of God's solution to the broken realities of the Kyrgyz people.

**Join the Team!**

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## Ministry Overview

People	The Kyrgyz
Language	Kyrgyz
Location	Central Asia
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Church Planting</li><li>• Discipleship</li><li>• Entrepreneurs</li><li>• Leadership training and development</li><li>• Networking believers</li><li>• ESL Teaching</li></ul>

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

- Hardy people, not easily discouraged by difficulties
- People who see brokenness and desire to show mercy and help restore wholeness
- People faithful in evangelism
- People with business or professional skills.
- Teachers/ Professors
- Creative problem solvers



Glorifying God by working together to establish reproducing churches focusing on the unreached peoples of the world.