

#### **MARCH 2023**

#### TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL - PRAYING FOR ASIA

Despite persecution, political unrest, and economic upheaval, the Gospel is spreading in Asia. How can we, as the global Body of Christ, pray together for the Church in Asia? Here are five ways:

#### 1. PRAY for self-sustaining, growing churches.

TEAM Asia global workers report the formation of new congregations everywhere from large cities to remote villages. The Gospel is touching areas and people groups that have long been unreachable.

Pray that these bodies of believers will stand solidly on the Word of God and grow in wisdom and knowledge of Him.

## 2. PRAY for God to continue to build on ministries borne out of COVID restrictions.

For many of us in the West, pandemic restrictions are beginning to fade from our memories. But in parts of Asia, lockdowns and other regulations are just recently easing. Amazingly, God used the unique challenges of COVID to grow His Church in Asia in amazing ways.

Pray that believers will continue to find Spirit-led ways to adapt and thrive in ministry in an ever-changing post-COVID world.

## 3. PRAY for Christians facing persecution and/or political violence in Asia.

Approximately 2 out of 5 Christians in Asia face religious persecution. A new believer in Christ is frequently cast out from his or her home, family, and community. Persecution comes also from government entities or political factions when Christians faithfully meet together despite laws prohibiting such gatherings. Many Christians (and others) in Asia find themselves in the midst of other kinds of violence as well.

Pray for the Lord to bring peace, protection, and provision to those facing persecution and other forms of oppression and violence.

# 4. PRAY for God to raise up Asian workers, and for Western churches and workers to embrace the role of "partner."

No longer is cross-cultural mission work a primarily Western endeavor. God is clearly raising up ambassadors of the Gospel "from everywhere, to everywhere" and Asia is no exception. In the last few months alone, TEAM has partnered with multiple groups of workers and mobilizers in Asian nations.

Pray for Asian believers to hear the call to missions and for TEAM and other traditionally-western entities to effectively come alongside polycentric sending movements.

## 5. PRAY for continued Gospel response!

Though many are coming to Christ in Asia, 60% of people living in Asia are still considered unreached. In some areas, whole villages are responding to the Gospel like never before. Yet other areas and nations remain steeped in spiritual darkness.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to pour out on these regions, that we may get a glimpse of the promise in Revelation 7:9, where we will behold people "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."