

PRAYER FOCUS

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CAMBODIA

100 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

In 1923, the French colonial government decided they would not permit Protestant missionaries into Cambodia. Rev. Arthur Hammond of the Christian and Missionaries Alliance (C&MA) visited the governor and asked permission to commence mission work in Cambodia. The interim governor said, "If you want to preach the Gospel here in Cambodia, I have no reason to stop you. You will not succeed, but you can try, if you like." That year, Rev. Hammond and his wife, Esther, became the first Protestant missionaries, followed by Rev. David Ellison and his wife, who joined them later and started work immediately, including Bible translations. Forty years later, Khmer evangelical church members numbered less than 1,000. When relationships with the West deteriorated because of Cambodia's stand on communism, all foreign missionaries were expelled and nearly all churches closed.

Still, by God's grace and mercy, the Cambodian church remained resilient and has survived many trials and testing. Satan tried to wipe out the Christians in Cambodia during Year Zero, declared by the Khmer Rouge on 17 April 1975 on their takeover of Cambodia, to signify a rebirth of Cambodian history. Over one million Cambodians were murdered during that



The Cambodian Church remained resilient despite trials and testing.

dark period. There were 10,000 Protestant Christians but, by 1979, only a few hundred were left; six of the seventeen Cambodian pastors and evangelists survived.

Today, Khmer Christians are estimated at 3% (from Khmer Christian leaders in Cambodia) of the 16.8 million population; the Church continues to grow. Praise God!

This year 2023, the Protestant Church in Cambodia will celebrate its 100th anniversary. All denominations will come together to celebrate God's

faithfulness through the years. Khmer Christians will have a day of intercession on 26 January; 27 and 28 January will be days of celebration. There will be historical and cultural fairs during the day and continuous worship led by different denominations in the evening. Expected attendance is 30,000 - 50,000 people at the Diamond Island Convention and Exhibition Center in Phnom Penh. Khmer Christian diaspora and other foreign guests will join the celebration. Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Cambodian People's Party has accepted the Church's invitation to grace this momentous event.

Let us join the Cambodian churches in celebrating God's work in this harvest field. Cambodia is still 95% Buddhist. There is an excellent potential of reaping more in this fertile ground. Pray that they will gain more favor as they continue the work of the ministry. Pray for Christian unity and wisdom to plan for more souls to be added to His Kingdom.



“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

Prayer Calendar January 2023

1 (SUN) CAMBODIA Pray for unity in the Cambodian church in their quest to take this nation for Christ.

2 (MON) CAMBODIA Our Functional English Center will continue to operate on-site, pending the government's decision for their relocation. Pray for the students and teachers as they prepare to hold classes this month.

3 (TUE) LAOS Pray for the churches to grow even as persecution persists.

4 (WED) LAOS Pray for the Bru leaders who recently attended the Bru Consultation. May they take to heart the vision for church growth as they return and prepare for the forthcoming discipleship and leadership training.

5 (THU) NORTH KOREA Pray for Christian NGOs to gain access to the people so they can reach out and secretly minister to them.

6 (FRI) NORTH KOREA Pray that Christians remain steadfast despite facing life-threatening situations because of their faith. They are encouraged to know that brethren worldwide are praying for them.

7/8 (SAT/SUN) SRI LANKA Sri Lanka's economic crisis has been centered on food. Pray for an improvement in the economy and for provision for all who lack necessities.

9 (MON) SRI LANKA Pray as our country team continues the work of training disciples amid economic problems.

10 (TUE) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Many residents along the border communities have been hiding in the forests to avoid military attacks. Pray for protection, strength, and provision.

11 (WED) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray that the Karen teens will remain enthusiastic to operate with the spiritual gifts they have received during last year's training.

12 (THU) INDIA Pray for the 80 women who attended last month's Deborah training; to be used by God to impact their families and communities with their testimonies.

13 (FRI) INDIA The LGBT community is seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage. Pray for lawmakers to make a wise decision as they address this petition.

14/15 (SAT/SUN) NE INDIA Pray as one of our coordinators switches this year to become more involved in training, mentoring and coaching church planters.

16 (MON) BHUTAN Pray for church leaders to operate in wisdom as they serve God in their communities.

17 (TUE) BHUTAN Pray for the gospel to penetrate the Lhuentse district in the northeast. Buddhist prayer flags are everywhere.

18 (WED) BANGLADESH Opposition supporters have staged rallies against the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, demanding a new election. Pray for wisdom and a peaceful resolution to this growing conflict.

19 (THU) BANGLADESH Pray for strength upon our Bawm brethren who have been disillusioned by the unrest they have been experiencing since the government troops and underground forces clashed.

20 (FRI) PAKISTAN Pray for God's grace and wisdom upon Christian families who help care for Afghan refugees who have converted to Christianity.

21/22 (SAT/SUN) CHINA China is changing its stand on

zero-Covid policy and looking to "live with the virus". Pray that God continues to work in the hearts of the authorities.

23 (MON) AFGHANISTAN Hardline rulers publicly flogged dozens of people, applying their strict interpretation of Islamic law to criminal justice. Pray for God's intervention and for true justice to prevail.

24 (TUE) AFGHANISTAN Afghans are giving their hungry children medicines to sedate them. Others have sold their daughters and organs to survive. Pray for Afghans to encounter God in this time of need.

25 (WED) MYANMAR Reports say that several pastors are hiding as the military arrest religious leaders who oppose the coup. Pray for their safety.

26 (THU) MYANMAR The military junta continues to sow fear among the people as they maintain control over this nation. Pray for a radical change of hearts among them.

27 (FRI) MYANMAR Pray for local intercessors to pray without fail, even when they do not see positive changes happening in their country.

28/29 (SAT/SUN) NEPAL Pray for plans to plant at least fifteen churches in the next three years on top of the Himalayan regions.

30 (MON) VIETNAM Pray as Christians prepare for a big crusade on 3-4 March by the Franklin Graham team. They expect an 18,000 crowd.

31 (TUE) YOUTH IN ARNA Pray as Ethnos Asia focus on preparing the young people in ARNA for revival in the next three years.