

## PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

**Kyrgyzstan**

## General Information

- Population: about 6 million.
- A Central Asian country of incredible natural beauty and proud nomadic traditions, most of Kyrgyzstan was formally annexed to Russia in 1876.
- The Kyrgyz staged a major revolt against the Tsarist Empire in 1916 in which almost one-sixth of the Kyrgyz population was killed. Kyrgyzstan became a Soviet republic in 1936 and achieved independence in 1991 when the USSR dissolved.
- Nationwide demonstrations in the spring of 2005 resulted in the ouster of President Askar AKAEV, who had run the country since 1990.
- Continuing concerns include: endemic corruption, poor interethnic relations, and terrorism.
- Kyrgyz 64.9%, Uzbek 13.8%, Russian 12.5%, Dungan 1.1%, Ukrainian 1%, Uighur 1%, other 5.7% (1999 census).
- Religions: Muslim 75%, Russian Orthodox 20%, other 5%.

## Challenges

- Unrest. Clashes occurred between the two main ethnic groups—the Uzbeks and Kyrgyz—clashes incited fears that the country could be heading towards a civil war.
- Poverty. Kyrgyzstan was the second poorest country in the former Soviet Union, and is today the second poorest country in Central Asia. According to the CIA World Factbook, in 2011, a third of the country's population lived below the poverty line.
- Islam is increasingly taking root across the nation.
- On 6 November 2008, the Kyrgyzstan parliament unanimously passed a law increasing the minimum number of adherents for recognizing a religion from 10 to 200. It also outlawed "aggressive action aimed at proselytism", and banned religious activity in schools and all activity by unregistered organizations. It was signed by President Kurmanbek Bakiyev on 12 January 2009.

## Pray

- Pray for believers to stand firm and demonstrate the power and love of Christ. Pray for a just and righteous government that will oversee the genuine transformation of the Kyrgyz nation.
- Pray that religious freedom will be respected under the rule of law and Christians no longer subject to harassment.

## Reference

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyrgyzstan>
- <http://www.worldpress.org/profiles/kyrgyzstan.cfm>
- <http://www.persecution.net/kyrgyzstan.htm>