



## PRAYING FOR COMMUNITIES WHERE CHRIST IS LEAST KNOWN

July 2024

### Thank you for joining us in prayer for all Faithful Witness teams:

Praise God for the recent baptism of a young man from an unreached ethnic group—pray he is strongly rooted and built up in his faith. Three years ago he encountered Jesus in a dream that came to him three times. Three years later Christian workers gave his family the opportunity to watch the Jesus film and the young man recognised the man from his dreams. He started to seek who Jesus was. The workers continued to visit the family. Praise God, today he is a believer. God is working wonderfully in Mali!

Pray Titus 2:11-14 for workers and ask for many more people from their communities to become believers this month, 'For the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for Himself a people for His own possession, eager to do good works.'

### ASIA

- Pray our team can be united by the Spirit and by the Word of God.
- Ask wisdom for husbands and wives in our team to find ways to serve together. Ask wisdom also as we parent our children according to the will of God and his calling for each child.
- May we build trust and true friendship with many people. Pray our daily testimony, all that we communicate through our faces, eyes, ears, mouths and hearts, is a powerful witness of Jesus.
- Ask God to bless this nation and its people through the team. Pray 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 'The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so that we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in all godliness and holiness.'
- Ask God to provide our monthly support and financial needs.
- Pray for a growing relationship with local believers as we serve them in many ways.
- Pray our business will grow—ask more collaboration, increased sales, and increased placements in recruitment.

### AYUTTHAYA, THAILAND

- As SIM Thailand hold their Spiritual Life Conference this month, pray for an uplifting and encouraging time. Ask wisdom for two couples leading the Ayutthaya team of local and expat workers. Pray for team unity and understanding. May we abide in Jesus and bear good fruit.
- Give thanks for new students at Joyful Hear Bilingual House. Ask that good relationships with students and their families develop.
- Pray for community youth as we play sports together and ask God to also be at work through the 'Happy Wednesday' Bible story afternoons.
- Pray for local churches we partner with, asking strength and wisdom in caring for believers. Praise God for new believers being disciplined, and the recent baptism of a family. May we all grow strong in the Lord.
- Give praise for a new opportunity and ask God to work powerfully through us as we begin ministry on the university campus this month.
- Pray the blessing of Jeremiah 17:7-8 for the team, 'But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They will be like a tree planted by the water, it does not fear when heat comes, it never fails to bear fruit.'

### CENTRAL ASIA

- God is opening many opportunities for us to start work that will be a powerful platform to reach the most unreached. Pray for wisdom in undertaking the right and appropriate opportunities. Pray for strength, wisdom, protection, and encouragement for each worker, physically, spiritually and emotionally.
- Ask God to send many more faithful workers.

- Pray Psalm 67:1-2, “May the Lord be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us—so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.’

### MIDDLE EAST

- July is the month of Mohurram, a time of mourning and pilgrimage for the people of this city. Pray those who go on pilgrimage will seek the Lord Almighty for who he really is and find salvation through Jesus alone. May their eyes be opened to the free gift of grace that they can not earn by their own merits.
- Believers can find it an oppressive month and spiritual opposition within families can increase for some. Pray for them to be firmly rooted in God's word and to be wise in how they live and share their faith. Pray for them to have strength day by day and a deep joy of their own salvation when everyone around is mourning and expressing hopelessness. Pray Psalm 9:9-10, ‘The Lord will be a refuge in times of trouble. And those who know your name will put their trust in you; for you, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.’
- The Islamic New Year brings opportunities to greet and pray for neighbours. Uphold churches as they meet to encourage one another, hear God’s word and pray together. Pray for local Christians and our colleagues as they visit and talk with neighbours who are giving thanks for the long history of Islam and the resilience of Muslim people.
- Uphold families of children with special needs coping with children at home all day in the heat. May mums be support each other and share resources and ideas.
- Pray for four new international workers as they settle in, set up homes, start teaching English, and start building relationships—all in the heat of the summer and the spiritual climate of Mohurram. Ask extra grace and patience for them.
- Pray for more workers to be called, equipped and encouraged to join the team.
- Pray for favour with the government leading to residency visas for all of us.

### EAST AFRICA

- Pray for critical discussions that need to happen in the coming days regarding a program that members of our team have been carrying out over a period of 10 years. Essentially, it needs to come to a pause or a close, but how to do this is critical. We want to maintain relationships with the local institution and not “burn bridges”.
- It is difficult to get into this country and we want to keep the door open and build on the trust which was established over many years.
- Ask God to make a way. Psalm 18:25-36, ‘To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless. You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.’
- Pray for the new families on the team—life in a new culture is a challenge.

### NORTH AFRICA

- A team in one city is re-forming as a family prepares to leave for a sabbatical time in West Africa, and hands-over their responsibilities. Pray for their goodbyes, and the upcoming new season of family life. Pray for the transition back as another family returns from home assignment—now a family of three, ask grace for each other in the adjustments, the re-acquisition of language, connecting with local women, and new responsibilities as team leader and lead Pastor for the next year.
- A new family relocating to join this team give praise and bless God's name for the provision of suitable housing—pray, as they make Jesus known in this community. Ask for a smooth transition and quick settling in. Their passports are stuck somewhere in the foreign affairs office. Pray for God’s intervention so they receive passports back and can apply for visas.
- Pray Matthew 9.35-38. Praise God, windows of opportunities are being opened in North Africa. May Sub-Saharan African churches grasp the vision and work hand-in-hand to send more workers into the harvest fields.

### MALI

- Ask God’s hand of protection and pray for an improvement in the security and economic situation.
- Pray for our new partnership with a language centre which will kick start the first week of July. Pray workers from English-speaking countries will be able to soon join the team.
- Pray for a new worker planning to arrive in August, asking for a visa and suitable flights.

- Continue to pray for Moor villages. July is rainy season and during this time it's very difficult to visit the villages due to the bad road conditions. Security issues are also a problem. Pray that the Lord will open the door for us and that we will continue in ministry to our people however we can. Ask wisdom, clarity, and strategies for engaging the people, and God's direction in ministry.
- Ask God's wisdom and encouragement for the team leader. Pray from Psalm 91, 'Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. Saying of the Lord, "He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I trust Him".'
- Continue to pray for the SIM-Mali registration process.
- Pray for those on Home Assignment in Nigeria—through the the various speaking engagements ask God to move the hearts of His people to be mission-minded. Ask good health, strength, peace of mind and encouragement. Pray for provision of prayer and financial partners.

### EASTERN CHAD

- Pray for our team to be united in spirit and love and follow God's leading as we live, build relationships, and reach out to the community. Ask wisdom, grace, energy, motivation and encouragement as we face challenges of many kinds. May we lean on God for everything, and rejoice. Pray Ephesians 3:14-21, 'out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being. To God be the glory, who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.'
- Pray for ministry direction in the community.
- Wet season is commencing. It is known as hunger season as food supplies have almost run out and new harvests won't be ready for another few months. Pray for good crops. Ask resilience for us all.
- As language lessons continue, may God equip workers with good communication skills and also bless language tutors through the time spent together and the opening of scripture this opportunity provides.
- Pray for strengthening of new believers as they are disciplined.
- Pray for a family on Home Assignment asking refreshment, effective meetings as they report back to sending churches and also provide mission training, and blessing as they work locally with leaders and in evangelism. A family preparing for Home Assignment next month give praise for God's provision of plane tickets. Pray for their son's exams this month, and ask full healing of a fractured hand.
- Pray for the ongoing crisis in Sudan, and for refugees and internally displaced people fleeing further into Chad. The aid agencies here are underfunded and have cut rations to refugees. There isn't enough for everyone and local communities are already under-resourced. Prices have gone up so local people are struggling too. Pray for God's provision and for wisdom for us to know how to best love our neighbours.

### NORTHERN NIGERIA

- Pray for our safety and security as we go about daily activities.
- The Fulani are a vulnerable group. Alongside their spiritual needs they have many physical needs—and for the disabled, the elderly, and widows these needs are compounded as they feel that no one cares. They come and ask us for help. Pray that God will make a way in this difficult situation. Ask for wisdom. May God stir the hearts of others to be involved. Evangelism that isn't accompanied by compassionate care for practical needs has little success. Fulani children are without schooling. Join us in praying for God's transformation of Fulani communities.
- Pray for the success of cattle vaccination planned for over 1000 cattle at four villages.
- We are significantly impacted by Nigeria's political and economic situation, and also that of our sending country, Ethiopia. We give thanks for supporting churches, prayer partners, and supportive leadership. However, finances remain a barrier to returning to serve in Nigeria. The educational needs of our children and the cost of this is hard to manage, even the cost of on-line schooling.
- Pray workers are strengthened in their calling. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17, 'But we can thank God continually for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. He has chosen you from the beginning to save you, to make you holy by the work of his Spirit and your own belief in the truth. It was his call that you followed when we preached the Gospel to you, and he has set before you the prospect of sharing the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So stand firm, and hold on!'