



PRAYING FOR COMMUNITIES WHERE CHRIST IS LEAST KNOWN

May 2024

Thank you for joining us in prayer for key requests relevant to all Faithful Witness teams:

- As Pentecost is celebrated, pray workers know a fresh touch from God bringing refreshment and God's power to accomplish all he calls them to do. Pray their communion with God carries His radiance and fragrance to those living and dying without Jesus.
- Throughout SIM's '10 Days of Prayer' (May 9-18) ask God to do a transforming work throughout SIM that will impact cultures and nations with the gospel in all of its power. Pray God raises up new SIM workers 'from everywhere to everywhere' who are willing to serve in sacrificial ways. Ask creativity and energy to find new ways of mobilising churches and individuals for SIM's global mission.
- Pray the gospel seed falls on good ground and that the ministries of Faithful Witness workers are fruitful. May strong churches be established that are marked by the love and power of Jesus.
- A worker writes, 'I started 2024 with a plan for monthly ministry meticulously thought through. I had so many expectations and felt ready to conquer every mountain. But... it was so far from the truth. I experienced a major accident and felt exhausted and drained. It was a difficult time of struggling to find emotional and physical strength to return to ministry. I'm grateful that God's plans are always better than ours and that He gives so much more than He takes. Our team of 4 is incredible! They prayed and supported me. I'm so grateful we can carry each other's burdens. Each prayer lifted me up, bringing hope and strength. I see the fruit of your prayers and partnership with me in this work.'

MIDDLE EAST

- Thank God for the relative stability in this city despite a very precarious regional situation. May this continue. Pray we know God's peace and assurance every day, whatever happens around us. Pray for us to have open doors to share Christ with those around us even within this complex political scenario.
- Pray for political leaders, both official ones and the very powerful unofficial ones often holding the ropes. May God raise up godly counsellors, and change hearts to work for the common good rather than personal gain. Pray for the people in normal everyday situations experiencing distrust in leadership, empty promises and risky actions. They often do not feel listened to or protected.
- Pray for churches to have strength and endurance to be a light during this excessively dark time.
- Give thanks for the arrival of a worker with a partner organisation. Keep praying for others arriving in the next few weeks. Ask they find suitable housing, settle well, and quickly get into life here, even in the heat. Continue to pray for annual residency visas for all of us. Some of us have overstayed our visas waiting for the renewals.

EASTERN CHAD

- Pray as the country holds national elections May 6th, asking for peace and God's hand over the country.
- Ask the team is united in heart and shared vision, learning from each other despite working in distant locations. Ask God's protection of health. Pray for the safe delivery of mother and baby due soon; may God enable the family to be together for the birth. Ask healing for a worker suffering from stomach pains; pray also for her father who is unwell. Ask endurance as temperatures rise and rainy season approaches.
- Pray we will be patient, persistent, and hard-working in language learning and relationship building. As one worker and her language tutor spend time reading the Arabic Bible together, pray that God will speak. Pray for a friend who had a house fire early this year, then recently miscarried her baby; may the love and grace of God be revealed as she mourns.
- Pray for Sudanese refugees. May they find safety, help, and hope for the future. May the refugees who follow Christ be encouraged and strengthened in their faith, sharing the love of Jesus with their neighbours.
- May the Lord strengthen us so that we can communicate the good news of Christ well in this culture, declaring the love of God boldly and wisely to the Desert Tribes of the Sahel region, working in strong partnership with the local church and Chadian colleagues.

MALI

- The summer heat and daily power cuts are causing hundreds of deaths. Pray for God's grace and mercy upon us. Ask protection of health and strength. Ask full healing as one worker recovers from pneumonia. May God provide for the installation of a good solar system for a worker's house.
- As the school year draws to a close, we plan a children's summer camp—pray for resourcing, wisdom, and kingdom impact. Pray for village ministry as we plan a medical camp in one village—may we assemble a good team for this outreach. Praise God, we are visiting a new Moor village—ask continued open doors and godly wisdom. Ask guidance and provision as we prayerfully plan for a new partnership with an English Centre, for ministry purposes.
- Give praise for new workers. Ask enabling to learn language and culture well, protection and safe-keeping, and smooth visa processes. Pray for those on home assignment in Nigeria seeking additional prayer and financial supporters—ask God's guidance and provision to return to Mali.
- Pray for SIM Mali's registration process; ask grace for the people handling the paperwork.

NORTHERN NIGERIA

- Pray for Northern Nigeria's insecurity issues deeply rooted in religious, ethnic, and socio-economic issues. Give thanks for God's protection of the team. Ask protection from bandits and other violence.
- The heat is unbearable this year, causing various physical ailments and discouragement. Pray for new strength and good health, relief from the heat, and rain.
- Pray for unity, encouragement, and opportunities to meet together and learn together for both teams. Ask God to bless the missional business with patrons, income, and opportunities to share good news.
- Praise God for the great, open door for ministry with the Fulani. Ask continued good progress with language learning. Ask wisdom and courage in our ministry of sharing the gospel. May God bless our upcoming one-to-one evangelism and discipleship training session for local believers. Pray God's goes before us and prepares the way for transformed lives and communities as we engage with the Fulani.
- Ask God's care of the team's children, and provision and encouragement in their schooling needs.
- Pray for those on Home Assignment in Ethiopia. The political and economic situation is impacting workers significantly. May God provide avenues of support enabling their return to Fulani ministry.

EAST AFRICA (new location)

- Pray God will build up a team of front-line intercessors to stand in the gap for the people of this land.
- We thank God for peace in the country. We are heading towards elections which is always a bit sensitive in our part of the world. May peace prevail, leaders stay calm, and elections be fair leading to outcomes acceptable for all.
- Pray for the few believers in the country—less than ten people. Ask strength and boldness when they face persecution or intimidation.

NORTH AFRICA

- We are thankful for the faithful prayers of people. Give praise for the safe delivery of a baby, and God's help with this transition. Pray for those on Home Assignment as they share about life and ministry in North Africa. Ask also for good preparation of ministry material for use upon our return.
- Pray for the small and scattered churches of North Africa, asking for unity and that they 'spur one another on toward love and good deeds', Hebrews 10:24-25.
- Ask God's provision for a family with car troubles, and also needing housing as they transition to another town. Pray for the children as they register at a new school this month. Ask great blessing as the Word of God is shared. May God use the difficulties of life here to bring light to dark places.
- May the Lord raise up new workers from sub-Saharan Africa to answer the call to come and serve.

ASIA

- As a new family settles-in to life here, ask for smooth adjustments. Pray encouragement and enabling as they begin culture and language learning. May God grow us into a united and effective team. Ask good health and God's protection.
- May we truly love people around us as Jesus taught us. Pray that we can reach out to neighbours and business friends, witnessing to them by words and deeds. Ask that our dialogue with friends deepens, and for opportunities to share the new life we have in Jesus.
- Pray for the local church—may it grow and spread the good news of God's Kingdom and love.

CENTRAL ASIA (new location)

- Pray we are strong spiritually, protected each day as we put on spiritual armour. Ask strength and growth for our team and for local followers of Christ. Pray for emotional and physical health and wellbeing. Pray also for family members with struggles and ask God's help to provide support.
- Ask guidance as we start a high-priority project. Give praise for a good start to the 'men's meeting'.
- Give praise for other workers planning to join our team. Pray for many workers to come, people who will be faithful and passionate in discipling Christ-like followers.

AYUTTHAYA, THAILAND

- Thank God for recent opportunities to share the good news with young people in Ayutthaya. Pray they respond with repentance and faith.
- As the Creative Space ministry with children and teens commence, pray team members learn from each other and serve together in unity. Ask God to bring many along to Day Camp on May 6th as we teach the story of the Prodigal Son. For some, it will be the first time they hear about Jesus. Pray for us to also be able to build relationships with parents.
- Give praise for a couple faithfully studying the Bible and preparing for baptism. May God bring many others to faith in Christ and new life in Him.
- Continue to pray for Joyful Heart Bilingual House. We have 5 students for English learning and 2 for Chinese. We are still praying and looking for more students (hoping to have 8 for each class). Pray God brings short-term mission workers who can serve with us.
- Ask strength, good health, and energy as we work to achieve gospel impact. As the longest-serving team member returns home for theology studies, ask God's blessing upon her, and encouragement for the team through yet another transition.