

PRAYER FOCUS

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

NEPAL

“GOD GIVES US THE STRATEGY!”

In 2016, Nepal was reported to have the fastest-growing Christian population in the world. Bishwa Mani Pokharel, editor-in-chief at Nepal's Nagarik newspaper, reported the growth of Christianity across Nepal. It listed no Christians in 1951 and just 458 in 1961. By 2001, there were 102,000. A decade later, that number tripled to more than 375,000. Today, Nepal has approximately 1.3 million Christians from a population of 30.6 million.

Christianity continues to thrive in Nepal. Although it is still a challenge to propagate the gospel, dedicated Christians find ways to contribute to the growth of Christianity in this nation.

With the vision in mind to strengthen what remains through the years, Ethnos Asia Ministries collaborates with the nationals; empowering, supporting and equipping them so they can do the work of the ministry. Our co-workers in Nepal build relationships with government and community leaders, making Christ visible and the gospel relevant. People become open as they receive help and give their lives to Christ. "The Lord is giving us wisdom, ideas and strategies on how we can effectively do the ministry," said our main coordinator. "We have a school project in one of the poor communities. All the monks in this area used to say negative words against Christians. They blame the Christians for every misfortune



Children enjoying their class at our center.

that happens in the community. Even when the temple was damaged, they blamed the Christians. We invested in building a center and started enrolling children to study in that school. A mission organization from India heard about this project and partnered with us. We were then able to give free scholarships to fifty children. When the monks saw how we were helping the children in the community, they stopped bad-mouthing the Christians. We were able to build a good relationship with the community. And this has also paved the way for us to share the gospel."



One co-worker evangelist also shared his experience. "In the year 2000, we traveled for two days by bus to one district in eastern Nepal, then walked for three days to reach a village at the border with Tibet. We started by telling the creation story in Genesis to help them understand the gospel. After 11 months, we had to leave the area because of the political situation. By then, only two people said they wanted to become Christians. One was a 13-year-old Buddhist boy. His parents said, 'since our boy wants to become Christian, you can take him.' So, we took him with us and we put him in school. During his studies, he lived with Christian families until he finished college. He was later involved with Tibetan Bible Translation. We never thought an ordinary 13-year-old convert would become a good Christian like that!"

Our co-workers in Nepal have fully dedicated their lives to the cause of the gospel, making the church relevant and having an impact on the communities they serve. Pray for strength as they trek the mountain areas of the Himalayas to bring the good news of salvation to unreached areas.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7 (NKJV)

Prayer Calendar October 2022

1/2 (SAT/SUN) NEPAL Pray that God will use our persecuted brethren to show His glory by their unwavering faith.

3 (MON) NEPAL Pray for churches to equip and encourage believers to stand firm despite persecution.

4 (TUE) NEPAL Pray that signs and wonders will follow the works of itinerant evangelists and workers.

5 (WED) MYANMAR Pray for non-believers to find their hope in Christ, who offers the gift of salvation; to rescue them from their predicament.

6 (THU) MYANMAR Declare God's peace over this nation as conflicts remain unresolved.

7 (FRI) SRI LANKA Pray for the SowH graduates to continue spreading the gospel as they apply every lessons learned.

8/9 (SAT/SUN) SRI LANKA Pray for the church in Sri Lanka to rise above the country's vulnerable situation and be a beacon of hope to the people.

10 (MON) VIETNAM Pray for recipients of the Bahnar Tribal Bibles distributed last month. May they grow strong in faith as they read God's Word in their own language.

11 (TUE) VIETNAM Pray against implementing the Decree on Law and Religion, which Christians see as a means to tighten government control over registered churches.

12 (WED) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray for wisdom upon aging Karen leaders as

they pass on managing the refugees to younger able leaders.

13 (THU) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Praise God for Karen youth whose eyes have been opened to the vision of the harvest. Pray for success as they reach out to their people.

14 (FRI) CHINA At least four house churches have been raided in recent months, their leaders charged. Pray for these persecuted Christians to endure and hold on to Jesus for strength.

15/16 (SAT/SUN) CHINA Pray against the spirit of blindness that hinders the authorities from seeing the salvation of God through Jesus Christ.

17 (MON) INDIA Pray for significant results as hundreds of Christian congregations gathered to pray for their nation in their respective churches across India. The country celebrated its 75th year of independence last August.

18 (TUE) NE INDIA Pray that more souls will be drawn to God's Kingdom as our country teams show love by reaching out to non-believers through relief programs in their communities.

19 (WED) BHUTAN Pray for the government to have wisdom in managing the economic challenges they are currently experiencing.

20 (THU) NORTH KOREA Pray for the government to become compassionate towards their people and seek to improve their living conditions.

21 (FRI) NORTH KOREA Elderly people in the capital are selling their homes to feed themselves. Pray

that the government will address and make a way to improve the living conditions of their citizens.

22/23 (SAT/SUN) PAKISTAN Pray for Christians to remain steadfast as they experience significant loss due to various disasters that have plague the nation recently.

24 (MON) PAKISTAN Thousands have been affected by the worst flooding in recent months. Pray for comfort and provision as people try to rebuild their lives.

25 (TUE) PAKISTAN Pray for wisdom, favor and protection upon our teams doing relief work to alleviate the suffering of the people.

26 (WED) CAMBODIA Pray for our Functional English Center to remain relevant as they help shape the students' future in their community.

27 (THU) AFGHANISTAN Pray for God's protection of secret Taliban believers and their families as they boldly share their faith in Christ.

28 (FRI) LAOS Pray that the agricultural land of believers in remote villages be blessed with good harvests to make them self-sufficient.

29/30 (SAT/SUN) LAOS Pray that local tribal pastors remain strong in faith as they shepherd their flocks.

31 (MON) BANGLADESH The plight of the Rohingya refugees remains uncertain in this nation. Pray for local government leaders and other concerned nations to devise a lasting solution for them.