



## PRAYING FOR COMMUNITIES WHERE CHRIST IS LEAST KNOWN

December 2024

### **ADVENT December 1-9 Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.**

- Faithful Witness workers give praise and thanks for the powerful support of a large team of prayer warriors—pray God brings a fruitful harvest in each church-planting location... good soil with people who have ears to hear and understand the message of great joy, welcoming their Saviour, yielding a hundred-fold crop of each seed sown, Matthew 13:1-23.
- In each Faithful Witness location, Christmas is a time that raises many questions about the true meaning of Christmas. Workers are excited but at the same time recognise the increased work of the festive season. Pray for energy and strength from our Lord, and protection amidst the spiritual battle.
- As Christians rejoice in what God has done, may this joy witness to friends and neighbours as believers share their testimonies.
- Give praise for the opportunity the team in Ayutthaya, Thailand, have to host English Christmas camps in 3 different schools this week, serving alongside a missions team from Singapore.
- Pray for the gospel to enter the hearts of those hearing good news for the first time this advent.
- Pray for provision and resourcing for the team in Mali as they plan a 2-day Christmas event, an outreach to over 300 people in an area with no believers. We will need to hire trucks and musical instruments, and be able to give gifts and feast together.
- Christians in Nigeria commence Christmas celebrations on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Pray that the spirit of Christ brings unity and togetherness.
- From Mali: the French textbook about favourite festivals includes Christmas, a great opportunity to share its significance with the tutor and class. Ask for fruit. Ask provision of a visa for a new worker from Peru.
- A family in North Africa ask prayer for the granting of their permanent resident permit. This will allow them to invite an Aunt to visit and support the family as their third child, expected mid-January, is born. Also ask God's protection and the well-being of mother and the baby she carries.
- Pray for the small team in East Africa as they use every opportunity to share about the one who came to save mankind. It is such wonderful news which almost nobody in this country has ever heard about. May God provide us with opportunities to meet with true God-seekers. Pray the people of this land hear of God's love and accept his gift of Jesus. May many people believe in Jesus and not perish but receive eternal life (John 3:16). This month we hope to host visitors whom we envisage being the ones preparing the way for more workers in our town and our land.

### **ADVENT December 11-16 A Saviour has been born for you. He is Christ, the Lord.**

- Ask time for workers to reflect and rest with Jesus. May they be guided and inspired to know how best to reveal Jesus Christ and make him known. Pray for love for those around them. Ask boldness in personal evangelism, and faithfulness in preparing various activities.
- Pray for spiritual and physical health for families and the teams. Pray for C, a MK, that he'll dance for the first time in his school Christmas celebration.
- In the Middle East, as a young adults Bible study group continue their studies in Mark's gospel, pray for encounter with Jesus as the Son of God, Emmanuel. At a heart level not just at a head level!
- Pray for wisdom for workers in Central Asia. May God strengthen the faith of our brothers and sisters—pray for them to constantly and consistently grow in the knowledge of Christ. Pray for a small retreat for the youth of the region, asking God's guidance and direction.
- Christians in Chad have many opportunities to explain why the day of Christ's birth is celebrated. Pray those who have received a Bible or heard the Jesus film come to faith. May new believers grow and be strengthened as they follow Jesus. Pray workers have many opportunities to engage in spiritual conversations and share the message of love with the wider community, with our contacts, and with the landlord's families during this festive season. Ask for many new believers as Muslim friends hear why Jesus came, and experience his love in words and deeds. Ask God's compassion upon Sudanese living in refugee camps—food and rations have been disrupted due to poor funding and resourcing.

- Thailand: as we read through the Christmas narrative/Jesus's life with the neighbourhood kids, pray they come to know Jesus personally as their Saviour and King. Give praise for a new opportunity to teach English in a small local school each Friday.
- The Joyful Heart Bilingual school in Thailand will host a Christmas party for our students and their families December 14. Pray that the parents will set aside time, register for the event, prepare their kids for their showcase and join us to celebrate Christmas together. It is our team's prayer that we will be able to "unwrap" the true meaning of Christmas to the families and share the Good News of Jesus with them.
- Ask continued favour with the institution in East Africa which secures visas. The team there are trying to find English teachers as the doors are wide open because the need is so great. Pray for the Lord to bring us people who see opportunities as we start something new together. With technology, retired teachers or those a little extra capacity could teach remotely at the university and make a significant difference, for the Kingdom's sake.

#### **ADVENT December 17-23    Emmanuel, God is with us.**

- Christmas is the best time to share the Christian message openly in Mali. The Moors, Soninkes and many Fulani are still in the darkness and cold away from Christ. Pray the light that dawned at the birth of Christ will shine into their hearts, and its warmth will draw them into an eternal relationship with Him.
- Pray for people everywhere facing hardship this Christmas season, including those suffering from poverty, illness, or loss. Pray for a worker in Chad suffering sciatica. May God bring comfort, hope, and healing.
- May God give wisdom and discernment to workers. It is a spiritual battle, faced daily.
- Pray for the teams in Nigeria as Christmas-related programmes are held in four Fulani villages, providing special gifts to the leaders and others in need. Ask for boldness to share God's love in a way that the community can truly understand. Pray for more resources for Fulani holistic ministry as we face significant challenges in meeting the real needs of the community.
- Pray for people in Asia to see the true light of Jesus shining in the darkness. May workers and their children witness of Jesus's love and salvation through their faith, attitudes, and by showing love. Ask spiritual awakening to come in our city, and upon the people in villages—many have never heard the good news of God's love.
- In the Islamic context of North Africa, Christmas day means nothing to the majority of people. There will be no public holiday and no national recognition of the day. Pray the Lord will open doors to share the gospel with our friends, neighbours, and with the sick.
- As workers in Central Asia meet to reflect upon the year, and plan and prepare for 2025, pray God gives us wisdom and insight.
- Pray for the few believers in East Africa—less than ten people. Ask strength and boldness when they face persecution or intimidation. As we pray for the government may God bring more freedom for Christians. Pray that those who are in prison for their faith will be released and find freedom to worship Jesus, with others, without fear. That dream is almost too bold to dream but it is our hope and vision for this nation.
- Pray for workers and their families on Home Assignment. Ask God's protection as people travel to join their families. May they experience rest, refreshment and encouragement. Pray that partnerships with sending churches inspire Christians to give their lives for God's mission.

#### **ADVENT December 24-31    Praise God most high! Peace on earth and loving mercy towards all people!**

- Pray for peace in countries and communities. Ask protection of workers and their families. May God's peace reign over regions experiencing violence and unrest. As believers gather to celebrate pray for their safekeeping, especially in places hostile to God and his Kingdom work.
- Christmas day is a normal working day in the Middle East. Though many public areas have Christmas decorations and Santa is appearing everywhere for the New Year, sadly most people don't make a distinction between the two. Unusually for this region, the Christmas day services are usually packed with majority background people who come out of interest to see, even though it's not a public holiday. It's an amazing opportunity. Pray that Christ will be preached! Pray for the many house maids and other migrant workers who often get to have Christmas day as the only day off in the year, and head to church—pray churches will welcome them and think creatively how to reach these people all year round.
- Mali: pray for a 2-day Christmas and evangelism programme in a village in an area with no known believers. We will present Christ as a gift through singing, dancing, preaching, and feasting. Pray for a move of the Holy Spirit that will see miracles and people coming to Christ.

- Chad: may God give us a blessed time at the church Christmas celebration. Pray for the church to know the true meaning of Christmas and not just turn the event into food, festivities, new clothes, sweets, or celebration only. We invite some of our willing friends to participate in the celebration, and many Muslims sneak in to be part of the celebrations. The next day we will prepare food and tea and spend time with Muslim friends and neighbours.
- Thailand: Pray for great blessing this Christmas Eve as we invite those who are alone or just want to celebrate Christmas to join us in our home. As we hold a Christmas party for the community, pray people will come and sing carols with us, have fun with games, and learn the truth about Christmas. Pray for the Christmas party at the Santisuk Peace Church, that we will know each other deeper and get closer together as a body of Christ. Pray Thai Christians rejoice in the coming of Jesus and share this news with those around them too.
- In a town in North Africa local believers will meet together, though few in number. We will sing together in Arabic, following along with YouTube videos to sing Christmas songs as we don't yet have any in the local Arabic dialect. Pray for an older local man hoping to bring along his grandchildren—he is the only believer in his family but last year was able to bring along his daughter's children and bring them into Christian community for the first time. In another city a large gathering of believers is expected, a unique gathering when we come united in boldness to worship Emmanuel. Pray this celebration of Christmas will continue for generations to come—a witness of love and unity to those who seek true love and community.
- In Nigeria, as churches meet on Christmas morning, pray the glory of God is evident and transformational. On December 26 Christians take food to prisons and share this and the gospel message with prisoners—may many receive salvation in Jesus. As Christians intentionally visit friends and families with needs within their communities December 27, pray the sharing of gifts and Christian love will be a great blessing.
- Ask encouragement as workers celebrate Christmas far from home and family. Pray for provision of personal finances and the resourcing needed to remain long-term in their communities—blessed in order to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ where he is least known.