

PRAYER FOCUS

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

BANGLADESH

“I LOVE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS!”

Brother Ramir* was born into a Muslim family and was educated in an Islamic institute. He was converted to Christianity in 2008. Soon after his conversion, Brother Ramir realized his calling as an evangelist and started propagating the gospel to the Muslim community.

He had been involved with the Presbyterian church-planting ministry for the last fourteen years.

Being educated in a Muslim institute, Brother Ramir's family expected him to uphold the Islamic faith, so they could not accept that he changed his religious belief. To them, his conversion to Christianity brought great shame to the family.

At first, Brother Ramir, his wife and three children lived peacefully in their home. However, his father and brother could not be pacified. They were disturbed that one family member left the Islamic faith. The news also reached the Muslim leaders in their community. Brother Ramir's family and the Muslim leaders threatened to kill him. They told him to leave their village.

Brother Ramir told our ministry coordinator, “The place where I live is a Muslim-dominated area. I face a lot of persecution there. My brother and father have become hostile towards me. They destroyed my house. They also reported to the local Muslim community leaders that I was involved with a Christian group that seeks to destroy Islam through gospel



Brother Ramir and his family now lives in a temporary shelter.

sharing. My father also gave away my portion of land (inheritance) to my brother.

I love my Muslim brothers and sisters. I want to continue to share the gospel with them but recently, it has become exceedingly difficult for me. I thank God that my father-in-law has allowed us to build a temporary shelter on his land.

Please pray for me and my family so that I can continue my ministry among my Muslim brothers and sisters. I need a safe shelter for my children where I can live and share the gospel in my community.”

Brother Ramir is only one of many



believers from Muslim communities who accept new life from Jesus Christ. They know that living this new life comes with persecution. But nothing dampens their spirit in loving and trusting Jesus. They keep their passion to make Jesus and His Good News known to their people.

Like Brother Ramir, Christian converts in Bangladesh face ex-communication from their families. They lose friends and properties, and are ostracized by their communities. Islamic extremists believe that anyone and everyone who leaves Islam is an apostate and should be killed or enslaved.

Let us remember Brother Ramir and our Christian brethren in Bangladesh. Pray that their faith will not be shaken despite the hardships and persecution. Pray for God's favor upon Brother Ramir that he finds a safe place to stay for his family and that he be comforted with a fruit-bearing ministry among his loved Muslim brothers and sisters.

*not his real name

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”
Romans 8:35 (NKJV)

Prayer Calendar

June 2022

1 (WED) BANGLADESH Pray for Muslim-background believers to stand firm in faith amidst severe persecution.

2 (THU) BANGLADESH Pray for God's protection of our workers and coordinators as they do the work of the ministry.

3 (FRI) MYANMAR Pray for strength upon local Christian organizations who help provide for those affected by the unrest.

4/5 (SAT/SUN) MYANMAR Pray for intercessors to remain zealous and vigilant over their country's situation.

6 (MON) MYANMAR Pray that ASEAN and other international bodies will find ways for a just and peaceful resolution to the long-standing crisis in Myanmar.

7 (TUE) LAOS Pray against graft and corruption that has plagued the country for years. The country's State Inspection Authority said the government has lost U.S. \$767 million to corruption since 2016.

8 (WED) LAOS Pray that the reopening of Laos will bring new economic opportunities to people who struggled during the pandemic.

9 (THU) LAOS A few local government authorities have expressed interest in the Gospel. Pray that they will know the truth of God's Word and receive salvation.

10 (FRI) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES 500,000 young people live along the Thai-Myanmar borders. Pray that our trained Karen youth will see and work for this potential harvest of souls.

11/12 (SAT/SUN) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray for safety and God's wisdom upon

our main coordinator and core leaders of the Karen Teens for Christ (KT4C) program.

13 (MON) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES At least 150,000 people have been displaced in Karen state due to military airstrikes. Pray for the provision of food, water, medicine, and shelter.

14 (TUE) CHINA The latest crackdown on online evangelism has deleted or led to the closure of numerous Christian accounts. Pray that Christians will find creative ways and platforms to share, encourage and reach out with the Gospel.

15 (WED) NE INDIA Northeast India has a monsoon climate with heavy rains, especially in June. Pray for protection as people prepare for the impact of the heavy rain and thunderstorms.

16 (THU) INDIA Many people in Manipur are impacted by alcohol, drugs, prostitution and other sinful activities. Pray that God delivers them.

17 (FRI) INDIA According to a 2021 report, Chhattisgarh was the second worst state in the country in terms of Christians targeted for their faith. Pray that believers will not lose hope despite their suffering.

18/19 (SAT/SUN) BHUTAN Less than 1% of the population are Christians. Pray for Bhutanese Christians to become powerful witnesses of the Gospel in areas dominated by Buddhists, Hindus and animists.

20 (MON) VIETNAM The former head of the Evangelical Church of Vietnam, said that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, 232 new churches and stations with 41,000 members were established, and 478 pastors were recognized. Pray for the sustained growth of the church.

21 (TUE) NORTH KOREA NK state media reported its first Covid infection last month and declared a "major national emergency". Pray for the government to manage this situation well

and give the necessary assistance to their citizens.

22 (WED) PAKISTAN Christians are regarded as second-class citizens and face discrimination in every aspect of life. Pray that Christians will become powerful witnesses of God's goodness and favor upon their lives.

23 (THU) SRI LANKA Pray for wisdom upon Ranil Wickremesinghe, 73, who was sworn in as Prime Minister to stabilize the country's debt-ridden economy and end the political turmoil.

24 (FRI) SRI LANKA The nation is experiencing the worst economic situation since its independence in 1948. Pray for the current leadership to develop an effective solution to this crisis.

25/26 (SAT/SUN) CAMBODIA Pray for the national election in July 2023.

27 (MON) CAMBODIA Buddhism is a crucial element in a Cambodian's national identity. Some Christian converts feel a sense of betrayal of Khmer-ness because of this. Pray that new converts be set free from this lie.

28 (TUE) NEPAL Pray that Christian women will rise to become leaders in their communities and be a source of blessing to many.

29 (WED) AFGHANISTAN Afghanistan is officially the world's top persecutor of Christians, according to Open Doors. Pray for God's miraculous protection of Christians. Pray that suffering Afghans will experience God and find refuge in Him.

30 (THU) AFGHANISTAN Pray for aid to be distributed fairly and efficiently. Pray for wisdom for those helping the refugees and transporting the aid.