

PRAYER FOCUS

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SRI LANKA

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

“My parents were always away for their ministry, especially my father. My mother tried her best to fulfill the role of mother and father. Whenever he was around, my father made sure that he gave us his full attention, teaching us Biblical principles and even the practical skills of a mechanic, builder and electrician. Those were precious lessons, that we still use to this day, now that all of us siblings have our own families.

Although my father had a low salary as a minister, we attended one of the best schools in Sri Lanka. The fees were high but somehow, our parents managed to provide us with everything we needed. I remember my father getting up in the early hours of the morning to pack chicken meat to sell. My brother and I tried to help. My mother would collect fabric off-cuts from garment factories and stitch soft toys to sell. I admire them for doing these things. They brought us up in a way that we did not want luxurious belongings; we were happy with whatever we had.

At weekends, my parents took us with them to go to various provinces to minister. My mother helped us with our schoolwork as we travelled in the car. We understood our parents’ calling as servants of God.

However, one thing that was difficult being a pastor’s kid; everybody was



A discipleship training program conducted by Brother Maheer.

watching us. We had to be well-behaved, and I did not want to be restricted; I was the rebellious one in the family. Whenever I did something wrong and got caught in school, they would say, ‘Your father is a priest, your mother is a teacher, why are you behaving like that?’ My mother used to say it was like living in a glass box. Looking back, I realized that it was a blessing in disguise, because I know well that if I’d had that ‘freedom’ I would not be here today!

People looked up to my parents for advice and they were always ready to



help. I believe that, through my parents’ ministries, those good deeds are coming back to us. We are blessed because of the things that my parents did. Words are not adequate to thank them for how they raised us. I feel privileged to have been born into this family and it is really a good feeling to see them doing this ministry. Whenever possible, me and my wife, are always looking for ways to help.”

This is the testimony of Jason*, one of the sons of Brother Maheer*, our co-worker in Sri Lanka. They have raised their children well, balancing family life and ministry, and instilling in them timeless values to live by and pass on to their own children. The blessings go on from generation to generation.

Pray for our co-workers in ARNA to be able to balance their lives as ministers of the Gospel and as family men and women of God. May their children be nurtured well and become living witnesses of God’s love and faithfulness to His people.

*Not his real name

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)

Prayer Calendar March 2022

1 (TUE) SRI LANKA Pray for Christian parents to build a strong spiritual foundation for their children.

2 (WED) SRI LANKA Pray for strength upon those who constantly face opposition in their communities.

3 (THU) NEPAL Pray for strength on our country working team, stricken with illness in the past weeks.

4 (FRI) NEPAL Pray for the women to pass on what they learned at the empowerment training, which will culminate today.

5/6 (SAT/SUN) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray for the Karen Teens For Christ leaders to be committed to empowering their youth.

7 (MON) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray that the Karen youth are enthusiastic after Bible camp. May they encourage their peers as they grow in faith.

8 (TUE) CHINA The Chinese Communist Party announced plans to update the Bible to "keep pace with the times" adding "core socialist values" and removing passages that do not reflect communist beliefs. Pray for God's intervention on this.

9 (WED) CHINA Pray God will strengthen those who languish in prison because of their faith. May they be supernaturally nourished physically and spiritually.

10 (THU) VIETNAM Vietnam remains a "country of particular concern" in terms of the practice of religious freedom. Pray that the government protects citizens' rights and fairly address the persecution faced by the minorities.

11 (FRI) LAOS Pray for churches and missionaries as they proclaim Christ and strengthen believers in the face of growing opposition.

12/13 (SAT/SUN) LAOS Pray for those who persecute believers in isolated villages.

14 (MON) BANGLADESH Pray that more denominations will join the prayer meetings, spearheaded by the Bangladesh Prayer Movement ; to usher in revival in this nation.

15 (TUE) PAKISTAN Human rights groups held a protest over concern over rising abductions of teenage girls across the country. Pray that the authorities will act to prevent and convict the offenders.

16 (WED) PAKISTAN A two-inch nail was hammered into a pregnant woman's head by a faith healer, who guaranteed she would have a boy. Pray against such practices, which are deceiving Muslim believers.

17 (THU) MYANMAR Violence has intensified in recent weeks pointing to a deeper conflict. Pray that this will not escalate into civil war.

18 (FRI) MYANMAR Families have posted notices in the state-owned daily newspapers, disowning loved ones who have publicly opposed the military junta. Pray for comfort upon these families, separated due to the year-long civil unrest.

19/20 (SAT/SUN) MYANMAR More than two-thirds of residents in the capital of Kayah (Karenni) state have been displaced by fighting between the military and anti-junta forces. Pray for a continued flow of provisions for the displaced families.

21 (MON) AFGHANISTAN Open Doors ranked this nation as the most dangerous country for Christians. Pray for our brethren who live in fear because Taliban threats.

22 (TUE) AFGHANISTAN Pray for the protection of Afghan women who are boldly protesting the Taliban's denial of their basic rights.

23 (WED) CAMBODIA Pray for wisdom upon the government as they seek to take the nation from a lower-middle-income to an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050.

24 (THU) CAMBODIA Pray for our Functional English Center students to become powerful witness to bring their families to Christ.

25 (FRI) INDIA Pray as Christian leaders in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh have appealed to India's top constitutional authorities for protection from pro-Hindu nationalist groups.

26/27 (SAT/SUN) INDIA India is a land of remarkable beauty and diversity – yet in the shadow of significant progress and a rich history, millions are entrapped by suffering, the caste system and countless idols. Pray that God continues to move in this nation.

28 (MON) NORTH KOREA Pray for the Truth to reign and set the nation free from the regime's indoctrination and lies.

29 (TUE) NORTH KOREA At least nine ballistic missile tests were launched in January, defying the UN Security Council ban. Pray against the lust for power that permeates the heart of this government.

30 (WED) MALDIVES Pray for God's comfort upon children who suffer emotional trauma because of their broken families.

31 (THU) BHUTAN Pray for faithful workers who defy obstacles to make Jesus known to people who have never heard the gospel.