

PRAYER FOCUS

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LAOS

BRU CHURCH IN EVERY VILLAGE

Ethnos Asia Ministries country teams in Laos have worked closely with crucial Christian Bru leaders from different villages in the south. They have been empowering churches through leadership training and relief works and assisting those severely persecuted because of their faith.

We have heard many stories about the Bru Christians who refused to give up their faith no matter how hard life has become because of their faith. Most local Bru village heads do not follow the central government's directives concerning religious freedom. They say, "You can be a Christian, but not in our village. Go! Leave our village and join them there!"

We wonder, what makes the Bru believers hold on to their faith even when persecuted? They went to jail again but never gave up their confidence. One Bru leader explained, "Bru people believe in supernatural powers. They believe in spirits. When faced with problems like being attacked by evil spirits, they tried their best by offering sacrifices to heal these people. But it usually does not work. When they cannot solve the problem, they call the Christians. The pastor would go with a team. They prepare and evangelize the people first, then pray for the sick. When the family witnesses the miracle of healing, they understand that the Spirit of Jesus is more powerful than the spirits they worship. Experiencing the miracles



Bru believers praying before water baptism.

themselves motivates them not to return to their old beliefs."

According to our Bru contacts, there are over 85,000 Bru people along Highway 9 from Sepone to Vietnam. Around 40,000 are in the Sepone district. Pastor Bun (not his real name) reported, "We have evangelized almost every village in Sepone. There are 88 villages, and 86 villages are now Christians, almost 90 percent of the villages evangelized." Despite persecution, Bru Christians continue to spread the gospel. They want to see all Bru people becoming Christians

by 2030! Their goal is to plant a church in every village.

Highway 9 is the habitation of the growing number of Bru Christians in Laos. The route now connects ASEAN economies, opening up development opportunities for the sub-Mekong and the Indo-China region. EAM is considering these socio-economic opportunities in the region and is preparing to train selected Bru leaders in the coming months. They will give these Bru leaders to be involved in a month-long spiritual, agricultural, and business training. After their training, they will serve as a catalyst to train and equip other church members in their villages with the same know-how. This training will happen every month for the next three years. Through this, we expect to see churches planted along Highway 9 and businesses flourish managed by Bru Christians.

Let us pray that the Bru Christians will remain steadfast in their faith and realize their goal to plant churches in every village. Pray for those who EAM will train to expand their vision for the coming harvest of souls. Pray also for the successful training of Bru leaders.



"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58 (NKJV)

Prayer Calendar August 2022

1 (MON) LAOS Praise God for the 1,959 souls who heard the Gospel in the last three months of the Lao churches' evangelism. Pray for the 286 new converts to grow in faith.

2 (TUE) LAOS Pray for provisions for families in Laos. The number of households reporting income loss since the pandemic is still high.

3 (WED) LAOS Pray for comfort and provision for believers in southeast Laos whose houses were demolished by villagers. They are now staying in tents.

4 (THU) MYANMAR Churches have been bombed and vandalized by the military in Christian Kayah, Chin, and Kachin states. Pray for the people's safety in these areas.

5 (FRI) MYANMAR Pray for our Myanmar-English New Testament recipients; that their faith grow as they study God's Word.

6/7 (SAT/SUN) VIETNAM Pray as the Vietnam Evangelical Alliance calls for unity among Christians to raise their voices against the plan to impose fines and punishments for 'forbidden/non-licensed' activities.

8 (MON) VIETNAM Pray for graduating high school students who took the exams to determine the next step in their education life. Pray that they remain zealous in pursuing their studies and be successful in their fields.

9 (TUE) VIETNAM Pray as churches face a monetary crisis due to the impact of the pandemic and crop failure.

10 (WED) CHINA Pray for those affected by heavy rainfall and landslides in southern China. 43,300 hectares of crops were destroyed.

11 (THU) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray for the success of the remaining discipleship training programs this year.

12 (FRI) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Graduates of the SowH discipleship training experienced miracles. Ask God to work miracles through them.

13/14 (SAT/SUN) SRI LANKA Pray that street protests will not turn violent. Pray for peace.

15 (MON) SRI LANKA Pray that the current leadership will heed the cries of the people and do what is necessary to alleviate the situation.

16 (TUE) INDIA Christian organizers have declared 2021-2030 as a decade of celebration marking the 2000th anniversary of Christ's earthly ministry. Pray for revival throughout India.

17 (WED) INDIA Christians have suffered increasing discrimination and harassment since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in 2014. Pray for the removal of all threats to religious freedom.

18 (THU) BHUTAN The country will reopen for tourism in September. Pray that this will bring development to the economy and create more opportunities for their people.

19 (FRI) BHUTAN Health professionals have documented a rise in mental illness due to the pandemic. Pray for Bhutanese people struggling with mental issues.

20/21 (SAT/SUN) CAMBODIA Primary school students are the worst hit group in learning loss during the pandemic. Pray they adjust to their regular studies in school.

22 (MON) CAMBODIA Drug abuse has spread from Sihanoukville city to the suburbs. Pray for protection, especially for vulnerable young people.

23 (TUE) PAKISTAN Pray for successful dialogue as a parliamentary panel formally endorsed talks with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to end violence.

24 (WED) PAKISTAN A new ethnic believer was recently water baptized in public, which caused uproar among extreme Muslims and endangered the lives of Christians. Pray for the safety of the pastor and other Christians involved.

25 (THU) AFGHANISTAN Pray that Taliban rulers are true to their commitment to girls' education and human rights so that foreign donors will be confident to give more aid.

26 (FRI) AFGHANISTAN Pray as Ethnos Asia find ways to help the Afghan people affected by disasters and diseases.

27/28 (SAT/SUN) NORTH KOREA The US State Department claimed that up to 70,000 North Koreans might be in prison for their religious beliefs. Pray for the church to continue to hope and persevere despite hardship.

29 (MON) NORTH KOREA Experts warn that the food situation in North Korea is unlikely to improve soon. Pray for assistance to those struggling from food shortages and malnutrition.

30 (TUE) BANGLADESH Pray as people recover from the impact of flooding. Pray also for protection against the spread of a new sub-variant of the deadly Omicron virus, which claimed thirty-two lives in early July.

31 (WED) BANGLADESH Rohingya refugees staged demonstrations to demand repatriation back to Myanmar. They want to return in safety and dignity. Pray for wisdom upon authorities and foreign agencies as they make plans for repatriation.