



PRAYER FOCUS
DECEMBER 2018

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN PRAYING FOR THE NATIONS!

When Haruto* agreed to accompany his son to a local children’s Christmas event in their home city of Tokyo, he didn’t expect it to be life-changing.

The event was actually a kids’ Christmas outreach hosted by TEAM missionaries at the Christian Academy in Japan every year. The evening usually starts with a craft, a fun activity and some caroling. Then, the kids and their accompanying parents get to listen to the story of Jesus’ birth story.

It was during the storytelling that Haruto became especially intrigued.

He approached a TEAM missionary afterward and asked, **“Is that in the Bible — that Jesus was born in a manger?”**

That simple question sparked a series of conversations between Haruto and the local pastor. **Two years later, Haruto and his family have all been saved and are among the most involved members in their church.**

And it all started with a Christmas outreach.

THIS DECEMBER, WILL YOU PRAY WITH US FOR CHRISTMAS MINISTRIES LIKE THIS ONE? PRAY THAT EVEN MORE FAMILIES WILL COME TO KNOW THE LORD THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

Sun: **PRAY** that workers will organize and coordinate Christmas outreaches so everything runs smoothly.

Mon: **PRAY** that many will come to know Jesus this Advent season.

Tue: **PRAY** that people will have openings in their schedules to come to Christmas events.

Wed: **PRAY** that missionaries will be able to start relationships that grow throughout the year.

Thu: **PRAY** that this season breeds a spirit of generosity and giving among God’s people.

TURN OVER FOR MORE REQUESTS!



Fri: **PRAY** for missionaries who travel home for the holidays. Ask God to give them safety during their trips.

Sat: **ASK GOD** to ward off feelings of culture shock and homesickness for missionaries who are staying on the field during the holidays this year.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

- 1. JAPAN** | A student ministry center in Tokyo is hosting a benefit dinner soon. Things are quickly coming together, tickets are being sold, auction items are being donated, but there is still a lot left to do. Would you join us as we lift up this whole event to the Lord? Ask that His will be done, that His power is demonstrated and that He be glorified.
- 2. CZECH REPUBLIC** | This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Czech Republic becoming its own nation. On Wednesday evenings at the Ládví church, missionaries are teaching about heroes of the Czech Protestant faith and the Christian virtues that made them great. Pray that this lesson series is well received and brings many to the Lord.
- 3. ZIMBABWE** | Due to the worsening economy in Zimbabwe, any supplies that were available last month will no longer be available to our missionaries. There is no flour, oil or sugar in most stores, and bread is also limited. Any previously imported goods will become increasingly difficult to find. The significant price increases are also challenging for our Zimbabwean friends. Pray that God uses this to show His provision. Also pray for rains to be plentiful and consistent this year, as last year they were inconsistent and many crops did not succeed. Zimbabwe typically cannot produce enough food to feed all of its own people, so the unavailability of food from outside the country is a big problem.

PRAISE REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

- 1. UKRAINE** | For the past month, Kurt zurBurg has been coaching two believers in Kazakhstan who want to open their own small-scale recycling plant. Praise God for such a good step in creation care!
- 2. MEXICO** | One missionary couple met Maria* three years ago when she contacted them for English classes for her kids. Eventually, she became their English student as well. This summer, they invited Maria to their house church. She came the next Friday with her two kids and hasn't stopped coming since. She has real spiritual interest. Her husband has been coming at the end of the Bible study every week for the fellowship time. Praise God for bringing her family into our missionaries' lives!