

# CALL TO PRAYER

OCTOBER 2021



## AFGHAN REFUGEES NEED YOUR PRAYERS

The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan in August 2021 created the need to evacuate vulnerable Afghans before the U.S. exit. As reported on the Alliance website, “During the past few months, the Taliban had advanced in Afghanistan, once again taking control of many cities and urban areas. On August 15, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani retreated from the presidential palace, and Taliban militants overtook Kabul, Afghanistan’s capital. Due to the Taliban’s historically extreme interpretation of Islamic law, those who have worked with the U.S. military, allied forces, or news agencies in Afghanistan feared retribution and were desperate to get out of the country.”

Alliance military chaplains played a vital role during the evacuation as they ministered to U.S. troops, including air force crews on flights airlifting Afghan refugees. According to Reuters, the airlift cost the lives of 13 U.S. military personnel and left behind thousands of Afghans and hundreds of Americans seeking to escape. Pray for those who lost loved ones during the withdrawal and for the safety of people unable to leave.

As the refugee crisis continues, U.S. Alliance churches and chaplains have

been caring for displaced Afghans. Many congregations have already been involved in helping to resettle immigrants and refugees and establish them in their new communities. Because most Afghan families arrived with only what they could carry in several suitcases, the influx of these refugees has opened opportunities to further engage in such ministries. “The Alliance has always been a people with a heart for the overlooked and displaced,” says U.S. Alliance President John Stumbo, “and once again we’ll find ways to respond to this critical need.” Terry Smith, vice president for Church Ministries, has urged C&MA people to get involved in every way possible to help resettle and reach Afghans arriving on U.S. shores.

Pray for the C&MA’s ongoing ministry to Afghan families. They feel deep gratitude to be safe in the United States but are experiencing heartache and worry over those left behind. Pray for Alliance churches and for CAMA—an Alliance ministry that partners with national churches and local entities to serve those in need—as they seek to provide help and hope to these refugees. Intercede, too, for Alliance military chaplains who have welcomed immigrants into the United States at military installations.

TO ACCESS ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS, PLEASE VISIT [CMALLIANCE.ORG/PRAY](http://CMALLIANCE.ORG/PRAY).

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## **GLOBAL FRIENDS— MEETING THE NEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

The concept of Global Friends Omaha began 30 years ago as a “mom and pop” organization. In 1979 after Russia invaded Afghanistan, Afghans began to flee the country; some ended up in Omaha. When Afghan refugees and international students started coming to Omaha, Julie Arant’s father began showing them hospitality.

One day he met a dark-haired gentleman and invited him to dinner. It turned out that he was the advisor to the king of Afghanistan and the governor of the capital, Kabul. Years later, Julie spent time in Pakistan teaching English to Afghan refugees who had fled the Taliban. Upon her return to Omaha 10 years ago, she launched Global Friends.

Global Friends exists to meet the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the international student community in Omaha. It seeks to promote cross-cultural friendships and understanding by providing meeting places and activities in multicultural settings between Americans and international students and scholars.

Pray for Global Friends as it launches its Conversations Partners initiative, which encourages American and international students to make good connections and build deep friendships. Pray that the Holy Spirit will spark an interest to study the Bible and learn about Jesus. Pray also for the safety of an Afghan friend and

her family who are living in fear and uncertainty as members of the Taliban are camping outside their home.

## **ALLIANCE WORKERS SAFE AFTER MILITARY COUP IN GUINEA**

On Sunday, September 5, Guinean special forces seized power in a coup, arresting president Alpha Conde and promising to change the political make-up of the West African country. There is relative peace in Conakry, the country’s capital, as citizens await the formation of a new government.

Pray for the ongoing safety of 15 Alliance workers who remain in-country, along with churches, medical facilities, and other ministry sites during the transition of power. Pray that workers will be able to remain in-country without disruption to the vital work they’ve been called to do and that the new governmental powers will be hospitable to the national church and supportive of its ongoing ministries.

Intercede also for the Envision Guinea team as they seek God’s direction. One member writes, “In the last few months, we have continued to learn more about Guinea, the local church, the difficulties, and the needs here. We have had many conversations with others and as a team about how we can apply what we are learning to our ministry. We are making progress and feel God leading us in certain directions, but it is still hard to know exactly how to get started.”

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Thank you for praying for Alliance workers and for the people with whom they share the gospel.  
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