

Baptist
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Australia

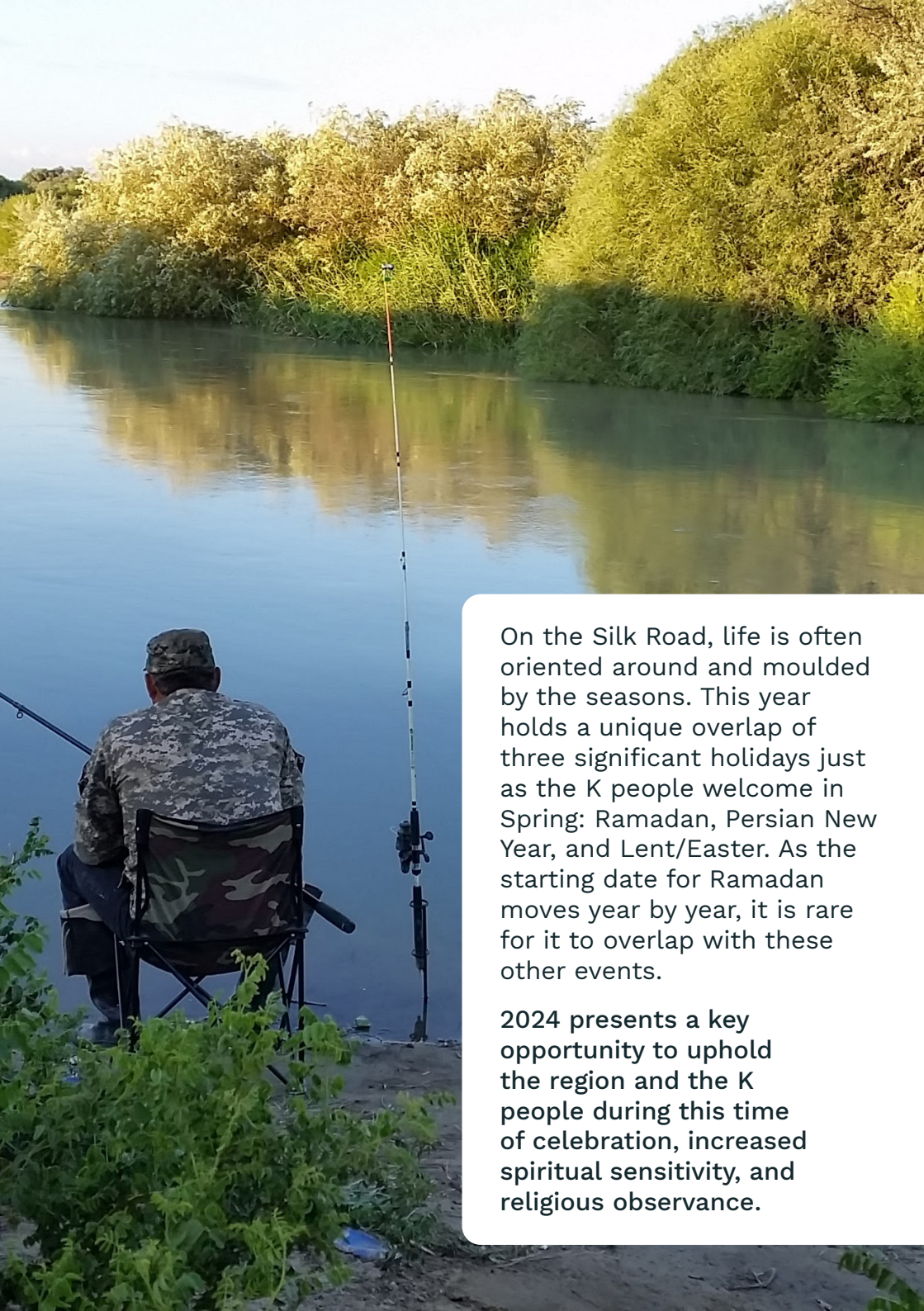


41 Days of Prayer

Praying for the K people of the
Silk Road Area throughout Ramadan

1 March - 10 April





On the Silk Road, life is often oriented around and moulded by the seasons. This year holds a unique overlap of three significant holidays just as the K people welcome in Spring: Ramadan, Persian New Year, and Lent/Easter. As the starting date for Ramadan moves year by year, it is rare for it to overlap with these other events.

2024 presents a key opportunity to uphold the region and the K people during this time of celebration, increased spiritual sensitivity, and religious observance.

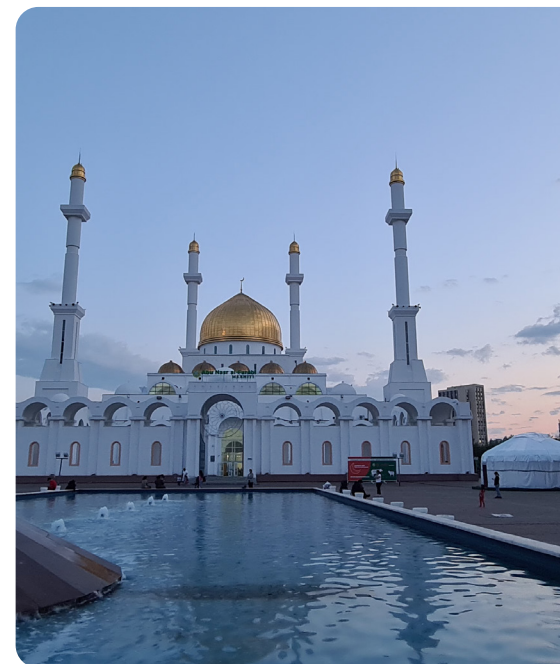
Ramadan is a time of searching where the K people seek to draw closer to God. Many people do this through fasting from eating and drinking from sun up to sun down.

One of the Five Pillars of Islam, Ramadan is an important practice for Muslims that is observed all around the world. It is also a time for families to connect as they gather for the iftar meal to break their fast after the sun sets.

During Ramadan is the Night of Power, which commemorates when Muslims believe the Quran first came down from Heaven. Acts of worship during this night are believed to be particularly important and bring bountiful rewards. Many will spend the whole night with family reading the Quran. Many who aren't participating in the fast will still participate in this important night.

Nauryz is a holiday that celebrates the Persian New Year at the Spring equinox. Persian New Year is celebrated by many people across Asia and East Europe, but on the Silk Road it is treated as a community celebration of K culture, food, singing, and dancing.

People will dress in traditional clothing and gather together in yurts as communities and families. During the several days of celebrations, past offences are forgiven and bad relationships mended as they enter the new year.





Our own patterns during Lent and what we celebrate during Easter share commonalities with our K friends' experiences during Ramadan and Nauryz. Though our motivation is very different, Lent and Ramadan are both times when people may fast and seek God with increased fervour.

This year, the Night of Power will occur shortly after Easter. Where Muslims celebrate the Quran coming down from Heaven, we will have celebrated the Word of God made flesh having come to us and opened the way to God through the cross.

As K people seek to set aside unforgiveness and be reconciled to one another during Nauryz, at Easter we remember how the Father reconciled the whole world to himself through Jesus.

Each of these similarities presents bridges and opportunities to share the Good News with our K friends.

Please use the prayer guide on the following pages to join us in praying for these opportunities to bear fruit during this particularly important time.

The Baptist Mission Australia team in the Silk Road Area



(L-R) Ben, Calvin, Dustin, Caitlyn, Mel, Bryce, Suzanne, Jude, David, Lachlan, Eliza, Lydia and Petra



Find out more about the team and partner with them:
www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/SilkRoadArea

41 Days of Prayer

Fri 1 March - Wed 10 April

1/3 F **Day of Gratitude** May this season bring new beginnings for unity in the local believing community in this village and beyond.

2/3 S As the weather warms and life emerges from the soil, may our K friends notice how God calls to them through creation.

3/3 S Pray for mothers of babies with disabilities to be freed of the guilt and shame. That their families would not blame them for the situation. Ask that they would experience the true giver of hope and would have hope in their life now and hope for eternity.

4/3 M Pray for harmony, respect, and appreciation between the different ethnic groups which call this country home. May they not just have tolerance, but celebrate their diversity.

5/3 T As the seeds of the new season sprout, may the 'seeds' of the Gospel already planted find good soil and grow.

6/3 W Ask that the flowers and crops will be fruitful and have a good season and there will be plenty of jobs for seasonal workers.

7/3 T Pray for the leaders of this country. That they would lead with integrity and for the good of all the people.

8/3 F **Women's Day** May the honour, respect and appreciation shown to women today, continue throughout the coming year.



9/3 S May young, unmarried women with few friends or opportunities to socialise in the village be brought into community together.

10/3 S **First day of Ramadan** May we be sensitive towards friends who are fasting this month.

11/3 M May the Son reveal Himself to our close friends and neighbours through dreams or visions, as many are sensitive to how God speaks through these, particularly in the fasting month.

12/3 T Pray for the hospital staff interacting regularly with Petra. Ask that they would be open to new relationships and ideas, both professionally and spiritually.

13/3 W Superstitions are common in the Silk Road. May the K people know the Son who gives a spirit of power that casts out all fear.



14/3 T **Day of making amends and forgiving others** May forgiveness flow freely amongst the K people of our village.

15/3 F May we be bold and courageous, leaning heavily on the Spirit's wisdom, and have meaningful and spiritual conversations while many of our friends are open to these during this fasting month.

16/3 S Pray for unity and mutual encouragement in our wider community of workers as we strive to share the good news of Jesus with locals in different ways.

17/3 S Uphold our K language nurturers who help us grow in our participation in the K world. May they be blessed by the relationship and may it spark important questions and conversations.

18/3 M Pray for the Language Centre, that it will provide high quality accessible education for the community and can holistically meet individual's needs.

19/3 T Pray for the fitness groups that Suzanne and Mel are part of. Ask that these relationships will continue to deepen as they grow in their participation in the community.



20/3 W **International Day of Happiness** May the K people draw close to the source of true joy.

21/3 T **Nauryz** Pray for peace as Persian new year and Ramadan clash today.

22/3 F **Nauryz** Pray for family unity and peace with each other, through the experience of forgiveness through Christ. The youngest son customarily lives at home with his parents even after marriage and there is often conflict between daughter in-laws and mother in-laws.

23/3 S Today and tomorrow (23-24/3) is a large conference for perinatal care in the region. Please ask that God's will be done in this place. Ask that connections will be formed, ideas will be sparked and that the decisions made will further God's plans for Occupational Therapy in the country and the region.

24/3 S **Palm Sunday** Pray for the K friends we are having deep conversations with – may they come to call Jesus “King”!

25/3 M As K people struggle with the fast, may they seek and find the one who is the “bread of life”.

26/3 T Pray for the medical system. Ask that doctors, nurses and other hospital staff will be given high quality training and education, and ask that hospitals and medical centres will be well funded and have access to all the resources needed to provide care.

27/3 W Travel between cities and villages is often dangerous and lawless. Thank God for providing safe travels thus far and that He would continue to protect us.



28/3 T **Maundy Thursday** Pray that our local friends will be convicted of the sin and wrongdoing in their own lives and will truly repent and seek out forgiveness from God.

29/3 F **Good Friday** Pray that we would have opportunities to share how God provides a way for His children to be obedient and find forgiveness through Christ's blood shed on the cross.



30/3 S Pray that there will be unity among the believers in this country, and that this would be a witness to their communities. (John 13:35)

31/3 S **Easter Sunday** May we be able to share the joy of the resurrection with neighbours and friends.

1/4 M **School returns** May our work with educators and in educational spaces bear fruit in enhancing the quality of life for the people in our communities.

2/4 T Please ask God to raise up leaders among the next generation of believers.

3/4 W Pray for the English conversation club, as the young women get to know each other, that there will be genuine friendships growing and opportunities to share the good news with them.

4/4 T Pray that we will have clear understanding of the legal requirements of running the English centre and have the wisdom to balance this with meeting the needs of the community.

5/4 F Pray for us as we consider building our resources and capacity of the English Centre so we can expand our reach into the community.

6/4 S **Night of Power** As Muslims celebrate the receiving of their holy book, we pray that they would meet the 'Word become flesh'.

7/4 S Pray for the education system. Ask that God would raise up passionate and caring teachers who will inspire the next generation.

8/4 M Many people within the village are required to take out regular loans, however these have high interest rates, which many cannot afford to repay. Pray that people will make wise financial decisions for their families and will choose to store up treasures in heaven.

9/4 T **Last day of Ramadan** Pray that over this fasting month all who participated will have been successful in their goal to drawing near to God, through the revelation of His Word, and will have had an encounter with the living one.

10/4 W **Oraza Ait (End of Ramadan)** May the Father grant us wisdom in responding to invitations to events celebrating the end of Ramadan.



Thank you for
praying!



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