



team
PRAYER FOCUS

MARCH 2022

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN PRAYING FOR THE NATIONS!

We've spent time the last couple of months praying for followers of world religions other than biblical Christianity, and this month we are focusing on people who identify as atheists.

Scott Andrews, a TEAM global worker involved in church planting and discipleship ministry in the Czech Republic explains. "There's a lot of diversity-of-worldview among those who would self-identify as atheists. Growing up in an American Evangelical context, I always had a specific caricature in mind when I would hear the word 'atheist' when in actuality, there are many different kinds of people who would use that label to describe themselves."

"For example," Scott continues, "many Czechs automatically identify themselves as atheists in the same way that we might see a German automatically identifying as a Lutheran, or an Italian as a Roman Catholic, or an Iraqi as a Muslim, on a basis that is more 'cultural' than 'confessional'."

Another misconception surrounding atheism is that all atheists deny the spiritual world altogether. "The label 'atheist' does not necessarily preclude openness to spiritual life and practices, nor does it mean an across-the-board rejection of any notions of the supernatural," says Scott. "Non-religious spirituality is a large and growing sector, as people who don't belong to an official organized religion still feel that spirituality is an important dimension of what it means to be human. Many who don't ascribe to belief in 'God' - at least in a Christian understanding of God - may believe in 'something' - the universe, fate, astrology, magic, ghosts, prayer, etc."

REGARDLESS OF WHERE PEOPLE FALL IN THIS MYRIAD OF MINDSETS, WE WANT TO FAITHFULLY PRAY FOR ATHEISTIC POPULATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

Sun: **PRAY** for God to begin conversations between believers and atheists that point to the Gospel.

Mon: **ASK GOD** to build relationships and trust among global workers and atheists in their community.

Tue: **PRAY** that God would soften the hearts of atheistic people to understand their need for a Savior.

Wed: **PRAY** that God would open their minds to the truth of the Gospel and let go of past misconceptions.

TURN OVER FOR MORE REQUESTS!



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Thu: **ASK GOD** to give global workers endurance and wisdom as they disentangle atheists from false ideas.

Fri: **PRAY** for God to guide atheists to Bible studies or prayer groups and begin asking the questions about a redemptive and abundant life in Christ.

Sat: **PRAISE GOD** for church communities with support systems for new believers to strengthen their faith and understanding.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

- I. SOUTHEAST ASIA** | A TEAM worker has an upcoming opportunity to relocate back to SE Asia where there are no other TEAM workers, but a support community waiting for them. COVID and politics have closed doors to some countries for the foreseeable future, but thankfully opened doors for those anxious to get back to the field and spread Christ's work more abundantly. Pray for these workers as they shift their mindset on the plans and places they intended to serve, and for comfort as they follow Christ's path set before them.
- 2. ZIMBABWE** | A new tool called the Chatterbox was recently released to bring theology and education resources to rural communities. Imagine a plastic box about the size of a shoe box, filled with a small computer, rechargeable battery, solar panel, and wireless router. Materials ranging from theology classes, to the "JESUS" film, to Wikipedia are loaded onto the Chatterbox and are accessible via WiFi to any device within range. As local churches distribute Chatterboxes to schools and communities, a new avenue opens to share the Gospel message and extend the Church's reach into people's lives in a new way. Pray for a successful rollout and fruitful responses.

PRAISE REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD:

- I. ITALY** | Alba, a new safe house and recovery program, is launching soon and will be home to women who have escaped trafficking and are ready to write a new life story! The core team has been confirmed and approved to move forward. The skill development and education program within Alba will help develop transferable and practical life skills that set each participant up for a successful independent life. Praise God for this resource that will be available to women in Italy!
- 2. SOUTH ASIA** | In a rural location, the work undertaken by global workers decades ago is now bearing fruit. The native people are now hearing and heeding the call to leave their culture to share the good news. What makes their stories unique and their call so strategic is that due to their passport country, familiarity with multiple languages and what is often called a "near culture" affinity, they can go to places where it is impossible or problematic to send Westerners. One location graduates 1,500 people from seminaries every year. The local church has a desire to send many into the nearby places that are some of the most difficult to enter and contain almost no local expression of Christ. Praise God for workers with the same cultural background as people they are trying to reach.

**The names of the people you've helped may be changed to protect their privacy.*

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