

# Kyrgyz in Kyrgyzstan



## Religions in Kyrgyzstan (2010 census)

- Islam 88.72%
- Non-religious 5.3%
- Christianity 5.27%
- Buddhist 0.42%

## Population (2010 census)

- Kyrgyzstan: 5,550,239
- Kyrgyz in Kyrgyzstan: 14,187,000
- Kyrgyz Worldwide: 5,038,100

## Peoples

- Turkic 82.8%
  - Kyrgyz 64.8%
- European 14.4%
- East Asian 1.6%
- Other 1.2%

## Location

Kyrgyzstan is a rugged Central Asian country along the Silk Road, the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean. It borders China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

## About the Kyrgyz in Kyrgyzstan

During its 72 years under Communist rule, the Kyrgyz population grew to four times its original size. Hundreds of towns and villages were built as many abandoned their traditional nomadic lifestyles. Nevertheless, the majority of the population is still rural.

Since the land is generally unsuitable for farming, many of the rural Kyrgyz live as nomadic cattle breeders, following their herds from pasture to pasture. They depend entirely on their animals for survival.

The Kyrgyz women enjoy more freedoms than do most other Central Asian women. For example, they are not required to wear veils. They are allowed to talk to men, and they may freely ride about on the grasslands

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## What are their beliefs?

Within the last two hundred years, the majority had been completely converted to Islam. The present wave of Islamization in Kyrgyzstan is one of the most intense that the north has ever experienced. People who were only Muslim by name are now learning many of the more intricate practices, creeds, and doctrines. In fact, since 1990, over 3000 new mosques have been built in Kyrgyzstan. Today, most Kyrgyz still consider themselves to be Muslim; however, some Shamanistic and Tengrism practices still exist.

## Gospel Work

Despite the laws, Kyrgyzstan still has more religious freedom than many neighboring countries and has more Bible translations, and resources. There are many possibilities in literature and electronic media, but the greatest potential for positive impact might be medical, community development, and business ministries.

## Praying for the Kyrgyz

- The government needs courage, resources, and even miracles to right the economy and society in general. The regimes subsequent to the Communism have thus far only brought about great corruption, crime, and poverty. Pray that the Lord would raise up leaders who would be positively impact this country
- Pray that as the unreached peoples look around them at His creation, that they will see His work, and begin their path to salvation.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers who are willing to commit their lives to loving and serving those in Kyrgyzstan.
- Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches among the Kyrgyz and would strengthen and encourage the churches already there.

## Scripture Verses for Prayer

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. [1 Timothy 1:17]

The Lord has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations." [Proverbs 97:12]

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

[Hebrews 7:25]

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