



# A VISUAL PRAYER GUIDE FOR THE UYGHUR PEOPLE OF NW CHINA



# INTRODUCTION

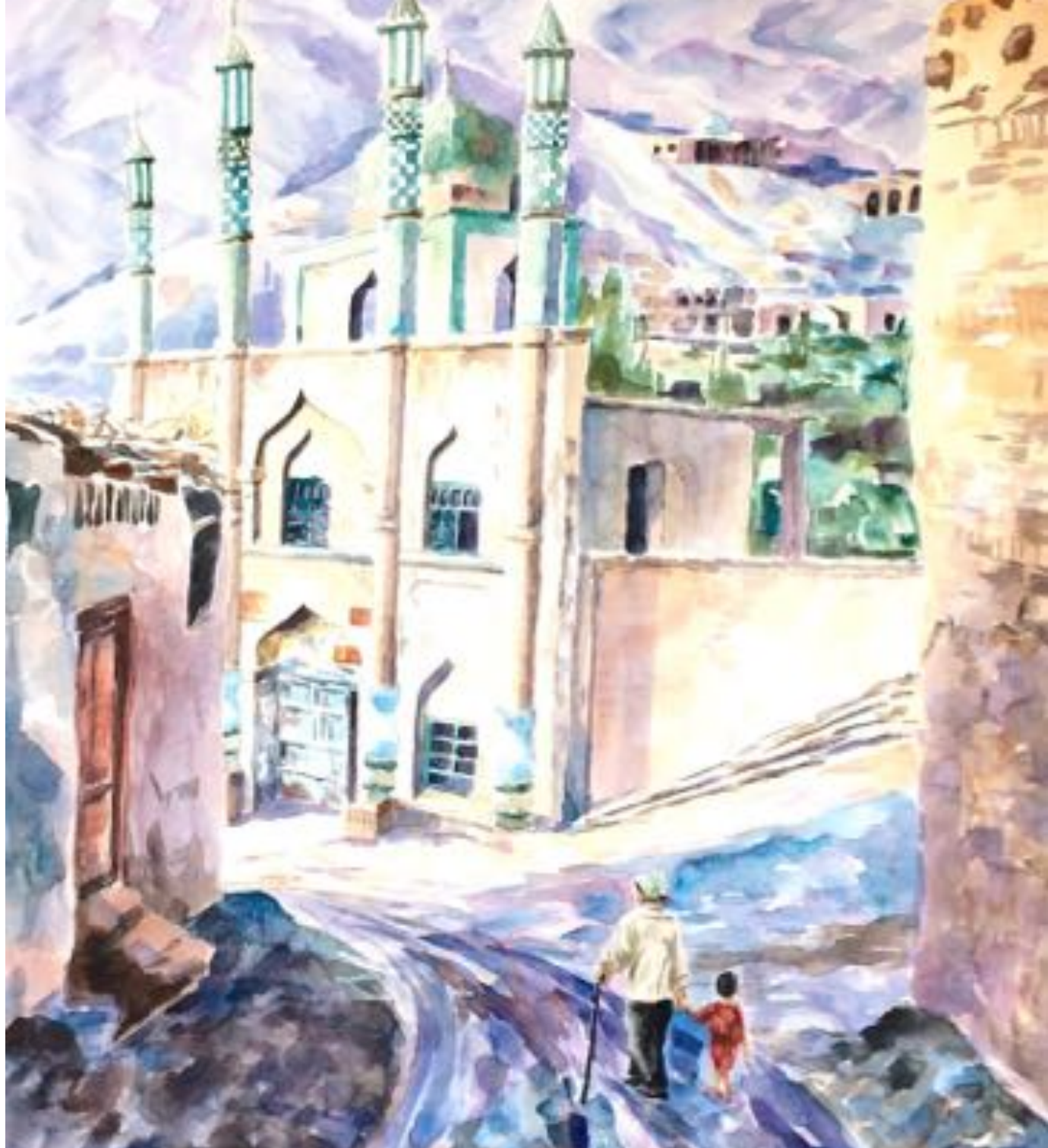
April 24 begins Ramadan, the month of fasting celebrated throughout the Muslim world. It is a time when Muslims seek the favor of God and are often more open spiritually. It is a perfect time for followers of Jesus to focus their prayers on the Muslim world. While there are many needs around the Muslim world, the Uyghur people have never needed our prayers more. And so I focus this prayer guide on the Uyghurs and their current situation, to be used during Ramadan, and hopefully beyond. My hope is that the paintings coupled with verses and an explanation of what is going on will ignite people's compassion and fuel heartfelt prayers for the precious Uyghur people.





# ISLAM

Though Uyghurs are 99.9% Muslim, it has now become impossible to perform the main tenets of Islam within Xinjiang. Mosques are being torn down, Muslim burial grounds are being dug up, Islamic restaurants are subject to fines and harassment, and Uyghurs have had to bury or destroy their Qur'ans. In their darkest hour, most other Islamic nations have turned their backs on them or even become complicit in China's wicked "Halal" organ harvesting export business.





# THOSE HUNGRY AND SEEKING

In spite of the oppressive surveillance and persecution Uyghurs live with daily, many are seeking answers, wondering where God is, and even looking for those answers outside of Islam. Pray for Uyghurs' spiritual hunger to be met in Christ.

**For GOD has satisfied the  
thirsty soul, and the hungry, He  
has filled with what is good.**

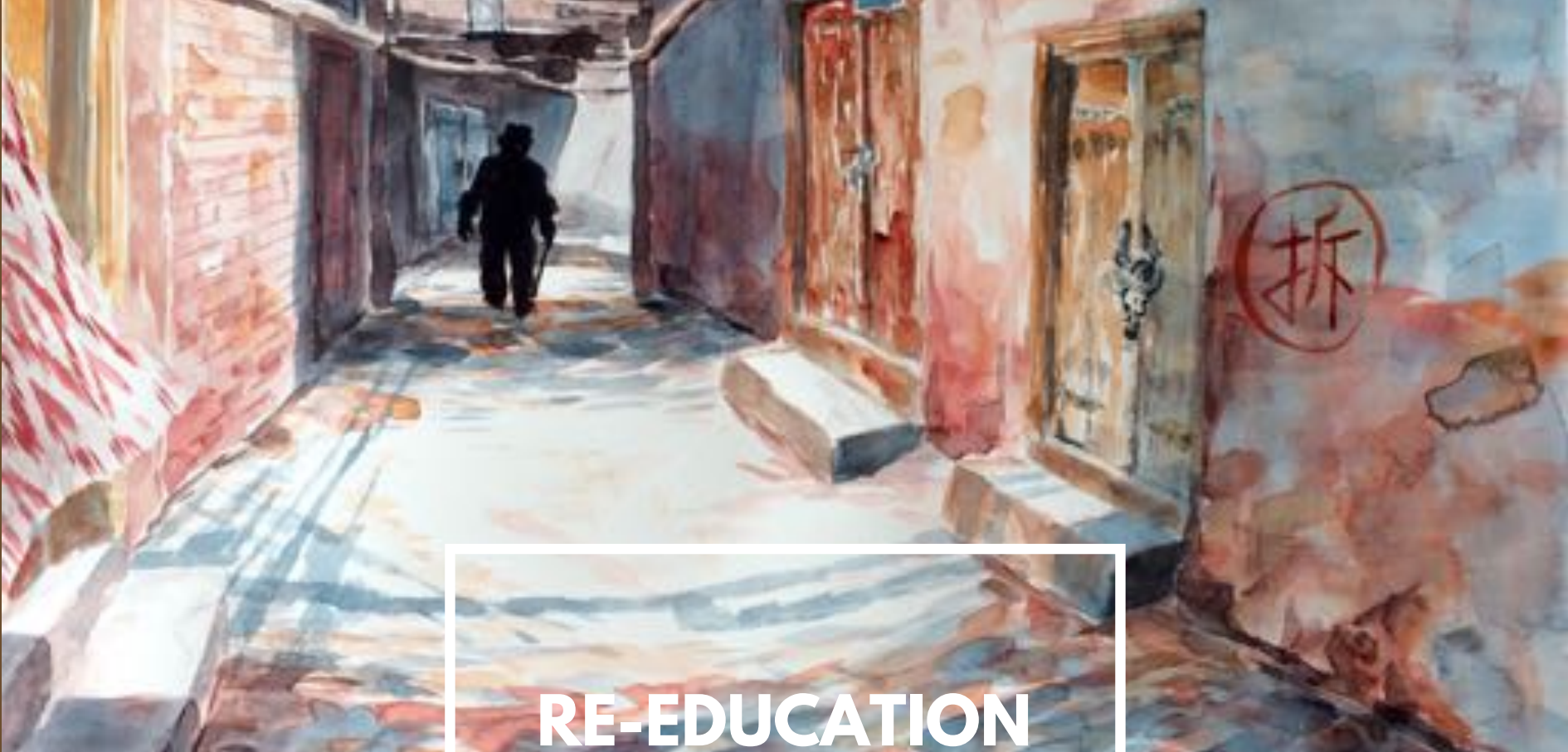
**Psalm 107:9**



Brothers, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For, being ignorant of the righteousness of GOD, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Romans 10:1-4





## **RE-EDUCATION CAMPS AND PRISONS**

The LORD sets the prisoners free. The LORD  
supports the afflicted; He brings down the wicked  
to the ground.

Psalm 146:7

Beginning in fervor in 2016, China began extra-judicially detaining what has become between 1.5 and 3 million Uyghurs in what they call Re-education camps. These camps are nothing more than concentration camps in which prisoners share cramped and dirty quarters, are forcibly indoctrinated with CCP propaganda, face humiliation, abuse, torture, rape, and forced sterilization, according to eyewitness accounts of some who have survived the camps. Uyghurs can be sent to a camp for a "crime" like having WhatsApp on their phone, having received a phone call from abroad, having traveled outside China, praying or showing religious affinities even years prior, or simply because they are Uyghur. Uyghurs live in daily fear of being taken.

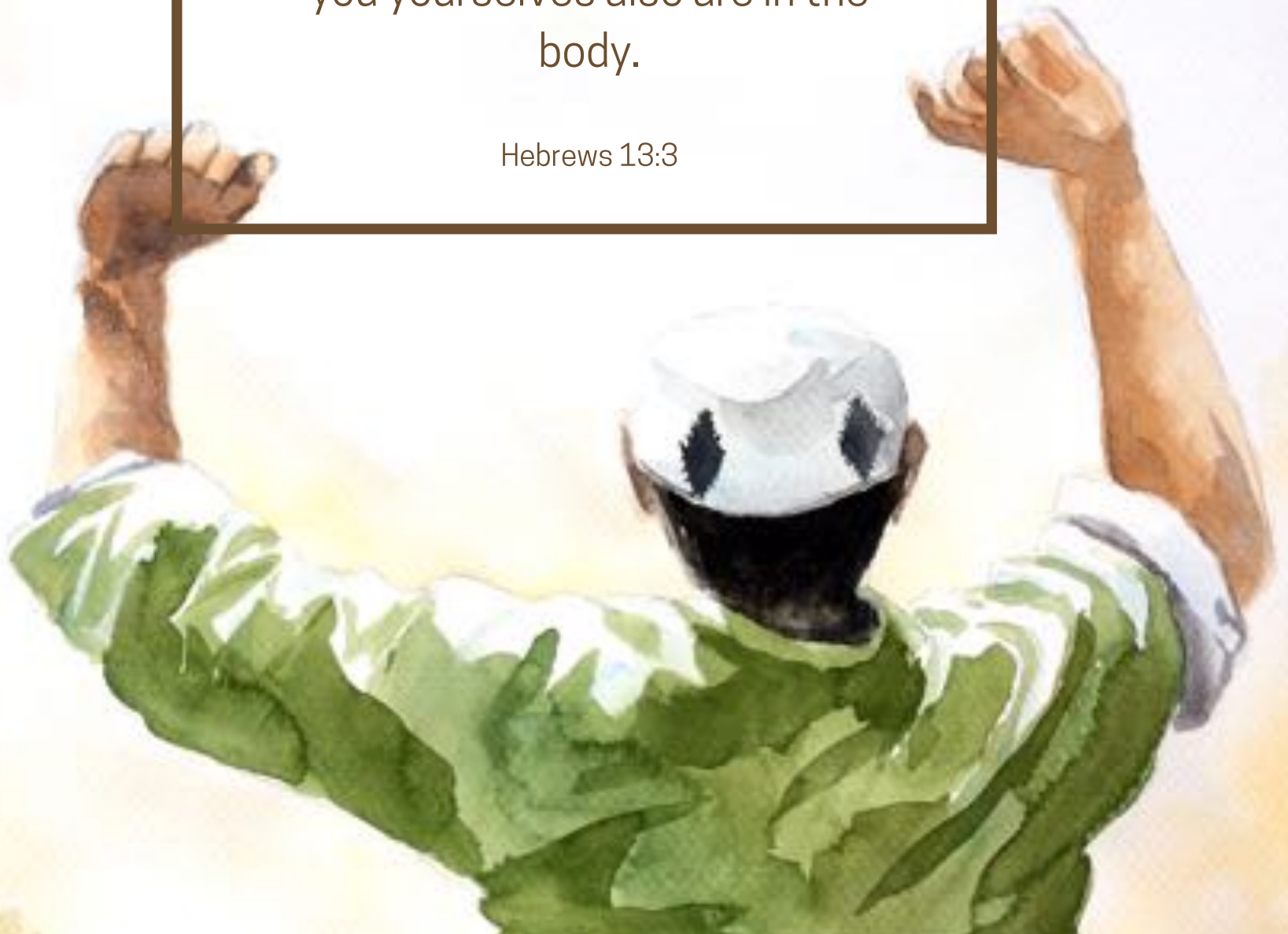
If a Uyghur's "crime" is seen to be more serious, they can be sent to prison instead of to a camp. There has been evidence showing that many Uyghur prisoners have now been dispersed throughout the prison system of China, which makes it harder for the international community to track how many prisoners and camp detainees there may actually be, and very difficult for family members to locate them.

Uyghurs in Xinjiang who are not in camps are still not free in any sense of the word. They live in what has been described as an Orwellian system of surveillance, in which their every move is watched by local police, they have their homes and bodies searched at random, and neighbors are told to report on one another in order to protect themselves. Xinjiang has become in essence an open air prison to the Uyghur people.



Remember the prisoners, as  
though in prison with them, and  
those who are ill-treated, since  
you yourselves also are in the  
body.

Hebrews 13:3





# FORCED LABOR

Near the end of 2019, China announced that all reeducation camp detainees had graduated and been given meaningful employment. There has been no evidence that this is actually the case. Furthermore, information is beginning to come out that many of those who are "freed" are compelled to sign a contract for a factory job elsewhere in China, separated from their families, where they are still watched and controlled around the clock, with no freedom to leave.

There is also new evidence that in response to COVID-19, thousands of Uyghur young people have been shipped to eastern China to work in factories and help restart the economy, exposing them to the virus in the meantime, and undoubtedly interrupting their (former) employment and education.



# THE AFTERMATH

There is not a single Uyghur who has been untouched by these tragic events. The trauma of losing loved ones, the ongoing stress of not knowing the whereabouts of family members for years, the loss felt by families split up and of children being raised by a regime instead of loving parents, the anger and bitterness at abuse and injustices suffered, the hopelessness about the future, and the post-traumatic stress disorder that many are or will suffer are all very deep needs that Uyghurs will be facing for years, if not the rest of their lives. Some have initiated setting up counseling services to help, but the needs are vast. Pray for followers of Jesus to love Uyghurs in their communities by helping to meet these needs.







# RULERS AND AUTHORITIES

The king's heart is like channels of  
water in the hand of the LORD; He  
turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:1

**You will incline your ear to  
vindicate the orphan and the  
oppressed, so that man, who is  
of the earth will no longer cause  
terror....For the LORD loves  
righteousness.... and the one  
who loves violence His soul  
hates.**

**Psalms 10:17-18, 11:5,7**

**The key leaders behind the oppression of the  
Uyghurs are the following men:**

Xi Jinping, Chen Quanguo, Shohrat Zakir, Hu Lianhe,  
Sun Jinlong, Peng Jiarui, Shewket Imin, and Zhu  
Hailun

*Therefore, O Kings, show discernment; take warning O judges  
of the earth. Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice  
with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become  
angry and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be  
kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!*

*Psalms 2:10-12*

**I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and  
thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for  
kings and all who are in authority.**

**1 Timothy 2:1-2**



# THOSE TRAPPED IN THE JOB OF ENFORCING OPPRESSION



There are hundreds, if not thousands of police officers at every level, teachers in the camps, etc. (Uyghurs and others) who are trapped in the system, made to enforce a system of oppression on their own people. They are unable to leave their jobs because it would mean certain detainment for them and trouble for their families.

# CHILDREN

The LORD sustains all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Psalm 145:14-16








# ORPHANS

A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is  
GOD in His holy habitation. GOD makes a home for the  
lonely; he leads out the prisoners into prosperity.

Psalm 68:5-6

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- Tens of thousands of Uyghur children have lost one or both parents to the camp and forced labor system.
  - Thousands of children have been placed into "boarding schools" or orphanages which are forcibly stripping them of all cultural and linguistic ties to their families.
  - Hundreds of children have been sent abroad to places like Turkey, Canada, or the United States, in an effort to protect them, and in the hopes that relatives there could care for them. Many have now been separated from their families without hearing any news for years.

**THAT LEAVES  
AN ENTIRE  
GENERATION OF  
TRAUMATIZED  
CHILDREN**



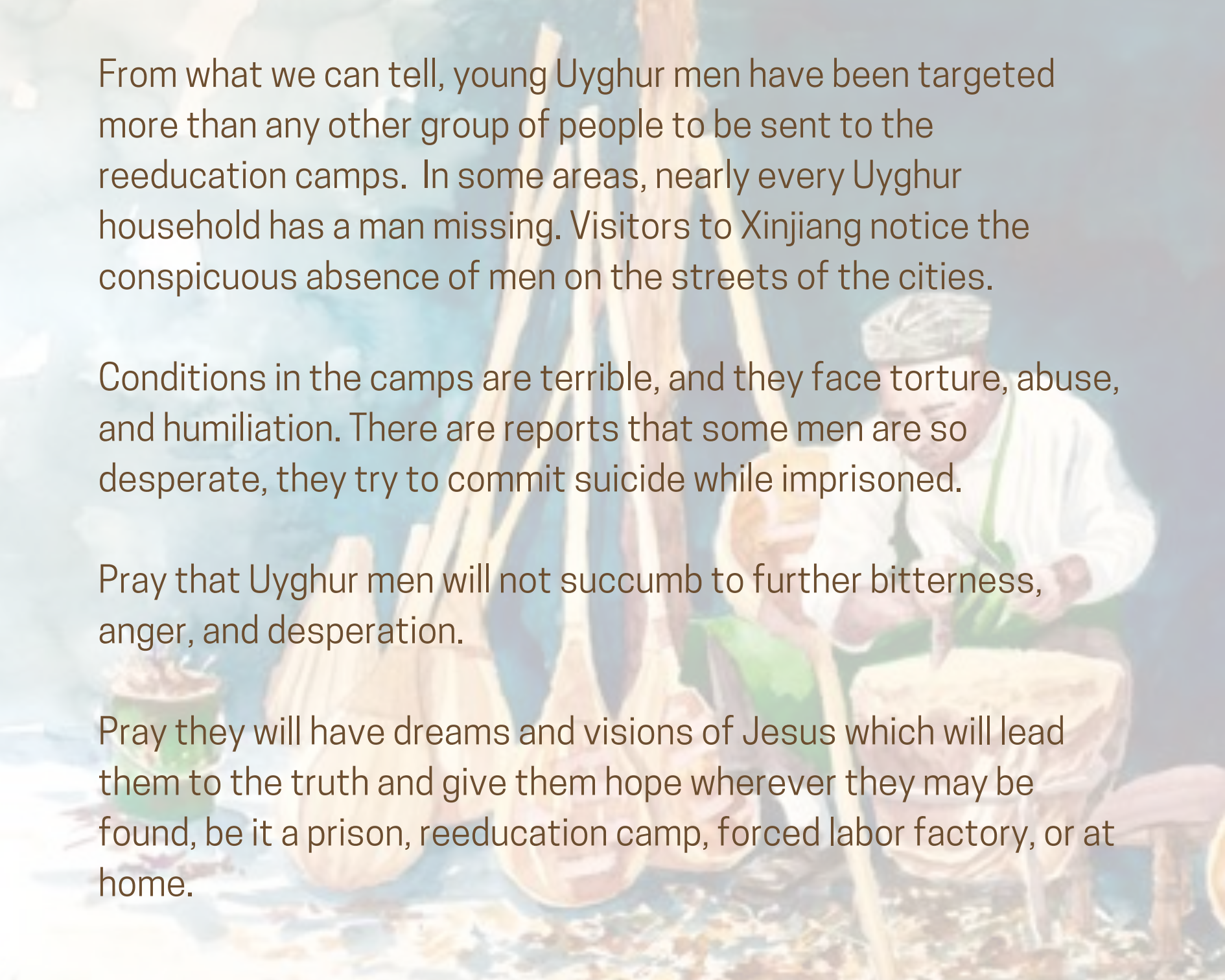


## FATHERS AND MEN

I sought the LORD and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces will never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.

Psalm 34:4-8





From what we can tell, young Uyghur men have been targeted more than any other group of people to be sent to the reeducation camps. In some areas, nearly every Uyghur household has a man missing. Visitors to Xinjiang notice the conspicuous absence of men on the streets of the cities.

Conditions in the camps are terrible, and they face torture, abuse, and humiliation. There are reports that some men are so desperate, they try to commit suicide while imprisoned.

Pray that Uyghur men will not succumb to further bitterness, anger, and desperation.

Pray they will have dreams and visions of Jesus which will lead them to the truth and give them hope wherever they may be found, be it a prison, reeducation camp, forced labor factory, or at home.





# WOMEN AND MOTHERS

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves  
those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:18



Women all around the province have struggled in the absence of their husbands and fathers.

In the villages, many women have been left with the burden of all the farm-work, regardless of their health or age.

Left on their own if their husbands and male relatives have been taken, they are vulnerable to abuse from China's "Pair up and Become Family" program which puts Han Chinese in the homes of Uyghur families. They are expected to share meals and even their beds with perfect strangers. Non-compliance would likely put them in a camp or make things worse for their family members who have already been detained.

There have been many heartbreaking stories of forced sterilization and abortions, rape, and forced marriage to Han Chinese men.





# THE UYGHUR DIASPORA

Cast your burden  
upon the LORD, and  
He will sustain you....

You have taken  
account of my  
wanderings; put my  
tears in Your bottle.  
Are they not in Your  
book?

Psalm 55:22, 56:8

Around 1.5 million Uyghurs live outside of China. Many of these have lived in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan for generations. More recently, Uyghurs have moved to Turkey, the United States, Canada, Australia, Sweden, Germany, and other European countries, to name a few.

Uyghurs who have been living abroad for some time, and those who more recently managed to flee to another country are not exempt from problems. Many haven't been able to contact family members for years, and have no idea of their whereabouts or even if they are alive. Many children are separated from their parents, and husbands from wives. Unless they have obtained assylum or citizenship in their current country of residence, their passports are expiring and Chinese consulates are refusing to issue new ones. They are not able to stay in their current locations, but they cannot return to China without being detained either. They face constant harrassment and intimidation from Chinese authorities even while living outside China. Their paperwork problems are used by the Chinese government to try to compel them to go back into China. But accounts of those who have done so show that they will be immediately arrested upon arrival.

This is a unique opportunity for followers of Jesus to show Christ's love to the displaced Uyghurs living among them.



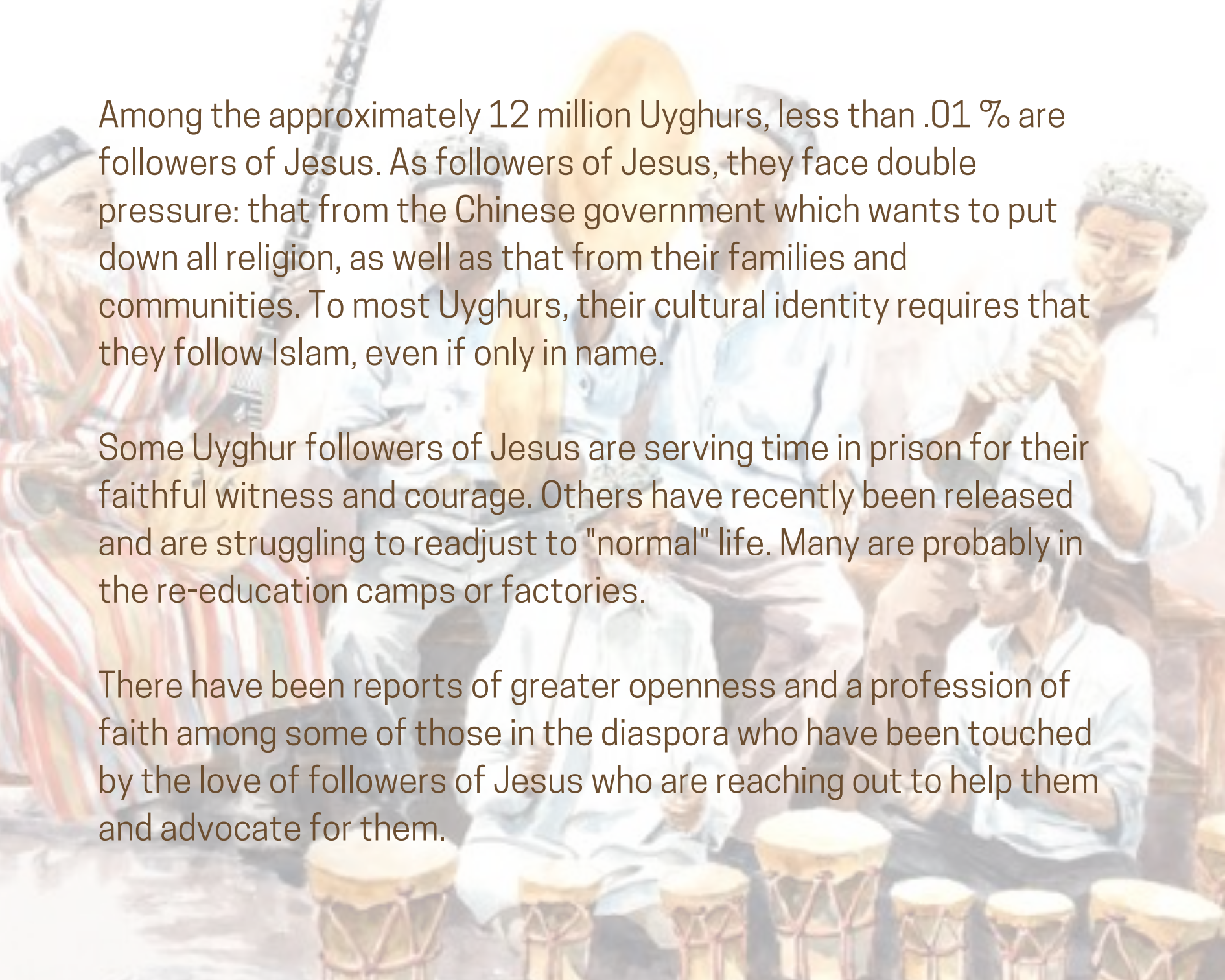


## **FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**

Be gracious to me, O GOD, for man has trampled upon me; fighting all day long he oppresses me....When I am afraid I will put my trust in You. In GOD, whose word I praise, In GOD I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid, What can mere man do to me?

This I know, that GOD is for me.

Psalm 56:1,3-4, 9

A group of Uyghurs, including men and women, are shown playing traditional musical instruments. In the foreground, several men are seated, playing large, round, frame drums (doppa) with their hands. They are wearing light-colored, long-sleeved shirts. In the background, a woman is visible playing a stringed instrument, possibly a sazes, and another man is playing a wind instrument, likely a suona. The scene is set outdoors, and the overall atmosphere is one of cultural celebration or performance.

Among the approximately 12 million Uyghurs, less than .01 % are followers of Jesus. As followers of Jesus, they face double pressure: that from the Chinese government which wants to put down all religion, as well as that from their families and communities. To most Uyghurs, their cultural identity requires that they follow Islam, even if only in name.

Some Uyghur followers of Jesus are serving time in prison for their faithful witness and courage. Others have recently been released and are struggling to readjust to "normal" life. Many are probably in the re-education camps or factories.

There have been reports of greater openness and a profession of faith among some of those in the diaspora who have been touched by the love of followers of Jesus who are reaching out to help them and advocate for them.





## POLITICAL MEASURES TO PRAY FOR

{To} plead the cause of the afflicted and needy....is not that what it  
means to know Me, says the LORD?  
Jeremiah 22:16

- **Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act** , "a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment to these communities inside and outside China."

*This bill was passed unanimously in September of 2019. A stronger version of the bill was put forward in December of 2019 by the US House of Representatives, and is currently awaiting approval by the US Senate.*

- 23 nations issued a statement blasting China at the United Nations, and urging China to conform to international standards of freedom of religion and human rights. However, 54 countries issued a statement praising China's dealings with the Uyghurs.

*Tragically, the UN recently admitted China into its Human Rights Panel, which will likely make it very difficult for the UN to take any significant steps to address the abuses against the Uyghurs.*





Speak up for those who  
cannot speak for  
themselves, for the  
rights of all who are  
destitute. Defend the  
rights of the poor and  
needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9

## **FURTHER READING (BIBLIOGRAPHY)**

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- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/China\\_hidden\\_camps](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/China_hidden_camps)
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- <https://www.breitbart.com/asia/2020/03/02/study-nike-apple-bmw-among-83-brands-using-chinese-muslim-slave-labor/>
- <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/14/815809207/a-special-school-in-turkey-for-kids-of-uyghurs-caught-in-chinas-crackdown>
- <https://note.com/tomomishimizu/n/n4cade047aed8>
- <https://bitterwinter.org/for-uyghurs-poverty-alleviation-means-cultural-genocide/>





**THANK YOU FOR  
PRAYING**

## **WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?**

The Uyghur Human Rights website has a very helpful article that outlines how ordinary people can easily make a difference:

<https://uhrp.org/what-you-can-do>