

PRAYER FOCUS

A Prayer Guide on Access-Restricted Nations in Asia produced by Ethnos Asia Ministries

NEPAL

CHANGING LIVES IN THE HIGH MOUNTAINS

During EAM's Missions Conference in February, Christians from the free world had the invaluable opportunity to receive first-hand reports from our country teams operating in the Access-Restricted Nations in Asia (ARNA). Our dedicated team from Nepal, ministering to the Tibetan communities, shared the following insights:

Nepal is home to a significant population of Tibetan people. Yet reaching out to these communities with the Gospel presents unique challenges due to geographical isolation, cultural barriers, and legal restrictions. Residing in some of the world's highest human settlements, the Tibetan communities in Nepal remain largely cut off from the modern world, necessitating arduous treks of 6 to 18 days for our team to reach them.

One of the significant challenges faced by our missionaries is the influence of the Dalai Lama, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, whose global recognition has instilled a sense of pride among the Tibetans, making it difficult for Christians to approach them with the message of Christ.

Furthermore, an anti-conversion law imposes severe penalties, including fines and imprisonment, on individuals found guilty of converting others. Despite facing such legal hurdles, one of our native



Discipleship program continues despite restrictions.

missionaries courageously continued to share the Gospel, even while imprisoned. Seven monks showed interest in the Gospel during his imprisonment, indicating a growing openness to Christianity.

The mission field in these regions encounters additional obstacles, including a shortage of workers, particularly mature leaders, and the urgent need for self-sustainability projects for pastors and leaders. Funding limitations also impede training initiatives. Nevertheless, our missionaries persevere, witnessing the transformative impact of their work.



Despite the numerous restrictions and limitations, God's work continues to unfold in the lives of the Tibetan people. Annual couple seminars have enriched the lives of 40 couples, while international discipleship programs have been instrumental in reaching not only Tibetans but also Nepalis and Bhutanese. Additionally, our team effectively ministers to women, addressing various needs, including hygiene and family matters. Former monks have committed to full-time ministry, teaching English and Nepali, and sharing the Gospel.

The annual Christmas program reaches over 350 Tibetans annually with the message of Christ, and establishing a school and hostel in one village, which has transformed the lives of the entire community.

Let us steadfastly remember our missionaries as they persevere in these challenging regions. Pray for strength as they navigate treacherous mountain terrain to reach the unreached. Your unwavering support and prayers play a pivotal role in sustaining their mission.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7 (NIV)

Prayer Calendar

April 2024

1 (MON) NEPAL Our country team reports, "The law severely restricts our freedom of expression and ability to practice our religion." Pray that they will remain wise in their faith.

2 (TUE) NEPAL Pray for two new monk converts led to the Lord by our country team's co-worker in Kathmandu jail.

3 (WED) VIETNAM Pray that more students will join the mobile Bible school. Before COVID, there were 2,500, but now only eight hundred remain.

4 (THU) CHINA The government, officially atheist and cautious of threats to its power, faces a significant challenge due to the rapid expansion of Christianity. Let us pray for Christians to maintain their focus and dedication in spreading the gospel message.

5 (FRI) CHINA Pray that Christian business-people honor God in their practices and are guided by integrity and righteousness.

6/7 (SAT/SUN) BANGLADESH Pray for the translation of the Rohingya New Testament.

8 (MON) BANGLADESH Pray as local believers prepare to build four churches in different outreach areas.

9 (TUE) LAOS Pray for comfort upon our brethren whose house was torn down and their bibles burned by a mob led by the village leaders.

10 (WED) LAOS Pray for our Bru Core Team as they teach the Sow for the Harvest (SowH) lessons to their church leaders.

11 (THU) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray for the

recognition of refugees' fundamental rights and access to essential services and resources.

12 (FRI) KAREN BORDER COMMUNITIES Pray for the healing of divisions caused by religious differences.

13/14 (SAT/SUN) BHUTAN Pray for the safety and protection of Christians in Bhutan as they engage in evangelism. Ask God to shield them from harm and persecution.

15 (MON) BHUTAN Pray for the Gospel to touch the people's hearts in Gasa, a northern district bordering Tibet where, currently, no Christian presence exists.

16 (TUE) PAKISTAN Pray for the leaders and government officials to have integrity and a heart for the nation's well-being.

17 (WED) PAKISTAN Pray that the Christian Pakistani diaspora will remain strong in faith and learn to resist materialism's temptations.

18 (THU) SRI LANKA Pray as we prepare for 30 SowH trainings to be conducted across various provinces this year.

19 (FRI) SRI LANKA Trainers witnessed the effectiveness of SowH lessons for church growth. Pray that they organize more training in their respective areas this year.

20/21 (SAT/SUN) MYANMAR Students are exempt from mandatory military service. More than one hundred Buddhist young people have enrolled in our Bible School to avoid conscription. Pray that they will encounter the Holy Spirit as they study there.

22 (MON) MYANMAR The enforcement of mandatory military service started this month.

Pray for inner strength and resilience for those facing the challenges of enforced military service.

23 (TUE) AFGHANISTAN Funding for humanitarian response plan is only 38%. Pray for more countries to respond to Afghans' needs.

24 (WED) AFGHANISTAN Ask God to strengthen the Afghan church and empower believers to be salt and light in their communities.

25 (THU) NE INDIA Pray for the safety and wisdom of our country team, which has pioneered over two hundred churches in the last two years.

26 (FRI) NE INDIA Assam has seen missionary activities and the growth of Christianity in recent years. Ask God to extend His hand over the Christian community and restrain opposition.

27/28 (SAT/SUN) NE INDIA Let us pray that the Christian community in Assam will have wisdom and discernment as they face the challenges posed by the new law that curtails their ability to pray for the sick.

29 (MON) CAMBODIA The government acknowledges Christian schools' positive contribution to society, pray that Christians will continue to be shining examples of faith and character.

30 (TUE) CAMBODIA Pray for the emergence of more dedicated leaders who will shepherd and care for new converts in their journey of faith.

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