

# PRAYER FOCUS

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## CHINA

### ADVANCING GOD'S KINGDOM

Christianity is the second most practised religion in China. With a 44 million population - officially declared by the Chinese government in 2018 – Christians outnumber the 23 million Muslims. The Buddhist population is estimated to be between 185 to 250 million. However, Christian organizations estimate the number of Christians at close to 100 million, or even more, because many choose to keep their Christian identity secret. In 2019, during the last US administration, Vice President Mike Pence said, in his speech during the 2nd Annual Religious Freedom Ministerial, “Just 70 years ago, when the Communist Party took power, there were fewer than half a million Chinese Christians. Yet today, just two generations later, faith in Jesus Christ has reached as many as 130 million Chinese Christians.”

The number of Christians in China continues to grow despite restrictions and increased persecution. Chinese Christians are determined to keep the faith no matter what the cost. They have found “gold” in the Christian faith, and they would never trade it with anything else! The resilient faith of the Chinese followers of Jesus Christ sets an excellent example for brethren around the world. They have



*Bru believers in Laos received rice donations from brethren in China.*

never stopped sharing God's love even when great hardship comes because of persecution.

During the pandemic, they pooled their resources and helped those in need, both believers and non-believers, showing no partiality and thus, more souls were added as they advanced God's Kingdom.

The vision of our Chinese brethren goes beyond China. Through Ethnos Asia Ministries' China and Beyond (CAB) program, they extend help to

poor tribal believers in Laos by providing them with basic food supplies and livelihood programs. They have sent anti-Covid supplies like face masks, hand gel, disinfectants, and herbal medicines. CAB is a movement of empowered and equipped believers who are dedicated to fulfilling the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ in China and to the countries beyond.

Praise God for our Chinese brethren who looked beyond their own needs to help other people. Having experienced severe persecution, they deeply empathize with persecuted tribal believers in Laos who can not help themselves. They continue to send help whenever needed.

Pray that God will continually use our Chinese brethren to be a blessing to others. May they remain strong in faith during trials and persecution. May more souls be added to His Kingdom in China.



**“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10 (NKJV)**

# Prayer Calendar May 2022

**1 (SUN) CHINA** Pray that the authorities manage the surge of Covid-19 effectively in Shanghai.

**2 (MON) CHINA** Pray for the people of Shanghai. Citizens face extreme distress as Covid measures are implemented.

**3 (TUE) MYANMAR** Pray that our prayer network in Myanmar is strengthened and not disheartened by the war.

**4 (WED) MYANMAR** Pray for the war to end between the Burmese and various tribal armies. The victims are mostly young souls who die fighting.

**5 (THU) BHUTAN** Pray for believers disowned by families, to remain strong and be a source of encouragement to faint-hearted Christians.

**6 (FRI) VIETNAM** The authorities announced plans to deliver thousands of religious books, including Bibles, to the prisons. Pray this is implemented soon.

**7/8 (SAT/SUN) PAKISTAN** Pray for women's health in Pakistan. Women have limited access to treatment and little independence in making decisions.

**9 (MON) PAKISTAN** Pray that faithful participants in the twice monthly online discipleship training, learn their lessons well and are not distracted.

**10 (TUE) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES** Pray that God will use the children, young people, and teachers, who joined the discipleship training camp last month, to change lives in their communities.

**11 (WED) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES** Pray for people on the Thai Myanmar border, constantly on the run because the Burmese Army attacks their villages.

**12 (THU) LAOS** Pray the government urgently completes the housing project for victims of the 2018 dam collapse.

**13 (FRI) LAOS** Pray for God's protection of our workers and their families, especially against Covid which still worries people.

**14/15 (SAT/SUN) NE INDIA** Pray for 'fruit' as Online Sow for the Harvest (SowH) training is conducted every Saturday night for 20 church workers.

**16 (MON) INDIA** Pray against a threat of a group called Lawei ba Phymai, identifying as a "terror group", to attack educational institutions from May 1st in protest against rising unemployment.

**17 (TUE) BANGLADESH** Bangladesh has closed the largest private school for Rohingya refugees. Pray that the authorities have compassion and allows their education to continue.

**18 (WED) BANGLADESH** Pray for churches to be salt and light and lead people to the saving grace of Christ.

**19 (THU) BANGLADESH** Pray that men in church leadership will see the importance of empowering women in churches.

**20 (FRI) NORTH KOREA** Pray for believers enduring harsh conditions under Kim Jong Un's leadership, to remain strong in faith.

**21/22 (SAT/SUN) NORTH KOREA** Pray that Kim Jong Un will not escalate nuclear operations and induce conflict with neighboring countries.

**23 (MON) MALDIVES** Pray for the light of the Gospel to shine in the Maldives, one of the least evangelized nations in the world.

**24 (TUE) SRI LANKA** Pray for God's provision and favor as face-to-face SowH training in several venues are scheduled among enthusiastic church workers.

**25 (WED) SRI LANKA** Pray for 40 SowH graduates last month. May the Lord use them to disciple more converts.

**26 (THU) SRI LANKA** Pray as this nation goes through tough times because of its dwindling economy.

**27 (FRI) NEPAL** Devout Hindus view charitable actions by the Church with suspicion. They see it as a ploy to convert people. Pray for a change in this mindset so that Christians can freely share God's love.

**28/29 (SAT/SUN) CAMBODIA** Pray for students who have fallen behind in their studies during the pandemic. Pray for less fortunate children who have less access or have lost access to learning opportunities.

**30 (MON) CAMBODIA** Pray for the national elections in July 2023. Pray that current leaders will not give in to their desire for power and hold on to their positions. May they see the importance of empowering the next generation of leaders.

**31 (TUE) AFGHANISTAN** The Taliban administration has announced that girls' high schools will be close until a plan is drawn up in accordance with Islamic law and Afghan culture. Pray that Taliban will reconsider and allow girls/women to have access to education.