

PRAYER FOCUS

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VIETNAM

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

When I was 17 years old, my life was tough. Many looked down on my family because we were poor. Out of despair, I wanted to kill myself.

One afternoon, I thought, should I take poison, hang myself, or go to the military base and shoot myself? I walked outside and in front of me was the military base, which was next door to a Christian church. I had never been in it, but somehow, I found myself standing in front of the church gate. The pastor saw me and asked if I needed anything. He wanted to talk to me, but I told him no. I turned to leave, but he told me to wait. He went inside the house, returned with a book, and gave it to me. I knew that it was a holy book. Buddhists worshipped not only Buddha but also the doctrine. I took the book and handled it carefully. I forgot about my plan to commit suicide. I just thought I needed to take the book home and read it. The pastor told me to read from the book of John. When I read it, I had a connection with my Creator. I continued to read until I reached the last page, where I was invited to receive Jesus. I was convinced, but before I prayed, I said, 'If you are God, please change my life, change my situation.' Since that day, I have not thought about committing suicide anymore; my life was changed. I also brought my family to Christ, especially my father, who had problems with alcohol and gambling. One copy of the New Testament changed my life. After I accepted Christ, I tried to save money to buy Bibles to give away.

In 1975, all religious materials were banned,



Believers eagerly received copies of the Vietnamese Bibles.

and Bibles were confiscated when the Communists came. They removed the hardcover of the Bibles and sold the thin pages to make cigarettes. I heard of a man who was converted because he read the pages of the Bible before making cigarettes. Praise God!

One day I found a place where they sold Bibles. I had saved as much money as possible, bought the Bibles, made a new cover, and gave them away.

I believe God has called me to this ministry. Lives are changed because of the power of God's Word. I want to continue providing Bibles to my people. We distributed 4,000



Vietnamese Bibles in the Mekong Delta area a few months ago. One pastor, living far from the central province, cried when he received six hundred Bibles. For years, many have accepted Jesus, but he had no Bibles to give them. We cried together as we thank God for this great blessing! I thank God for people who work with me, like Ethnos Asia Ministries (EAM), which is one of my strong supporters. The need for Bibles in Vietnam is great.

God has also blessed me with a Bible translation program. It took us almost 30 years to finish the complete tribal Bibles. We have translated the Bible for the Jeri, Hre, and the Bahnar tribes. Currently, in cooperation with the Bible Society and SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics) International, who help us train translators, we translate Bibles into eight tribal languages. Now the government has permitted us to print these Bibles in Vietnam. Please pray with us as we make these precious books available to our people."

This testimony was shared by Pastor Mark (not his real name), one of the EAM country working team coordinators.

**"So is My word that goes out from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."
Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)**

Prayer Calendar September 2022

1 (THU) VIETNAM Pray for Hmong Christians in Nghe An province suffering severe persecution. Church leaders have appealed to the authorities for intervention and support but to no avail.

2 (FRI) VIETNAM Pray that the authorities will continue to grant permission to print Vietnamese and tribal language bibles.

3/4 (SAT/SUN) MYANMAR Recent United Nations investigation report reveals evidence of crimes against humanity since last year's military coup. Pray for justice to prevail.

5 (MON) MYANMAR Six Myanmar junta officials, including a judge and an army captain, were killed in Yangon. Local resistance groups claimed responsibility for the killings. Pray for the bloodshed to end.

6 (TUE) MYANMAR Pray for Myanmar's current leaders to stop all violent acts against the people.

7 (WED) LAOS Savannakhet province was hit hard by flooding last month. Pray for provisions for those affected by the devastation.

8 (THU) LAOS Pray for the safety of our contacts in Laos coordinating relief work in Savannakhet province.

9 (FRI) CAMBODIA Pray for the 202 students, currently enrolled at the FEC, to remain zealous in learning God's Word as well as the English language.

10/11 (SAT/SUN) CAMBODIA Pray as FEC teachers and students prepare for Recognition Day on 2 October. Pray for salvation

upon non-believer parents who will hear the gospel on this occasion.

12 (MON) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray for God's anointing and wisdom upon our missionary and key Karen leaders as they train the Karen youth.

13 (TUE) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray that the internally displaced young people will find hope in Christ despite their situation.

14 (WED) CHINA Pray that the volatile political situation between China and Taiwan will not escalate to war and destruction.

15 (THU) INDIA Open Doors 2021 research indicates that 26,774 Indian Christians faced all forms of abuse for their faith. Pray that these persecuted ones will remain strong and not give up.

16 (FRI) INDIA Pray for church unity so that believers from different castes will accept each other in Christ.

17/18 (SAT/SUN) BHUTAN There is an increase in drug use and violence among the youth. Pray they encounter Christ and find deeper meaning in their lives.

19 (MON) BANGLADESH The economy has been hit hard by the global economic consequences of the Russia-Ukraine war. Pray leaders will lead the country with wisdom.

20 (TUE) NORTH KOREA The North says 99.98 percent of its 4.77 million fever patients have fully recovered. Analysts cast doubts, saying the situation is getting worse. Pray for the government to address the Covid problem of the nation.

21 (WED) NORTH KOREA Pray that impoverished families, struggling to access necessities, can survive the harsh conditions.

22 (THU) PAKISTAN People are angry at the soaring prices of commodities. Pray that this will not escalate to violence.

23 (FRI) PAKISTAN Pray for the perseverance and resilience of the Church as it receives threats such as blasphemy allegations, forced conversions and attacks on places of worship.

24/25 (SAT/SUN) NEPAL The High Court sentenced one of our co-workers to one year for proselytizing. Pray for favor as he appeals to the Supreme Court.

26 (MON) NEPAL Pray as Nepal prepares for the coming elections in November. Pray for competent leaders with integrity to take on leadership positions.

27 (TUE) AFGHANISTAN Pray for believers who choose to remain in Afghanistan, despite the danger, so they can continue to share Christ, make disciples, and serve the needs of their people.

28 (WED) AFGHANISTAN Drug addiction worsened after the Taliban took over. Pray that people will realize that drugs are not the solution to their problems. May they find their hope in Christ.

29 (THU) SRI LANKA Due to the country's situation, the Sow for the Harvest (SowH) training in the north was continually postponed. Praise God they were finally able to do it last month. Pray as the 58 graduates venture out to share the gospel.

30 (FRI) SRI LANKA Pray as our SowH coordinator schedules more discipleship trainings among church leaders in the east, central and southern Sri Lanka.