

# PRAYER FOCUS

Published by Ethnos Asia Ministries (EAM) as a Prayer Guide on Access-Restricted Nations in Asia (ARNA).

## KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES

### REACHING THE KAREN YOUTH

"I had a secure life with my Christian parents and two younger brothers in our village. I knew about Jesus Christ since I was a child because I went to Sunday School and my parents taught us Bible stories at home. I knew that God was the One who created everything and that He helps us when we are in trouble. I memorized the scriptures, but they meant little to me; but I did not know how to live the Christian life.

One day, our life suddenly changed because our family had to relocate to the Thai border. The Burmese military came to our village and oppressed us. They forced us to move out and took over our homes; we had no choice. I could not continue my studies. We suffered greatly because my father could not find work. We were among the Internally Displaced People.

Seeing the opportunity for me to continue my studies, my parents decided to send me to the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College at the Mae La Refugee Camp. I was 15 years old then. I felt sad and lonely, having to separate from my parents for the first time. A good Christian family graciously welcomed me to their home. Since I lived with another family, I had to follow their practice. We prayed three times every day. It was there that I learned to pray and read the Bible more and I began to understand how to walk with God. My foster parents



*Training the Core Team of the Karen Teens For Christ (KT4C) with the SowH program.*

guided me through my studies and my spiritual walk with God. After finishing Grade 10, I decided to be baptized in water. Now I understand how much God loves and cares for me. I found comfort in God's Word through Psalm 121. My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will keep me from harm and watch over my life.

I thank God for the opportunity to be trained and counted among the Core Team of the Karen Teens for Christ (KT4C). I want to help the Karen youth.

They will play an important role in building the future of the Karen people. They must see and know their worth in Christ. My heart desires to see all the Karen youth at the Thai-Myanmar border come to Christ and live a true Christian life. Praise God for the people who trained and honed me to lead these young people. May I be able to train others who, in turn, will teach others." - shared by Saw David (not his real name), member of the KT4C Core team. He has graduated with a degree of Bachelor in Theology.



Ethnos Asia trains these young people with the Sow for the Harvest discipleship program. We are targeting a great harvest of 500,000 youth along the Thai-Myanmar borders. As Saw David mentors these young people, pray that they will see how significant their lives are for the future of their nation. May they equip themselves in God's power and authority to help transform lives among their peers. Pray also that more "Saw Davids" will rise up, even during these uncertain times of war in their nation.

**"I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2 (NIV)**

# Prayer Calendar April 2022

**1 (FRI) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES** The majority of people in Karen State are displaced by airstrikes or the threat of airstrikes, creating a humanitarian crisis. Pray for their safety.

**2/3 (SAT/SUN) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES** Pray for the youth who recently graduated from the Sow for the Harvest Basic course, to be used by God to spread the gospel in their areas.

**4 (MON) CAMBODIA** Pray for the people to exercise their rights and elect their leaders wisely in the Commune Election set for June.

**5 (TUE) SRI LANKA** Last month a mob of 600 broke into a Sri Lankan Church, declaring it as illegitimate. Pray for God's protection and favor upon the pastor as he filed a case against the mob and their perpetrators.

**6 (WED) SRI LANKA** The country is in the grip of an economic crisis, with widespread food shortages. Pray for the nation's leaders to this need.

**7 (THU) SRI LANKA** Pray the Covid situation will not prevent participants from attending the Sow for the Harvest trainings in different provinces.

**8 (FRI) CHINA** Authorities detained a Christian woman for her repeated attempts to share the Gospel with Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan. She has been arrested more than 50 times for her earlier attempts. Pray for fearless believers like her who continue to risk their lives to share the Gospel.

**9/10 (SAT/SUN) CHINA** Ask the Lord to bless and protect the businesses Christian

brethren who support churches in the Access Restricted Nations in Asia.

**11 (MON) VIETNAM** Pray for the 4,000 recipients of the Vietnamese Full Bibles distributed last month in the Mekong Delta. May they grow deeper in faith as they study God's Word.

**12 (TUE) LAOS** Pray for comfort and provision upon twelve members of a Christian family who were recently attacked and driven from their home.

**13 (WED) LAOS** Pray that authorities will seriously implement the law protecting the free exercise of faith.

**14 (THU) BANGLADESH** Pray for provision for the poor who are hit hardest with rising food prices.

**15 (FRI) PAKISTAN** India accidentally fired a missile into Pakistan, blaming the incident on a "technical malfunction" during routine maintenance. Pray that this will not escalate to conflict.

**16/17 (SAT/SUN) PAKISTAN** Pray for healing and comfort upon the grieving families of 63 people who died in the suicide bombing in March at a mosque in Peshawar.

**18 (MON) PAKISTAN** The recent suicide bombing broke a relative lull in violence in Peshawar, which has borne the brunt of Taliban militancy in recent years. Pray against Taliban attempts to gain control of the area.

**19 (TUE) MYANMAR** The military junta has been using long-range heavy artillery to attack civilians. Pray that those who help purchase these arms be convicted and cease their support.

**20 (WED) MYANMAR** Pray for God's protection against the COVID-19 virus upon our 264 Bible school students who faithfully attend face to face classes.

**21 (THU) AFGHANISTAN** Pray for Christians in hiding because of Taliban threats to their lives.

**22 (FRI) AFGHANISTAN** Pray that the Taliban lift restrictions against women and girls and give access to education and work opportunities.

**23/24 (SAT/SUN) NEPAL** Praise God for the early release of a pastor who, in November 2021, was sentenced to two years in prison and fined Rs 20,000 for violating Nepal's anti-conversion law. Pray for others in a similar situation.

**25 (MON) NEPAL** Pray for strength upon a full time worker who was recently restored during the Leadership Care conducted by our country working team. He is the only Christian in a community of 600 Buddhist families.

**26 (TUE) INDIA** 2021 marked the most violent year on record for Indian Christians. Pray for divine intervention upon this nation so that Christians can live in peace with their unbelieving neighbors.

**27 (WED) INDIA** Pray for the loved ones of those who were martyred for their faith. May they remain courageous to uphold their faith despite the overwhelming threats to their lives.

**28 (THU) NE INDIA** Many unbelievers changed their view on the Christians as they received help during the pandemic. Pray that they will open their hearts to Christ.

**29 (FRI) NORTH KOREA** Pray for those who persecute Christians, that they will see Christ's light.

**30 (SAT) MALDIVES** Owning a Bible is punishable by death. Even Christian migrants and tourists also have to meet in secret and cannot own Bibles. Pray that this nation will finally open to the Gospel.