

A Prayer a Day for
EAST ASIAN PEOPLES

2020 PRAYER CALENDAR



imb

POWERFUL AND PREVAILING PRAYER FOR PEOPLE, PLACES, AND PERSONNEL

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect” (James 5:16).

The prayers of righteous people are “powerful,” which comes from a Greek word meaning, “in its working.” Where there is no or little prayer, there is no power to effect change. We have to continually put forth the energy and our prayers must keep working if they are going to be powerful. The prayers of righteous people are also effective—they are strong, energetic, and able to accomplish much.

We need powerful and effective prayers to unmask the deception of the evil one so that the light of the glorious gospel will penetrate the darkness among East Asian peoples. We need powerful and effective prayers to demolish strongholds of resistance so that no obstacle will impede the progress of the gospel.

I want to compel you to pray with a burden for the people of East Asia. Labor with us for their salvation.

Standing in the gap,

Steven M. Ellis
Affinity Group Leader
East Asian Peoples



DIRECTIONS

Entries in this calendar come from the prayers of many workers in East Asia. As you pray you will learn about



holidays celebrated among East Asian people groups,



strongholds that hopelessly bind people (monthly Day of Prayer and Fasting),



birthdays of workers among the East Asian peoples (names changed),



major countries where East Asians live, and



people groups that are currently unengaged with the gospel.

As you journey in prayer with us, may your heart be broken for the lost and may you rejoice in what God is doing among East Asians. If you would like more information on people groups, places, or prayer, email us at **eastasiaprayer@pobox.com**.

All Scripture references are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.





Mongolia

China

*South
Korea*

Japan

Taiwan

POPULATIONS

- China: 1.41 billion (2019)
- Japan: 127.1 million (2019)
- Mongolia: 3.09 million (2019)
- South Korea: 51.1 million (2019)
- Taiwan: 23.7 million (2019)

1

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY
2020

As a new year dawns, many East Asians will try to fulfill new hopes and dreams, only to find that these are constantly changing and difficult to satisfy. Many will do what they can to find peace within family, in the world, and with the spirits. Yet peace remains just beyond their reach. Offerings made to various gods and ancestors may bring temporary feelings of peace, but they must be repeated monthly or annually.

Pray that this year a multitude of East Asians will find true hope in Jesus, the only source of lasting peace. Pray they will do whatever it takes to make this truth their own.



Karen, Carly

2

THURSDAY
JANUARY
2020



Many East Asian countries acknowledge January 1 as a holiday, but in South Korea, people celebrate with unique traditions. On this day Koreans greet each other with, “Many blessings be upon you in the new year,” and eat *tteokguk* (sliced rice cakes in soup). The younger generations bow before their grandparents, parents, and older relatives in a traditional Korean style known as *sebae* and are blessed with good wishes and words of wisdom. Children and the elderly receive gifts of money. Friends and family also play games like *yutnori*, a traditional Korean board game for all ages.

Pray Korean Christians will share the message of eternal salvation in Jesus Christ with family and friends as they gather to celebrate the new year. Pray the Korean Church will be a blessing to the nations.



Lee, Anna, Yi, Steven

3

FRIDAY
JANUARY
2020

In 1 Corinthians 3:5 Paul writes, “What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given.” I despised being assigned to a middle seat on a budget airline. It had been a long day and I was exhausted—I just wanted to read comfortably. However, by the Father’s providence, Julia* sat on my left and was extremely open to the gospel. The following morning the Father convicted me of despising the “middle seat” and scorning the divine appointment he had arranged for me—his servant—an instrument to lead people to saving faith.

Pray the Lord will help you be faithful to the opportunities he sends your way.

* Name changed



Ahn, Pyung, Joy

4

SATURDAY
JANUARY
2020

“I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2b NIV). Join us as we pray for 2020 to be the year of God’s favor on the people of East Asia.

Pray: Sing a new song to the Lord! Sing his praises from Japan to western China! Sing, all you who sail the seas, and live in distant coastlands or high on the mountains. Join in the chorus, you megacities and rural villages. Rejoice! Let the East Asian peoples sing for joy, let them shout praises from every corner of the earth! Let them say to their idols, “You are not our gods,” as they cast them aside and join in the praises to the God of heaven.



none

5

SUNDAY
JANUARY
2020

Christians in East Asia must often separate from family and friends. They can face loneliness and anxiety as they try to reconcile filial piety and following Jesus against the wishes of parents.

Pray East Asian Christians will cast their anxieties on God because he cares for them. Pray they find rest in God alone and trust him to supply their every need as their “Father of mercies and God of all comfort” (2 Cor 1:3). Pray they experience his presence, kindness, compassion, and abounding mercy. Pray Christians will run to God for answers and not seek temporary fixes when they face doubt, indecision, weakness, or fear.



Bonnie

6

MONDAY
JANUARY
2020

Many Chinese Christians are zealous to reach the world with the gospel but have overlooked the twenty-two million Muslims inside their own country. The racial barriers between the Han and Chinese Muslims are great. But one thing is certain: God cares deeply for these unique people groups and longs for them to know about his love for them. He has not forgotten them.

Passionately pray for the salvation of Chinese Muslims. Pray God will call his people to plant their lives among these who have yet to believe. Ask God to build his church among them.



none

7

TUESDAY
JANUARY
2020

The fifteen million Hui are the largest and most widespread of China's Muslim nationalities. They are the third largest minority group in China, and only .0001 percent of Hui know Christ. You can often recognize the men by their prayer caps and the women by their head scarves. Very few Christians are intentionally planting their lives among the Hui to tell them about Christ. More Hui people are dying daily than are hearing the gospel. They are in desperate need of more laborers to boldly proclaim the gospel and reap the harvest that God has prepared.

Pray the Hui will hear of God's gift of salvation through Christ that is offered to them, believe, and grow deep in their faith.



Bruce, Max, Dana, Hanna, Garrett, Joy

8

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY
2020

Village Christians hiked into the mountains and met a woman feeding hogs. She asked the visitors to sit and rest with her. When they asked if she wanted to hear a story, she said, "Of course." The woman listened intently to an MP3 recording of the gospel story. She shook her head with worry when she heard about Satan tricking the woman in the garden, laughed when she heard about Jesus feeding thousands with just a few fish and loaves, and was quiet when she heard about Jesus dying on the cross. When the story was finished, she asked, "Can Jesus really speak my language?" The woman received the MP3 as a gift and eagerly asked family and friends to listen with her.

Pray many villagers throughout the mountains will receive God's message.



Jene, Jane, Abraham, Mirian, Barb

9

THURSDAY
JANUARY
2020

Missions College is an annual opportunity for pastors and church members to learn more about the missionary task, share experiences, and encourage one another. For four days they gather in Virginia, to dialogue, receive training, and network.

This year at least seventy-five attendees are East Asia-focused. Pray they will be ready and willing to bring the Good News to the 1.7 billion East Asians living throughout the world. Pray those attending will be challenged as well as encouraged, and that these efforts will be multiplied as churches begin to practice what they learn.



none

10

FRIDAY
JANUARY
2020

Our children have grown and moved away from home but as their parents, we are still concerned about their health and well-being. We often pray that our children will have mature Christian friends who will encourage them in their walks with the Lord. When they face challenging circumstances, we pray God will teach and guide them. It is very difficult to be so far away from them when they walk through hard times.

Please remember to pray for missionaries' families—specifically their children who live in America—to be strong in the Lord.



Shannon, Curtis, Virginia, Elaine

11

SATURDAY
JANUARY
2020



Coming of Age Day is celebrated annually in Japan on the second Monday of January. This national holiday was established in 1948 as a day to congratulate and encourage young people who have reached the age of maturity, considered to be 20 years old, within the past calendar year. Women celebrate by wearing kimonos with long sleeves rather than the short-sleeved ones married and “mature” women wear. Cities and towns throughout the nation hold ceremonies for these young people, welcoming them into adulthood.

As young people prepare for this big day on Monday, please join us in praying, “Lord, draw young adults to yourself and help them to realize becoming mature doesn’t have to do with being able to vote, drive a car, drink, or smoke but making the wise decision to follow you.”



Dan, Mack

12

SUNDAY
JANUARY
2020

Lord, we come before you today and pray that your glory will appear in East Asia for all of humanity to see. We pray the valleys will be lifted up, the mountains leveled, the uneven ground made smooth, and the rough places, a plain (Isaiah 40:4-5). God, illuminate hearts in East Asia, awaken sleeping souls that have become numb to your calling. Draw them into your presence, wrap them in your love. Stir revival fires in the lives of your children—fires that will burn brightly throughout the year, melt cold hearts, and burn away years of lies and deception. We will do our part to pray, trusting you for the results.



Grace, Owen

13

MONDAY
JANUARY
2020



Day of Prayer and Fasting: Idol Worship

Ancient civilizations like those in East Asia are often bound by ancient strongholds. Across Japan, Korea, China, and into the East Asian Diaspora, lies have deceived the hearts, minds, and souls of the majority of people. We see one form of idol worship in the golden replicas of gods. The Bible asks the question, “Who but a fool would make his own god” (Isaiah 44:10 NLT). Their eyes are closed so they cannot see and their minds are shut so they cannot think that the thing they worship is just a block of wood covered in gold. Yet God is calling them out of darkness into his glorious light.

Pray their eyes will be opened to the truth that God knows them, loves them, and has paid the price to set them free.



Bob

14

TUESDAY
JANUARY
2020

In Takasaki, Japan, a church plant has been steadily growing. The church meets in the office of a local Christian’s business but is beginning to outgrow the space. The church is encouraged by the interest of the Japanese locals and they trust that God will continue to draw more. However, they will not be able to meet in this venue for much longer. The local believers want to study Scripture more deeply and share more with their neighbors, family, and friends, as well as have a place of worship to which they can invite them.

Ask that God will provide a new place for the church plant to meet. Pray the church leaders, Japanese Christians, and missionaries will have wisdom and endurance through the next phases of the church plant.



Selah

15

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY
2020

Tibetan Buddhism is an animistic practice with a layer of Buddhism placed over it. Tibetans acknowledge the Buddhist concepts of karma, reincarnation, and the “Four Noble Truths:” suffering exists, arises from attachment to desires, ceases when attachments to desires cease, and is binding unless the “Noble Eightfold Path” is practiced. However, most of their time is spent seeking to appease the host of spirits, demons, and impersonal forces that plague their daily existence. Tibetans live in wall-less prisons as fears hold them captive.

Pray they hear and believe that Jesus came to declare freedom for the prisoner and to set the oppressed free. Pray many will be set free from the chains that bind them and find the freedom to enjoy life with God.



Lis

16

THURSDAY
JANUARY
2020

A famine threatens millions of an un-reached people group. It's estimated that 40 percent of the population is already impacted. Natural disasters caused a serious reduction in crop harvests.

Pray for the people who complain that they can't think clearly during the day and fall asleep hungry at night. Ask for healthy crops and a bountiful harvest this year. Pray the authorities will allow increased assistance from outside organizations with food and medical aid. Please also pray these people will have the opportunity to hear the gospel and find hope in Jesus Christ.



David, Gabriel, Emily, Mark, Peter

17

FRIDAY
JANUARY
2020

When Baptist churches in Tokyo began after World War II, some reached out to students, some started kindergartens to reach young families, and others offered a place to practice English with native speakers. Today, churches there still draw students, families, and children. One holds a second evening worship service, one uses music to connect with senior adults, and one hosts a monthly medical café for those who have experienced cancer or known someone with cancer. Another church opens its doors to businessmen once a month to talk about various topics. The kindergarten of another church continues to bring in a new generation of children.

Pray all these churches will experience the leading of God's hand. Ask the Lord for new visions for the pastors as they seek to share the gospel throughout the city.



Brad

18

SATURDAY
JANUARY
2020



The Pingdi Yao, or the “Yao of the flatlands,” live in areas not often visited by outsiders. In generations past, they were forced to these remote places where today they are rice farmers. The Pingdi Yao believe in a god of creation, but they do not know the Creator God. They have stories of a great flood but don't know the God who caused and calmed the flood. Of the 1.6 million Pingdi Yao, only 400 are Christians.

Pray for people to tell them about the God who parted the sea, brought the flood, rules the world with great power, and loves them with an everlasting love. God's arm is not too short, nor is he hard of hearing. Pray the Pingdi Yao will cry out to him today, turn to him, trust in him, and be saved.



Jinwoo, Reggie, James, Young

19

SUNDAY
JANUARY
2020

“Life is so busy—how can I minister to people when I can hardly get a moment to commune with God myself? Churches are being persecuted all around me—how can I stand strong for those I lead, and suffer well? I have so much to learn—how am I supposed to teach when I still feel so inadequate?” Pastors in East Asia are inundated with questions about the souls of men, overwhelmed with the task, and burdened for the lost around them. There’s so much at stake.

Pray for the Bible-saturated development of these precious servants of God. Ask that the Father will supply and meet every one of their needs in Christ Jesus their Lord. Ask that God will give them eyes of faith and hearts of courage to stand for the kingdom and win souls.



Jenna

20

MONDAY
JANUARY
2020

As she explored a World Heritage Site, a man handed her a Bible in her own language. This year, 150 million East Asians will travel worldwide as tourists, students, and workers. Imagine what could happen if everywhere they went Christians welcomed them, shared the Good News with them, and equipped them with their own Bibles. This is the vision of the Southern Cross Project.

Pray many East Asians will come to faith as missionaries and volunteers work together to hand out Bibles and Christian literature. Pray God will give wisdom about how and where to best engage the lost who are traveling to countries with religious freedom. Ask that as we go, we will usher in John’s revelation of a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language truly worshiping before the Lamb.



Charles

21

TUESDAY
JANUARY
2020



Mongolia is a peaceful country with a distinctive culture. Geographically, it sits atop China and south of Russia. Mongolia is the most sparsely populated country in the world—nearly 73 percent of the population lives in major cities. The remaining 27 percent are rural people who earn a living through livestock, agriculture, or mining. Many follow a nomadic or semi-nomadic lifestyle. The Mongolian church has a vision to take the gospel to every country that was a part of Genghis Khan's great Mongolian Empire.

Pray God will call men and women to go into the harvest fields of Mongolia and beyond. As they take God's light into the world, pray for an unwavering commitment to preach the Word and that they may joyfully finish the course and ministry they have received from the Lord Jesus (Acts 20:24).



James, Grace, Grae, Lee, Liz

22

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY
2020



The Kalmyk-Oirat are a branch of the Mongolian people who follow a religion that is a mix of Tibetan Buddhism, Taoism, and ancestor worship. Forms of black magic have been practiced for hundreds of years, and every New Year their prayers are offered up to Okeen Tenger, their female spirit protector. Less than .5 percent are Christians. Major community activities include dancing, a tradition that is being passed on to the youth within the family or through apprenticeship.

O Lord, your Good News is veiled to the Kalmyk-Oirat who are perishing. The god of this world has blinded their minds. Open their eyes to see your glory. Raise up mature Christians who will pass their faith to the next generation.



none

23

THURSDAY
JANUARY
2020

Shamanism is a belief in gods, demons, and ancestral spirits. It was the religion of ancient Korea and is still one of the major religions in South Korea. In the 1970s and 1980s, the South Korean government set anti-superstition policies that forbade traditional religion. But recently shamanism has resurged and grown in popularity. Related to shamanism is fortune-telling, or divination, which includes tarot cards, *gwansang* (fortune telling through facial characteristics), and *saju* (the prediction of one's future based on birthdate). Tarot card and *saju* readers can easily be found in the regions of Hongdae and Sinchon, where Korean young people commonly hang out.

Cry out to the Lord to open the spiritual eyes and ears of Koreans to see the light and hear the truth. Pray Koreans will be redeemed for his inheritance and possession.



Rosalie, Jay

24

FRIDAY
JANUARY
2020



Today is Lunar New Year's Eve, which occurs annually between late January and late February. It is a family-focused holiday celebrated by Koreans and Chinese who typically travel to their hometowns at least for the eve and the first day. For traditional families, it is a busy time for the women as they prepare meals, beginning with dinner on the eve. They also prepare food for the ancestral rites on the first morning of the new year. Many use the long holiday to go overseas for vacation.

Pray for the many broken and hurting families in China and Korea as they gather for this holiday. Pray they will find healing and solace in our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray Christians will model Christ-like forgiveness and reconciliation.



Naomi, Becca, Eul Sook

25

SATURDAY
JANUARY
2020



In many countries with large Chinese populations, today is the first day of the Lunar New Year and the beginning of Spring Festival. In Korea they call it gujeong. For many it is a time for new clothes, clean houses, an abundance of food, and hong baos, or gifts of red envelopes with money inside. One common tradition during the weeklong holiday is to paste new couplets—red banners with good thoughts written on them—around the front door, very much like the Israelites did with lamb's blood at the first Passover.

Pray for Chinese throughout the world to know that these good thoughts will never protect them and cannot guarantee peace. Pray they will place their faith in Jesus, whose blood still covers us and who is our peace.



Jeremiah, Baibai

26

SUNDAY
JANUARY
2020

Chen Tao*, the pastor of an urban house church, carries a huge burden. His fledgling congregation looks to him to provide wisdom, counsel, and encouragement. Sometimes the expectations feel too high and the load too heavy. He needs help, not just for the care of the flock, but for his personal life. He and his wife, Xu Mei*, have argued almost every night this past week. His kids often disobey. Their home is cold, devoid of joy, laughter, and intimacy. Chen Tao and Xu Mei are not alone—national pastors often complain about being overworked and desperate, both for the people they are leading and for themselves.

Pray for pastors and their families to experience revival and transformation. Pray they will find the help and resources they need to bring their marriages and families in line with biblical truth.

* Name changed



Daniel

27

MONDAY
JANUARY
2020

Southern Taiwan is known for its beautiful waterfalls and white sand beaches. However, it is also known for the many large and elaborate Buddhist and Daoist temples. Ninety-five percent of people living in southern Taiwan follow after false gods or ancestor worship. The churches are small with few youth attending. There is a desperate need for God's Spirit to move in his people and compel them to reach out to their neighbors with the love of Christ. There are forty university campuses in southern Taiwan with students who seek truth. Today's students are key to Taiwan's next generation of Christian leaders.

Please pray that God will reveal himself to these students and that they will follow him. Pray that one day a great multitude of peoples in southern Taiwan will give all glory and worship to Jesus Christ.



none

28

TUESDAY
JANUARY
2020

The small northern Japan towns of Kamaishi and Otsuchi were devastated in the 2011 tsunami. Hundreds of Christians joined in the recovery efforts immediately after, and for more than eight years Christians from all over the world have showered God's love on the people who live there. Yet the traditional Japanese Buddhist traditions remain especially strong—the people cannot imagine being anything other than Buddhist. God is stronger, and we rejoice as two people were baptized this past summer. Currently two groups meet monthly to hear a Bible message. People have gospel conversations and receive prayer during home visits. A few ladies meet to read the Bible together.

Praise God that because of recovery efforts many have heard the gospel message. Pray that these efforts in bringing the gospel to these dear people will now bear much fruit.



Catherine

29

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY
2020

“It’s my duty,” is often said in East Asia. People sell homes in other countries and move back to care for parents because, “It’s my duty.” People follow the beliefs and customs of their parents and worship idols and ancestors because, “It’s my duty.” Christian daughters-in-law help prepare food for ancestral offerings because, “It’s my duty.” Unfortunately, Christians also bring this attitude into their relationship with God. They read the Bible and pray because they have been told it is their duty. But duty is often something done grudgingly and will never create thirst for God. Thus, reading his Word and praying is not a delight but a chore.

Pray Christians will discover the joy of God’s presence, and the fullness of life and freedom that his presence brings. Pray they will rest in him and not be shaken.



Jan, James

30

THURSDAY
JANUARY
2020

East Asians live in many places throughout North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and South and Central Asia. Most of these people have never heard of how they can have a life-saving, personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out more workers into this ripe harvest field. Pray for those already making disciples among East Asians, that they will be faithful and fruitful, and will persevere in the work of the gospel. Pray new Christians will share the gospel with locals where they live. Pray they will become effective disciple-makers across cultures, especially among unreached peoples. Pray East Asian youth will respond to God’s call to make disciples of all peoples.



Oscar

31

FRIDAY
JANUARY
2020



Community is something we long for, and it is often good. But community can also keep us trapped in traditions and superstitions, like those the Ga Mong people believe. Nearly every home has an altar where they make offerings and pray to ancestors and family spirits. The Ga Mong people consider any action that may offend ancestors a serious offense that could bring disaster on a household. Following a new belief like Christianity could be one such action. The pull of community is strong but God's Spirit is stronger, and he has placed the desire for an eternal community in our hearts.

Pray for many Ga Mong to find new community in Christ while still being a positive witness to their families. Pray this true community will bring a peace and freedom that is visible to all to see.



Hannah

1

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Jeju Island is located south of the Korean peninsula. It is home to South Korea's highest mountain, Hallasan, a shield volcano 1.95 kilometers (6,400 feet) high. The Gotjawal Forest has a unique ecology and contains the main water source for the island's residents. With its exquisite beaches, waterfalls, nature trails, lava tubes, and a moderate climate, Jeju Island is a "must-go" holiday destination for both Korean and foreign tourists. The 660,000 local residents speak a language distinct from Korean. Native female divers known as haenyeo harvest oysters, abalone, clams, and seaweed. The majority of the people here are shamanistic.

Pray the people in Jeju will awaken spiritually to worship the Creator God who deserves to be praised for all his awesome works on the island.



Esther

2

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

A policewoman asked her neighbors to teach the Bible to her son who was having an emotional breakdown. As a detective, she had observed that Christians are loving and willing to serve the hurting. Police officers in China are often confronted with darkness, not only in society, but also in the lives of their coworkers and their families. Some of these men and women are searching for meaning and are being drawn to the light. At the same time, some are being forced to persecute and arrest Christians.

Please pray that police officers in China will be moved by the faithful witness of Christians and would be drawn to Christ. Pray those who are seeking after God will be given faith and courage to follow him no matter the cost.



none

3

MONDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Plans are underway for a coffeehouse tent that offers free iced coffee and conversation with both Japanese and foreign volunteers for the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics. Preparation includes securing a venue in an opportune location for the right price. God knows the exact place that this coffeehouse tent will be, and he will open the right doors to the planning committee.

Pray the coffeehouse venue will allow Christians to have many gospel-centered conversations with guests. Pray the location will be found quickly, and that the needed funds to obtain this venue would be given through the existing Lottie Moon Challenge.



Kristi, Chloe

4

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Unprecedented natural disasters that caused injury and death in East Asia left the people of one community afraid. They began to pray, even though many of them claim no religion. However, they weren't praying to God. One worker recalled Paul's words: "What you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it . . . has made every nationality to live over the whole earth . . . so they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find Him" (Acts 17: 23b-27).

Please pray for the salvation of this community. Pray the people will turn from fear-motivated prayers to an unknown god, to peace-motivated prayers to the Creator God through his Son, Jesus Christ.



Mike, Isaac, Jacob

5

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Japanese people sometimes consider anyone who talks to them about religion to be a cult member. To confront this issue, Jonah* has been reading the Bible weekly with one of the leaders of a local cult that teaches Jesus is an angel, not God. Through these readings and discussions, Jonah has shared the gospel with the cult leader who wants to learn more.

Pray the Lord will reveal to him the true meaning of the gospel through these weekly meetings of Bible reading. Pray he will choose to follow the Jesus of the Bible and escape the hold of this cult that misleads him and many others.

* Name changed



none

6

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY
2020



God's Word has yet to produce much visible fruit among the Northern Dong. Prior to 1949, Christians shared the truth and built churches, but the gospel never took a firm hold. God promises that his Word that goes from his mouth always accomplishes what he desires (Isaiah 55:11). We might not know who currently struggles with the decision to take up his cross and follow Jesus, but we know God's Word is at work.

Pray this year the gospel seeds that were planted will take root and grow. Pray the heart struggle will be over, and the Lord's victory will be evident in the lives of many. Pray this is the year of salvation for the Northern Dong people.



Addison, Bo-Bae

7

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Praise God for a new Tibetan brother who chose to follow Christ! After years of faithful prayer and evangelism, this young man has begun to openly share that he is a Christian. He is regularly studying the Bible, learning to pray, and sharing his faith. When Tibetan Christians share their testimonies, many describe a long and difficult journey to faith. They often must overcome persecution from their communities and families, the loss of connection with their traditional culture and beliefs, and the challenges of understanding the Bible in their own language. The angels rejoice each time the Holy Spirit breaks through the many barriers to save another Tibetan.

Pray this young man will continue to faithfully walk with Jesus. Ask that he will be the fragrance of the gospel in his family and community.



Grace, Rebecca

8

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

The Bai people of southwest China celebrate the Third Month Festival on the 15th day of the Chinese lunar calendar. The origins of the holiday are unclear, but the Bai people are happy to claim it as one of the distinctive elements of their traditional culture. Third Month Festival is similar to a local fair. Merchants from as far south as Myanmar, all the way up to Tibet, descend on Dali to sell their indigenous products and showcase their cultural arts. For one week the streets overflow with people from morning to midnight. As this is the largest annual gathering of Bai people, this is an excellent time for local Christians to share the gospel.

Please pray they will have the burden and the boldness to share the Good News throughout this special holiday.



Tama, Jonathan

9

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

“The Lord of Hosts says this: ‘In those days, men from nations of every language will grab the robe of a Jewish man tightly, urging: Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you’” (Zechariah 8:23). Christians in East Asia often have difficulty being different from the world. It is much easier to be like everyone else. It is easier to be quiet than to speak out for Jesus. This obviously affects their witness and causes people to wonder what exactly it means to be Christian.

Pray Christians will resemble Jesus so others will notice and desire him for themselves. Pray their peace, love, and joy is contagious to those around them. May people truly say to these Christians, “Let us go with you because God is with you.”



Ellie

10

MONDAY
FEBRUARY
2020



Day of Prayer and Fasting: Materialism

As disposable incomes increase across East Asia, the obsession with “more” is plain to see. The Bible teaches in Mark 4:19 that the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the Word, which causes Christians to become unfruitful. Satan has blinded many to think that they will be content if they just have more of whatever they are chasing. Materialism is the opposite of contentment because human desire is never satisfied (Proverbs 27:20). Only God can truly satisfy.

Pray Christians will put God’s kingdom first, trust in his provision, and set a good example by loving God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Pray people will be released from materialism’s grip and set free to hear from God.



none

11

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY
2020



The Dzalakha (“Za-la-ca”) people of Bhutan worship lifeless idols. They continue to work for something with no sure guarantee of receiving it when what they desire—eternal forgiveness—is being offered freely to them. Why? Perhaps it is because of habit, customs, or fear of the unknown. In one town, the Dzalakha believe that if you make it to the top of a certain mountain, the sins you have committed to that point will be forgiven. Few have ever heard of Jesus, who died for their past, present, and future sins. They diligently pursue fleeting peace when lasting peace is a heart change away.

Pray they will understand that Jesus offers what they are seeking, turn to him, and be saved.



Olivia

12

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

I was on a bus in a large East Asian city traveling in the direction of the city financial center. Most of the people in their forties and fifties wore well-known designer brands of professional business attire. Virtually everyone on the bus was looking down at a smart phone. Some people seemed to be playing games, others were texting, and many were reading the news.

Pray these professionals will bow their heads more often for prayer to their Creator than to look at their phones. Pray Christian apps will point professional businessmen and women to Christ.



Melissa, Esther

13

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Ethnic East Asians live around the world as immigrants. Matthew 24:14 states, “This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come.” This is an exciting promise coupled with a huge responsibility.

Pray missionaries will intentionally invest in, teach, and encourage East Asian immigrants. Pray Christians will disciple them to obey Christ in all things, including the call of God to share the gospel. Ask that the Lord, who created and subsequently scattered these people around the world, will also instill in them the urgency and joy of joining him in his Great Commission with a vision to reach the nations in our lifetime. Pray, too, that the Lord of the harvest will raise up these dispersed peoples to become the largest missionary-sending movement in history.



Andy

14

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Praise God for the partnership developed with Vincent*, a brother whose family is working to plant churches among the Chinese in Hong Kong. This community has formed from those who, like Vincent, moved to Hong Kong from China, and now find themselves living in a land of more religious freedom where they finally have an opportunity to hear the Good News. They need more people like Vincent and his wife who have a vision to engage them with the gospel.

Please pray for the church that has started meeting in Vincent's home. This small gathering is the first Mandarin-speaking house church in their neighborhood. They hope to reproduce churches throughout Hong Kong as they seek to ensure that the ever-growing number of new Chinese residents have an opportunity to hear and receive the Good News.

* Name changed



Anita

15

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

I grew up in the city. As a result, I am very accustomed to Han Chinese people and their ways. In fact, many of my friends are Han. Although my husband is Hui, his mother is Han. I do not wear a head covering and honestly do not think much about my religion. Of course, I do not eat pork, and I enjoy celebrating our Muslim holidays. I have heard about Jesus and what Christians believe. If I believed this, even though my family is not very devout, they would disown me. I was born a Muslim, and therefore must stay a Muslim.

Pray Hui people who are indifferent to Islam will see their need for a Savior and turn to Jesus. Pray they will count the cost and know that following Jesus is worth losing everything.



Simeon, Aaron

16

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Leaders of nations can hinder or help their people to know, love, and follow God. When King Josiah hears the words of the law in 2 Kings 22, he tears his robes and cries before God. He knows his nation has not loved and obeyed the Lord and understands the consequences of their parting from his commandments. Immediately, King Josiah responds with faith and action and leads the people back to God.

Pray for East Asian country leaders who hinder their people from knowing God and hearing the gospel. Pray these leaders will miraculously hear or read the gospel and respond with faith and action like King Josiah did and lead their people to love and obey God.



Amy

17

MONDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

The state of Johor in Malaysia has approximately one million East Asians who are only 2 percent reached with the gospel. All the major cities here lack churches. Limited laborers present the greatest obstacle to starting new ministry opportunities among this massive population. However, God is not limited in power or resources. Our obstacles become small when given to him to resolve.

Pray workers will sow gospel seeds and faithfully gather the harvest. Pray God will open the hearts of East Asians to receive Jesus and that he will provide the needed resources for them to grow in the knowledge of who he is. Pray for soft hearts among the East Asians living in Johor so they can experience freedom in Christ.



none

18

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Christians advocated for a people group to receive the basic education they desperately needed. The local officials said they lacked the resources and couldn't help. The Christians kept asking God to provide for the educational and spiritual needs of the people. These workers and their partners felt led to find a place where they could provide the necessary instruction. God blessed this plan and now the local officials have formally recognized the center as an educational facility for the people group. Hallelujah!

Pray for God's wisdom, guidance, and safety for the workers, their partners, and the students. Ask for the Lord's continued provision to keep this unique school operational so people both young and old can study basic educational subjects as well as learn what it means to be a Christian.



none

19

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

A couple who had recently arrived in their new home looked for a place to eat as they walked down the village street at dusk. The wife excitedly recognized some familiar produce—tomatoes. This led to them meeting the Tibetan couple selling the produce. The Tibetan couple now considers them family. They heard the stories of creation, the rainbow, Christmas, and our risen Lord. The Tibetan husband asked his wife, “Are you going to believe in Jesus?” She is thinking deeply about this decision, the effect it will have on her family, and the ostracism that may come from their community. The cost is definite.

Please pray for this family and others like them. Pray for God to remove any faith-blocking hindrances to the gospel and open their eyes to see the power of our eternal life-giving Father through the sacrifice of Jesus.



Evelynn, Enoch

20

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

One of the greatest challenges for Chinese Christians is learning how to deepen their relationship with Jesus through a daily quiet time. Daily prayer and study of the Scriptures is essential to the growth of young faith, yet many never learn how to have a quiet time. Thus, young Chinese Christians feel unable to study the Bible on their own and often remain confused about how to pray to God as a Christian.

Pray Chinese pastors will be convicted of the need to train their flock in basic Bible study skills and Christian prayer. Pray mature Christians will pursue opportunities to model these spiritual disciplines. Pray God will burden the hearts of Chinese Christians to know him deeper through daily quiet time.



Sally, Lamar

21

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

US missionary Dr. Horace Allen arrived to Korea in 1884. Then, Horace Underwood, Henry Appenzeller, and Mary Scranton arrived in 1885. Allen and Underwood laid the foundation for Severance Hospital and Yonsei University, which are both well respected today. Appenzeller founded Paichai University. Scranton is the founder of the highly-ranked Ewha University, the world's largest women's university. These institutions still hold to Christian values and can have a tremendous positive impact for the gospel, even though cynicism toward the church grows among young people.

Pray for the good work of these institutions and many like them. Ask that the leaders will continue on in the spirit of the founders to proclaim God's love.



Jack, Mindy

22

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
2020



Mongolians have celebrated Tsagaan Sar, which literally means, “White Moon,” or, “White Month,” since the 13th century. They believe that all negativity passes away with the previous year and the coming year is “white” and “clean.” This holiday also signifies the beginning of spring on the lunar calendar. Two very important traditions surrounding Tsagaan Sar are honoring elders and showing hospitality. During the three-day holiday, people who visit homes are served an abundance of dairy products and steamed dumplings filled with meat. Gifts are also exchanged.

As families and friends gather, ask God to give Christians boldness to share the gospel, and for hearts to be open to receive their witness. Pray God will reveal that only he can truly make things white and clean, and that salvation is found only through Jesus.



Dennis, Victoria, Paul, Christine, Sandy

23

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY
2020



The Emperor’s Birthday is celebrated in Japan on this day each year. The birthday of the reigning emperor has been a national holiday since 1868. It is one of the most important holidays for Japanese citizens. The Imperial Palace, where the emperor and empress live, is restricted to the general public except on this day. The emperor will often say a few words of gratitude from his balcony to the thousands who gather to wish him a happy birthday and wave miniature Japanese flags.

Pray as countless Japanese are able to enter into the presence of their emperor without restriction on his birthday, that millions of Japanese will rapidly make their way to the throne room of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Pray they will joyfully seek his presence through faith in Jesus Christ.



Brian

24

MONDAY
FEBRUARY
2020



Losar, the Tibetan Lunar New Year celebration, is one of the most widely celebrated Tibetan holidays. From a religious perspective, the arrival of a new year represents casting off bad memories from the past year and chasing away evil spirits to ensure good luck in the coming year. Lucky symbols and propitious activities are important to Tibetans during this time.

Please pray that their eyes will open to see the Lord who holds the future. Pray they will understand that if the Creator of the universe is on their side, they have nothing to fear.



Tony, Lily, Michael

25

TUESDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

East Asians are everywhere in the European Union. They include immigrants who arrived years ago looking for a better life, recently relocated workers with big national companies, small business entrepreneurs, students, and a great host of tourists that come every year. In France, England, Spain, Germany, Italy, and Greece, Mandarin-speaking evangelical churches are well established and continue to slowly multiply. Many of these churches have hearts for missions and desire to be involved in missions but take little action. Second-generation East Asians in Europe prefer local languages, which presents both a challenge and an opportunity to the ethnic churches since they have already crossed language and culture barriers.

Pray East Asian Christians, and especially second-generation Christians, will boldly and effectively be witnesses for Jesus Christ all over Europe, among their own people, and cross-culturally.



May, Ashlynn, Angela, Judy, Tarum

26

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

At least four volunteer teams will partner with Japanese churches in Fukuoka for outreach events and ministry in 2020. This may include outdoor BBQs, sports, game booths, coffee booths, craft tables, and music performances. These events all require the right people to lead and serve.

Pray Japanese Christians will be encouraged and spurred on to do good works and be faithful witnesses. Pray God will be glorified through many new connections with locals. Ask that the events will have a lasting impact on all seekers whose hearts the Lord has prepared. Pray many will hear and understand the gospel. Pray God will make his name known and a great harvest will be gathered.



Patricia

27

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

It is increasingly difficult to receive biblical training in countries where it is illegal to evangelize. In response, church leaders need creative ways to gain the resources they need to effectively minister to the churches they serve.

Pray that through various venues, our Christian brothers and sisters who face such difficult opposition will be refreshed, encouraged, and equipped to boldly face spiritual battles. Pray they will be faithful to teach others, and that hundreds of thousands of church leaders will be equipped and remain faithful to the call of God on their lives. Ask God to give wisdom and good health to those who host and teach as they plan events. May a hedge of protection surround students and teachers alike.



Sydney

28

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

Karl Marx, who is well known for his theories about capitalism and communism, taught that in life, the ruling class suppresses the working class. To correct this, he said that economic needs should be considered while providing for everyone's well-being. Students and civil servants in China still have to study courses in Marxism and Leninism.

Pray the Chinese people will see the emptiness in any thought or belief that exists outside of the Bible. Pray they will actively search for truth in this world and that God will reveal himself to them and bring them into salvation.



Rita

29

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY
2020

The church in Outer Mongolia desires to take the gospel to the places Genghis Khan conquered. With a common language, culture, and worldview, Outer Mongolians can go to Inner Mongolia (in China) and effectively reach the nearly seven million spiritually lost people there. God surely has great things planned for Mongolians as their passports allow them to travel visa-free to countries like China, Russia, Cuba, Myanmar, and Indonesia.

Pray Outer Mongolians will gain a vision for reaching Mongolians outside their home country. Pray God will provide the training, financial resources, and team structures needed to send them. Ask for strategic ways to engage in the lives of Inner Mongolians and for work options that can provide Outer Mongolians visas to live there. Pray the church will grow in depth so that many will be equipped to work in God's harvest fields.



Jessie



1

SUNDAY
MARCH
2020

My local church led a camp for Taiwanese aboriginal children who are very active and often lack adult supervision as their parents work a lot to make ends meet. We wanted to show them the love of Christ as we taught the story of creation. However, we spent much of the time separating fights, leaving little room for one-on-one interactions. It was difficult work, but by the week's end, many of the kids hugged their leaders and thanked them for coming. Most of the camp helpers had never been on a ministry trip, so this was a growing experience for this new church.

Pray for the church to gain proficiency in leading their members to minister and share the gospel. Ask the Lord to draw the aboriginal children of Taiwan to himself and provide a heart change that their culture does not naturally teach.



none

2

MONDAY
MARCH
2020

The developing city of Changde sits nestled between the Yuan River and Dongting Lake in northwest Hunan province. Far from China's dynamic megacities, Changde is a quiet city known for its poetry. Locals and tourists often visit the Changde Poetry Wall, which is covered in a variety of poems, mostly from ancient China. The wall stretches for 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) along the Yuan River, protecting the downtown area from seasonal flooding. Han Chinese intermingle with ethnic minorities, most notably the Tujia people, who are native to this area. In previous years, Christian workers lived here, bringing the Good News to Changde.

Pray God will call out missionaries from the Chinese church to invest their lives for Christ in Changde. Pray that one day poems of praise to Jesus will be written on the Changde Poetry Wall.



Jude

3

TUESDAY
MARCH
2020

Billions of dollars and countless hours have been spent as Japan prepares for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. A growing number of volunteers from around the world are interested in working with local churches and missionaries. Effective and creative ways of outreach are needed to reach both the Japanese and those coming to participate in or watch the Summer Olympics.

Pray for Japan's churches as they make preparations for all the nationalities who will visit their country during the Olympics. Pray for the numerous details that must be worked out in order to handle such a broad focus and opportunity.



Sean, Karla

4

WEDNESDAY
MARCH
2020

Brian* is a Christian who, like Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:22, is becoming all things to a certain people group so that they might be saved. Brian looks, sounds, and dresses exactly like them. Even though some are initially resistant to the gospel and suspicious of him when they first meet, it doesn't take long for them to see that he is genuine in his good intentions. Brian shows God's love by providing food, clothing, and other basic necessities. These good works have led several to trust him and some have even become Christians.

Please pray that these new Christians will be the first of many from this people group. Ask God to watch over Brian and his family and pray he would have God's wisdom for the direction of his ministry. Please pray that others would soon join Brian in his work.

* Name changed



Grant

5

THURSDAY
MARCH
2020

Millions of Miao have never heard Jesus' name and know nothing of the freedom he offers them. They live in fear of the spirits, and traditions keep them from allowing God's Word to be planted in their hearts. However, it is believed that long ago they had knowledge of the Creator, and had stories of the great flood, the Tower of Babel, and the division of peoples. Miao communities have tight-knit family bonds and friendships. If just one person believed, they could make a great difference if they were willing to stand strong in their faith.

Pray Miao Christians will have courage to lay down tradition and follow God alone. As they share with others, pray that every stronghold keeping them from God's love will be torn down, allowing the seeds of the gospel to take root in their hearts and grow unto salvation.



Grace, Mike

6

FRIDAY
MARCH
2020



The Mashan Miao people of China speak four distinct languages, none of which are spoken in other areas. Some of these languages may have gospel recordings available, but none of them have translations of Scripture or The Jesus Film. Legends vary among the groups, but one thing remains the same: they all work hard to appease the spirits and believe that sickness, droughts, poor harvest, and a myriad of other problems are caused by unhappy spirits. Among the four groups, some have no known Christians, while others have a handful of Christians.

Pray that as God calls out to them, their hearts will burn within them and they will worship the God who is Alpha and the Omega, the One who is, who was, and who is coming, the Almighty (Rev 1:8).



Rachel

7

SATURDAY
MARCH
2020

Connect 2020 started a year before the scheduled 2020 Summer Olympics as an initiative to connect Japanese people to God, connect Japanese churches to each other, and connect the Japanese church to the world. Olympic pin trading is a popular tradition. With the main theme of connecting, a bridge utilizing the five colors of the Olympic rings is the first of six pins that will be available as conversation starters. Other pins will feature different Japanese images and the five colors of the salvation bracelet. This gives volunteers the opportunity to share the full gospel story. When all of the pins are collected, they can be arranged to mimic the Olympic rings.

Pray for all the ministry trainings and outreach events that will take place over the next year. Ask that God will honor these plans and use these efforts to connect many Japanese people to himself.



Egbert, Sara

8

SUNDAY
MARCH
2020

“We have no godly examples of what a marriage should look like.” A young pastor in China knows what the Bible says about marriage and raising children. He and his wife want to honor the Lord in their family relationships but often have questions about what a Christian marriage looks like. For the many first-generation Christian couples in China, their closest models for marriage and family life are their non-Christian parents. In addition, cultural examples of wholesome marriages are often lacking.

Pray the Lord will magnify his glory through Christian couples in China. Pray he will give them wisdom as they raise their children. Pray their children will turn to the Lord and follow the godly examples of their parents when they begin marriages of their own.



Sam, Doug

9

MONDAY
MARCH
2020**Day of Prayer and Fasting: Fear**

Like in Isaiah 41:10, the Bible overflows with verses telling us to not be afraid. As Christians, we have nothing to fear, but many of the 1.7 billion East Asians are deaf to the voice of God who tells us to fear not. They fear the spirits of ancestors and gods. They fear letting go of what they have always known in order to grab hold of God. They fear what their family will say. They fear they have not done enough. They fear this year and they will have fear again next year. They are bound by their fears and there is no way out—except through Jesus.

Pray they will hear and believe the words, “Fear not, I bring you good news of great joy. A Savior has been born to free you from your fears.”



none

10

TUESDAY
MARCH
2020

The Butter Lamp Festival arrives each year in Lhasa fifteen days after the Tibetan New Year. Tibetans celebrate this winter festival by making and burning butter lamps in windows of houses and through the streets of the city. Traditionally, these lamps are handmade with yak butter and come in a variety of shapes such as flowers, trees, animals, or gods. After sunset, Tibetans will fill the streets of the Barkhor District around the Jokhang temple in Lhasa to gain merit by walking in circles around the temple.

Pray for Tibetans as they celebrate this Buddhist festival. Ask that God would reveal Jesus as the light to the nations. Pray God will draw Tibetans away from idol worship to give him the glory due his name (Isaiah 42:6-8).



none

11

WEDNESDAY
MARCH
2020

Most Christian Inner Mongolians are between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five, and many heard the gospel as students or young professionals. Each of them has a family—maybe a rebellious younger brother, a hard-working mother, an older sister with a career, or a father who has struggled with alcoholism—that needs to hear the gospel. Unfortunately, many Inner Mongolian Christians are afraid to boldly share the truth with their families. Every year, approximately fifty thousand Mongolians in Inner Mongolia die and go to a Christ-less eternity.

Pray Inner Mongolian Christians will share the truth with their families and live out their spiritual transformation in a way that their families can see the power of God. Pray God will protect those who share boldly and that family members will have hearts that are open to the truth of the gospel.



John, Karla, Stuart, Andrew, George, Jack

12

THURSDAY
MARCH
2020

Seoul is the capital of South Korea and is a huge metropolis with a population of more than eleven million. It is located in the northwest, 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from the North Korean border. The city is characterized by modern skyscrapers and western-style church buildings, ancient Buddhist temples and palaces, and traditional street markets. The city has widespread Wi-Fi access and fast internet connections. Although Seoul has a high concentration of Christians, the majority are first-generation Christians and elderly. A very small percentage of college students and young professionals are Christians. Most of the young people face strong family and social pressures to succeed in their education and career.

Pray for the young people in Seoul to hunger for Christ more than social and economic success, and to boldly choose to pursue that which is eternal.



John

13

FRIDAY
MARCH
2020



Jesus counted the Eastern Xiangxi Miao righteous when he bore their sins, yet centuries later, they still try to pay the price themselves. They worship Pan Hu, a dragon dog god, whom they believe gave birth to their race. They offer sacrifices and pray to gods, searching for what only Jesus can offer.

Pray their eyes will open to the glorious truth of the gospel and their hearts will be freed from the chains that hold them down. Pray that as they are set free, they will carry this Good News to the next family, house, village, and mountain.



Briana

14

SATURDAY
MARCH
2020

Several individuals from an unreached people group took a trip to another country where they were exposed to a new lifestyle. Christians hosted the group and freely lived out their faith before their visitors. However, they were careful about what they said because they knew their guests would be questioned when they returned home. What the guests understood of their experience isn't known, but they had the opportunity to experience what only God could have arranged.

Please pray that this group of non-Christians will have more chances in the future to meet other Christians and be exposed to the gospel message. Pray many of these people will understand and believe God's truth and experience changed lives.



Emma

15

SUNDAY
MARCH
2020

“I felt no fear. I felt God-strong, even courageous. The police asked questions about my church and . . . what I believed . . . I shared the entire gospel story. They listened carefully When I finished, I asked the policemen if they wanted to believe. They didn’t answer, so I continued: ‘My life is secure in Christ I will spend eternity with him. I have nothing to fear. Can you say the same thing? . . . Only through Jesus can you find true life.’ I decided if police were going to question me, I would use the chance to spread the gospel Isn’t that what the apostles taught us do . . . ?”

Praise God for how he continues to strengthen village churches and give boldness to church leaders who are not afraid to suffer for the gospel.



Shannon, Henry

16

MONDAY
MARCH
2020

People across East Asia continue to search for the fulfillment of their desires as they follow the gods of their ancestors. They chase after the next god, master, or “dollar,” thinking it will solve their problems or make them happy. Even Christians are tempted to run to false gods they previously worshiped when troubles come.

God, rescue them from the snares of the world that have blinded them to your goodness, provision, and glory. Help them to forsake all other gods and means of finding life, that they may discover everlasting life in you. Plant your truth deep in the hearts of Christians so that they will look to you only. Plant them by streams of water, so they will produce fruit until old age.



Pearl

17

TUESDAY
MARCH
2020



Taiwan, the Ilha Formosa (Beautiful Island), delightfully blends old and new, mountains and ocean, city and countryside. This nation is the fifteenth most densely populated country in the world, with more than twenty-three million people. They frequently worship a variety of gods through offerings of food, money, and incense. Paul's message (Acts 17:22-28) could be preached in today's Taiwan: "Men of Taiwan! I see that you are extremely religious in every respect. For as I was passing through and observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD."

Pray that, like Paul, many will proclaim to the Taiwanese the God who made heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by hand. He gives us life and is not far from us. Pray their searching hearts will find their home in Christ.



Kirklynn

18

WEDNESDAY
MARCH
2020

For twenty years, a diligent Christian has been passionately evangelizing an unreached people group. Through God's grace, several churches were started. This Christian nurtures the leaders and inspires others in the area who are doing similar outreach. One of these leaders was recently explaining to a woman from this people group the concepts of repentance and faith in God. She responded that this was the first time she'd heard about Christianity with a detailed explanation of the gospel. Sadly, this is the case for most members of this people group—they rarely, if ever, hear the gospel.

Pray for more Christians like these two faithful workers who are diligently sharing the Good News. Ask for God to make a way for others from this people group to hear, understand, and believe the gospel.



Ted, Hana, Joelliane, Debbie, Hana

19

THURSDAY
MARCH
2020

A generation is being lost. As East Asians enter new cultures and countries, parents want to meet the educational needs of their children. Some return to their home country because of the few educational options available to them. When they do stay, their children often attend secular schools where they don't speak their mother tongue, so the language of their new country becomes their child's heart language. This creates a disconnect between the parents and the children and leaves a huge void as Christian parents often feel incapable of communicating spiritual truths to their children.

Please pray Christian parents will be intentional to “teach their youth about the way [they] should go” (Proverbs 22:6). Pray they will set an example in life and godliness and disciple their children in his Word, regardless of where they live.



Susie, Howard, Marisa

20

FRIDAY
MARCH
2020

Tianjin is a city of fifteen million. Unlike other megacities, Tianjin still feels like a small city. It has been a major seaport and gateway to Beijing for a long time. Tianjin has four distinct seasons and a climate that is quite dry. Christians constitute less than 2 percent of the city's population. Local brothers and sisters gather weekly and worship with other Christians. However, they must be cautious to avoid being shut down.

Pray for encouragement, strength, and protection for local Christians. Pray brothers and sisters will have faith to stand firm for the Lord. Ask God to provide others who will come alongside these local Christians and love, serve, and equip them to preach the gospel, make disciples, and plant churches.



Jeff, Ted

21

SATURDAY
MARCH
2020

Nestled high in the Himalayas, around thirteen thousand feet, people live isolated from the rest of the world. Despite the small population and extreme remoteness of these villages, a number of prominent monasteries have been built in the last fifteen years. This growth shows both the investment and prioritization of the local people and outside funding for the further perpetuation of Buddhist dominance among this people. There are no known Christians in these villages as well as no Scripture or other biblical materials in their language. Monks there have received copies of the New Testament in a similar dialect.

Pray God will open the hearts of those who have access to a Bible to be receptive to the truth. Pray Scripture will soon be translated into this remote language, for all to hear.



Penny, Kevin, Allison, Skip

22

SUNDAY
MARCH
2020

Persecution across China of various church leaders has been well documented since new religious laws were put into effect in 2018. China's increased surveillance techniques have aided in learning of Christian leaders, organizational structures, and networks. This has led to sophisticated multi-pronged strategies that target key pastors and church leaders along with their partners. Consequently, many foreign Christian workers have been forced to leave China with sudden notice, and national leaders must deal with harassment that can lead to long incarceration. Families are faced with great upheaval and feel a sense of loss on many levels.

Please pray that the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will be present in the hearts of those who are impacted. Pray those who experience persecution will not only see it as a badge of honor, but also what propels the gospel to powerfully go forth.



Jake, Jonathan, Shawna, Dalia

23

MONDAY
MARCH
2020

I live in an extremely crowded city. When I walk out the front door of my apartment building, the street is teeming with people, buses, taxis, motorbikes, and cars. I feel overwhelmed some days, but most of the time I think about the lostness that surrounds me. When I walk to the market or the park, I pass many temples and stores that cater to the worship of false idols. On special “auspicious” days, the sidewalks are covered with offerings for the spirits to be refreshed with the foods they enjoyed when living on earth. My team shares Bible stories and the gospel with people in our neighborhood. Many have become Christians and encourage their families to believe.

Pray for a church to begin soon in this area so these lost souls will have even more opportunities to hear about Jesus.



none

24

TUESDAY
MARCH
2020

A saying in China translates, “Think highly of boys and lightly of girls.” One Chinese woman tried to commit suicide by drinking household cleaner when she was a girl after her little brother fell and hurt himself while she was watching him. She knew he was the household treasure and was sure that her life would be unbearable if anything happened to him. Another friend was one of three daughters. Her grandparents and neighbors publicly beat and shamed her mother for not bearing a son. Relatives threw one of the children, then a baby, into a waste-water ditch, but the child was rescued by her mother. Many women in China, especially in their thirties and older, have lasting scars from painful episodes like these.

Pray Chinese women will know their value in the heavenly Father and find their true identity and worth in Christ.



Brad, Jane, Clayton

25

WEDNESDAY
MARCH
2020

The Olympic torch relay, with the theme “Hope Lights Our Way,” will begin in Fukushima on March 26, 2020. After the earthquake and tsunami of 2011, this location was a staging ground for battling the nuclear meltdown. Now named the J-Village, it has been revived to its original form. The torch relay will travel to all forty-seven prefectures in Japan, showcasing the varied cultural and scenic attractions of each region for 121 days before arriving in Tokyo on July 24.

Pray God’s light will shine in churches all across Japan and that pastors and lay leaders will look for ways to open the doors of their churches to those who need to experience Christian love and fellowship. Ask the Father to use his children to share the wonderful news that he has a bright future with hope for all who come to faith.



Patti

26

THURSDAY
MARCH
2020



Today the Zhuang celebrate the Song Festival, “San Yue San,” or third month, third day. This holiday is focused on worshipping ancestors. Families travel long distances to their hometowns to sweep their ancestors’ tombs and burn incense, firecrackers, and paper gifts to the spirit world for their ancestors. Zhuang people celebrate by dancing and singing traditional folk songs.

Pray that one day the folk songs of the Zhuang will be transformed into music that worships the one, true, and living God. Pray the Zhuang will be stripped of the power of ancestor worship and that their eyes will open to see the glory of Jesus Christ. Pray Zhuang Christians will return home during the San Yue San festival to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all of the lost in their villages.



Daniel

27

FRIDAY
MARCH
2020

Darla* was a welcoming and talkative volunteer who enthusiastically invited us into the visitor's center of a city garden. She changed topics from the garden to the religious chant she has practiced all her life. She believes that saying the tongue-twisting chant will bring her positive karma and that doing good actions will bring her blessings from the universe. We took advantage of the opportunity and told her about Jesus, the greatest blessing from the God who created the universe. We told her that as Christians we do good not to earn favor but because we represent Jesus, who is completely good. She listened attentively, but her trust in the chant seemed unchanging.

Please pray for Darla, and the many lost people in Malaysia who trust in their own efforts. Ask God to free them to find the only way to salvation: Jesus Christ.

* Name changed



Trixie, Ellie

28

SATURDAY
MARCH
2020

It's been said that language learning is the most humiliating and personal endeavor undertaken by man. Entering a new culture often means a missionary's inability to communicate leaves them feeling utterly incompetent. Yet God, in his goodness and grace, has called Christians to the world. For some, learning a new language can be an exciting prospect. But the reality is, language fluency always requires hard work, humility, and countless hours of study and practice. Each of these components of language competency demands intense and intentional sacrifice and a support structure that enables the student to make progress.

Please pray East Asian missionaries will humbly value others above themselves and look to the interests of others. Pray they will have the same mind as Christ, who humbled himself, taking on the very nature of a servant—specifically as it relates to language competency (Philippians 2:1-8).



Joo-Chan, Frances, Asher, Dora

29

SUNDAY
MARCH
2020

Bill* has pastored a small church of mostly minority people groups for many years. Last year, his private business was forcibly closed, and he wasn't sure what to do without his family's only source of income. That same week, another Christian's business began, and Bill was able to become its local manager on the same day he shut the door to his business. Now he and three other local Christians work together to teach and share the gospel with families in their community. Bill is able to spend adequate time preparing for his sermons. When his people have needs, he is able to take off from work and minister to them, and he no longer has to worry about providing for his family. He works amazingly hard at the shop and even harder for his church.

Pray the seeds these men are sowing will come to fruition.

* Name changed



Adam

30

MONDAY
MARCH
2020

“Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world” (James 1:27). Pray for starving children in orphanages among an unreachd people group in East Asia. Twice a day, one to two thousand children receive special food to address and help prevent malnutrition. Sadly, the number of children needing this special nutritional food seems to be increasing.

Pray the authorities will allow this important assistance to freely continue and will offer more food and medical aid. Ask that the Christians who serve the children will find ways to communicate God's love, hope, and faith through Jesus although Christianity is not allowed there. Pray the children will hear, understand, and believe the gospel message and find hope for today as well as eternity.



Julia, Aaron, Dick

31

TUESDAY
MARCH
2020



“At that time you were without the Messiah, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12). The Lupanshui Miao people of China are predominately hardworking farmers who worship spirits. They live in places that are difficult to reach and remain in physical isolation and spiritual darkness. Many young people flock to cities in search of work and a better life. There they are influenced by Chinese and communist culture, and many Lupanshui Miao youth abandon the beliefs of their parents and turn to atheism. They live without God or hope and desperately need the gospel to set them free from the bondage of sin.

God, above the city noise, we pray they will hear you calling to them and will seek you.



Kate, Kurt

1

WEDNESDAY
APRIL
2020

Most of the world’s population is in their early twenties or younger. We are in the midst of an unparalleled opportunity to reach the next generation—tomorrow’s leaders and decision makers—with the gospel. Students are coming to Christ across university campuses, in massive global cities, and even in far-flung villages that dot the East Asian landscape. God is using students to reach students. Due to their shared experiences via social media and the internet, this generation of students has more in common with people their age from other countries than they do with their elders from their own country. There is an unprecedented opportunity to leverage this shared “global” mentality of today’s students to reach East Asians with the gospel.

Pray students across the US will heed Christ’s call to go and proclaim the Good News to the peoples of East Asia.



Gil, Tyler, Katherine

2

THURSDAY
APRIL
2020

During a visit with a biblical counselor, a ministry partner introduced the counselor to his friend who was struggling with depression. During a subsequent counseling session, the counselor and partner were amazed as they witnessed the friend's healing and transformation. The friend testified that he felt renewed in his mind and spirit and credited it to God and his Word. Later, the partner shared about his recommitment to the work God gave him, and the counselor joyfully reflected on God's amazing grace in action. Months later, the friend volunteered at a camp where some young people became Christians and others made recommitments. How beautiful and fruitful it is when God heals someone through his Word and love.

Pray for these three Christians as they share the gospel and their lives with an unreached people group.



Lucy

3

FRIDAY
APRIL
2020

Many young people hang out in Hongdae and Sinchon in western Seoul to watch street performers, known as buskers. Most buskers perform to sharpen their skills and have a shot at being scouted by professional agencies. Some can attract a crowd of more than one hundred, while others, just a handful. Evangelistic busking is uncommon but seems like an opportune and creative avenue to attract the attention of young people, since most of the crowds who stop to listen and watch are in their twenties and thirties.

Pray Christian groups that desire to do evangelistic busking will have the right strategy and effective performances. Pray Hongdae and Sinchon will be saturated with gatherings of young people praising and worshipping God.



Mee, Barnard

4

SATURDAY
APRIL
2020



Qing Ming Festival, or Tomb-Sweeping Day, is celebrated by Chinese people in many countries. They travel to the tombs of their ancestors to clean the areas, pray to their ancestors, and make offerings in the form of incense, food, or spirit money. This day is often thought of as honoring the deceased and is based on the reverence of ancestors in the Chinese culture. For Christians, this is a difficult time as cultural traditions and Christian values clash. Often, Christians pray silently to God while others make their offerings. It is especially difficult for new Christians who face parental disappointment in the fact that they, as Christians, will not carry on these traditions when their parents pass away.

Pray Christians will stand firm in their faith during this holiday and find ways to honor their ancestors without worshipping them.



Joseph, Avery, May

5

SUNDAY
APRIL
2020

April 2020 marks the two-year anniversary of the Love of Jesus Church in Yokohama, Japan. The church focuses on discipleship and being disciplined to make disciples. Since their first meeting, members have humbled themselves before the Lord through consistent prayer and submission to the Word, and God has made his presence clearly known. Excitement and determination continue to grow as these brothers and sisters step out in faith and obedience to share the gospel. Boldness increases as the Lord works in and through them to draw people to himself. The church will transition to local leadership this year.

Pray the church members will keep their focus firmly on the Lord during this time of transition.



none

6

MONDAY
APRIL
2020

The Laba people of China have access to numerous Christian resources, yet less than 1 percent follow Christ. They speak Mandarin, the official language of China, but have a distinct ethnicity from people groups around them. Christian work began among the Laba in 1899, and gospel recordings were made one hundred years later. But the gospel has yet to take root among these people. They worship the spirits of their ancestors and have been known to sacrifice cows because they believe their ancestors eat the meat in the afterlife.

Pray the Laba will see the futility in repeated animal sacrifices and will accept the once-for-all sacrifice that Jesus made. Pray their only sacrifices will be those they offer to God—offerings of praise made with their lives.



April, Jace

7

TUESDAY
APRIL
2020

Sam* was unable to reach a specific minority group for a long time. Recently, he was approached by a local Christian woman who also has a burden for this particular people group. She is finishing up missionary training and will then go to one of the villages where this minority people group lives.

Pray for many areas in East Asia where work is just beginning among people groups who have yet to hear the gospel or read a Bible in their own language. Pray East Asian churches will send out many members to labor faithfully in difficult places. Pray they will allow every inconvenience and hardship to be used for God's glory.

* Name changed



Ruth, Mark

8

WEDNESDAY
APRIL
2020

Theological training is often seen as a daunting task that yields little visible growth. People observe that it provides knowledge but wonder if it changes leaders' hearts or transforms their lives. To address the need, a program was started to help nationals to not only deepen their understanding of basic doctrinal truths, but also grow in their love of and obedience to the Word. Instructors meet regularly with each student to give counsel and care. As a result of this program, many local Christians have begun to practice spiritual disciplines as well as lead their family members to obey God's Word more regularly. Churches have grown in unity and depth as they have studied the Bible.

Praise God that his Spirit is teaching and leading these students toward further holiness. Pray these brothers and sisters will continue to grow in their knowledge of and obedience to him.



Lela, Keith

9

THURSDAY
APRIL
2020

Big cities in China are famous for unique tourist activities, vibrant economies, diverse job opportunities, and good food. Thus, in a little more than fifteen years, the former fishing village of Qingdao has transformed. Now offering new malls, a subway system, and a new airport, it's no wonder this city has hosted a global leadership conference. Local churches have thrived in this city; however, as one leader lamented, "Everyone is too busy to care much about church." Another Christian said, "Sometimes church feels more like a meeting for work rather than a day of rest." Last summer, several fellowships hosted teenage retreats. Afterward, a leader said, "I was surprised at the willingness of students sharing openly about sex and transgender issues." In addition to worldly pressures, the church also faces persecution.

Please read through this again and after each sentence, pray for this great city.



Beth, Jack, William, Nora

10

FRIDAY
APRIL
2020

The 2020 Olympics in Tokyo will begin once the final torchbearer runs into the new Olympic stadium to light the cauldron. Around ten thousand people will participate in the torch relay across Japan, with each runner set to run about 200 meters. As Japan wants the games to showcase its recovery from the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and Fukushima nuclear crisis, the final torchbearer could be a young person or emerging athlete from the devastated northeast. Olympic organizers will not reveal the identity of the final torchbearer until the torch arrives in the stadium.

Pray Japanese people will learn the name of Jesus before their life is finished. Pray Japanese Christians will become as excited to introduce their Savior to family and friends as they are to share the name of the final Olympic torchbearer.



Matt, Marissa

11

SATURDAY
APRIL
2020

“But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but one who does good works—this person will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:25). God is blessing, Mark*, an effective doer of the Word. His genuine love and good deeds for an unreached people group so impressed a person in governmental authority that they gave Mark permission to meet and interact with more people of this group. This is unprecedented. Despite health issues, Mark continues to minister to the poorest of the people in a variety of ways and always looks for more opportunities to meet needs and share the gospel.

Pray for Mark and the other Christians that collaborate with him. Ask for God’s wisdom, direction, and protection as they serve and share the gospel.

* Name changed



Samantha, Robert, Sandra

12

SUNDAY
APRIL
2020

In much of East Asia, Resurrection Sunday is simply another day. Millions have yet to hear of the One who not only died for their sins, but rose again, conquered death, and fulfilled God's redemptive plan for the world. Some have heard but don't believe. Some Christians will gather in secret while others will meet with their churches to celebrate this day. They may sing, "Because He Lives," and greet one another with, "He is risen."

As you celebrate today, ask God to reveal himself to the billion-plus East Asians who still rely on man-made religions to find peace, forgiveness, and purpose. Some of them simply don't know any other way, while others fear letting go of what has been practiced for generations, even if it does not fulfill. Pray their longing hearts will find rest in Christ.



Ann, Cathy

13

MONDAY
APRIL
2020



Day of Prayer and Fasting: Idolatry

God made our hearts for worship, but often what we worship creates barriers between us and our Creator. We tend to idolize money, status, knowledge, and position. We give our loyalties to leaders, teachers, and friends, even if they take us from God. We pour ourselves into relationships, school, and work, and have little energy left for him. When we finally think about God, our hearts have grown cold. Our passions for the things of the world rob us of what God offers, yet he promises to take care of our needs when we seek first his kingdom and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

Pray East Asian Christians will lay all of their idols at the foot of the cross and look to Jesus. Pray they will fully commit to God who promises to strengthen them (2 Chronicles 16:9).



Krystal

14

TUESDAY
APRIL
2020

History reveals flawed East Asian leaders who received undying loyalty from their followers. People willingly laid down everything—even to the point of death—for leaders who selfishly pursued power and fame. In contrast, we serve a perfectly unselfish God who died for us and asks nothing more from us than what he himself did. What if we gave all? What if a multitude, or even just a handful, of Christians began to follow God in this way? Could we turn the world upside down?

Pray for Christians throughout East Asia to say, “Wherever he leads, I’ll go. I am willing to surrender all for the sake of his call.”



Amanda, Sandra, Solomon

15

WEDNESDAY
APRIL
2020

At the end of Daniel 4, King Nebuchadnezzar states, “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt, and glorify the King of heaven, because all His works are true and His ways are just. He is able to humble those who walk in pride” (Daniel 4:37). He proclaims this testimony after a dramatic experience. Earlier in his reign, the king does not acknowledge God. He is so proud that he erroneously thinks his power, wealth, and influence are the products of his own doing. Then God humbles the king through unexpected hardships.

Pray for the leaders of East Asian countries who don’t acknowledge God and pride themselves on their abilities and accomplishments. Pray God will dramatically turn their hearts and minds like he did for King Nebuchadnezzar, so they will have faith in God through Jesus and declare powerful testimonies of God’s greatness to the world.



Molly

16

THURSDAY
APRIL
2020

Taichung City is located in the center of the island nation of Taiwan and is the third largest city with a population of 2.8 million people. The majority of the population follows a blend of Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and ancestor worship. Evangelical Christians make up less than 3 percent of the population.

Pray for more Taiwanese Christians to share the gospel with their friends and neighbors, especially among the working class that is less than 0.5 percent Christian. Pray for the chains of idol worship, superstition, and false religion to be broken by the power of Jesus. Pray for more pastors and churches to meet the need for the gospel among the lost in Taichung City. Pray for generous giving in the churches to support local ministry.



Nick, Jon

17

FRIDAY
APRIL
2020

Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, continues to grow rapidly. Education, economic opportunities, and a rich English-speaking heritage make the city a regional hub. Its unique history blends Malay, Indian, Chinese, and British cultures. With an estimated fourteen million annual tourists, Kuala Lumpur is the second most-visited city in all of East Asia. Forty-three percent of Kuala Lumpur residents have Chinese ancestry but take pride in having a distinct ethnic culture. Fewer than 3 percent of Chinese Malaysians in Kuala Lumpur know, love, and follow Jesus.

Pray the Lord will raise up healthy, reproducing, ethnic churches in Malaysia. Pray that this unique, multicultural city will enable Chinese Malaysians to evangelize others—some of whom are almost completely unreached. Pray the local seminary will continue to train God-honoring pastors and missionaries to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.



Anna, Helen

18

SATURDAY
APRIL
2020

The innkeeper and her son are very engaging, although they do not follow Jesus. They often invite guests into their inn, which is located at the top of a hill in a quaint, cozy, small Tibetan village. The innkeeper and her son introduce guests to their many friends and family. God has opened doors and hearts to hear his Good News in this small village where there are no known Christians. Through this innkeeper's hospitality, hundreds of gospel seeds have been sown.

Pray God will open the eyes and hearts of those who worship the mountain as a part of their Buddhism. Pray these dear people will know Jesus' saving grace. Pray they will look away from the mountain and up to the God who made it, for he is steadfast in truth and in the hope of his glory.



Heidi, Stephen, James

19

SUNDAY
APRIL
2020

A pastor was detained and questioned before going on a cross-cultural mission trip. Despite the challenges that followed, he and his flock have flourished. The persecution he faced strengthened not only his faith, but that of the brothers and sisters in his church.

Pray for East Asian Christians who face persecution to be steadfast in hope and patient in affliction. Pray the Lord will grant them the strength and power to love those who appear to be their enemies and to boldly share the gospel with everyone the Lord places in their circles of influence.



Kate, Nathan, Cambell, Meredith

20

MONDAY
APRIL
2020

There are more than three thousand UUPGs (Unreached, Unengaged People Groups) in the world. They have no access to the gospel, which means they lack Scripture, a church, gospel materials, and people who speak their heart language and can share the love of Christ with them in a way that they can truly understand and believe. These people groups generally live in hard-to-reach locations, but God has opened the door for East Asian Christians to live in places that are closed off to other ethnic groups. God knows all of these people groups and their heart languages.

Pray for God to clearly lead, guide, and protect East Asian missionaries as they venture to engage these UUPGs. Pray that in partnership with the Holy Spirit, soon there will be no more UUPGs because they will all have been reached by the gospel.



Lance

21

TUESDAY
APRIL
2020

Praise God for multiple partnership breakthroughs with various Baptist conventions in East Asia. We have specific commitments from conventions and churches to provide theological, pastoral, family and marriage counseling, and other leadership training among unreached peoples and cities. Many East Asian Baptist conventions are also leading short-term mission trips to prayer walk, train in evangelism and discipleship, and plant new churches or strengthen existing churches all around the world. In areas without organized conventions, God is burdening local churches with the need to work together.

Pray the Lord will shape the DNA in these new conventions to select, send, and support missionaries. Pray for continued growth and vision as we work together with Korean, Malaysian, Taiwanese, Singaporean, and Hong Kong Baptist conventions to make Christ's name known in this part of the world.



none

22

WEDNESDAY
APRIL
2020

Four young Korean ladies have committed to tell the story of Christ to ethnic Chinese university students in Malaysia for six months. As they make friends, invite non-Christians to outreach events, and plan to share their personal testimonies of transformation, they are following Jesus' Great Commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20a).

Pray for these ladies as they navigate the culture, language, and customs of a new country and invite the lost to come to faith. Ask our Father to help them meet students seeking the one true God. Pray that the thirty thousand students at the university will have a chance to know and believe in Jesus Christ.



none

23

THURSDAY
APRIL
2020

It is common for a newly-married couple to live with one set of parents in China. Under these circumstances, it can be challenging for the newlyweds to leave their mothers and fathers and bond to each other (Genesis 2:24). Add in the cultural value of honoring one's parents, and you have the potential for much frustration and conflict. When the young couple has children, the possibilities for conflict multiply.

Pray for peace in the homes of Chinese Christian families. Pray for healing in families where there has been deep hurt. Pray that Christian couples will bond to each other even as they seek to honor their parents. Pray that Christian marriages and families will display the glory of God to a watching world.



Jennifer

24

FRIDAY
APRIL
2020



For most Hui people, Ramadan is the most important time of year. They make significant changes to their lives for thirty days to faithfully follow Islam. Most do not eat or drink anything during daylight hours but still go to work every day. After sunset and prayers, they finally can eat. They believe that participating in Ramadan helps them get to heaven. During this holiday, Muslims desire to follow what they believe is truth. They pray for visions from God. What better time is there for Christ-followers to dedicate a month to praying for God's Spirit to move in mighty ways among Muslims?

Pray God will provide opportunities for spiritual conversations with Hui, to direct them to Jesus and the salvation he alone provides. Pray God will give Hui people visions of Jesus.



Emma, Cassie

25

SATURDAY
APRIL
2020

“Some take pride in chariots, and others in horses, but we take pride in the name of Yahweh our God” (Psalm 20:7). King David wrote this psalm from his experience of leading soldiers in battle. He and his soldiers knew it wasn't their ability that held power but their faith in God. To this day, countries still trust in military strength rather than God. For many, the military exists to protect their people and maintain peace with other nations. But for some countries, the military seems less about protection and peace and more about power acquisition and intimidation.

Intercede for East Asian countries that pour resources into their militaries to the detriment of their citizens' welfare. Pray the gospel will flood into these countries and be used by God to change lives so that his peace will reign in the hearts of the leaders and their people.



James, Kendall

26

SUNDAY
APRIL
2020

Melissa* is a Christian who consistently and lovingly ministers to an unreached people group. She learned about them fifteen years ago and eventually was able to minister among the people and point them to God to meet their spiritual and physical needs. Gospel proclamation is at the heart of these activities. Through God's blessing, many people have become Christians, new churches have been started, and others are maturing. Melissa now focuses on church leadership training but has a dream for the gospel to reach all the people of this particular group. Sadly, most are inaccessible.

Praise God for how he has answered prayers for this unreached people group. Join Melissa and other Christians in asking God to open new doors of access for them to take the gospel to these people.

* Name changed



Gwen

27

MONDAY
APRIL
2020

Most of my students came from affluent families with fathers who traveled a lot for work. One day I asked them, "Which would you choose—for your father to give you more money and stuff, or for him to spend more time with you?" After some discussion, the students replied, "We want our fathers to spend more time with us." It was nearly unanimous. In this culture, being a good father does not carry a lot of weight—it doesn't earn respect with other men the way that money, power, or status does. But it matters to God.

Pray that godly men will demonstrate what a husband and father should be. Ask the Lord to turn the hearts of fathers toward their children. Pray the Lord will glorify his name as his people submit their marriages and families to him.



Max, Sarah, Meghan

28

TUESDAY
APRIL
2020

Busan is South Korea's second largest municipality with a population of 3.5 million. Its port on the southeastern coast is Korea's busiest and the world's sixth largest. It is nearer in distance to Fukuoka, Japan, than to Seoul. During the initial months of the Korean War, many people pursued refuge in Busan, which was one of two cities not captured by the North Korean army. Today, the city is highly popular for international conferences and festivals. It is also known for its beaches, mountains, and temples. The majority of Busan's people are Buddhists and Shamanists. Few are Christian.

Pray Busan “will be as full of the knowledge of the Lord as the sea is filled with water” (Isaiah 11:9b). May his kingdom come, and his will be done in the hearts of the people of Busan.



Charlotte

29

WEDNESDAY
APRIL
2020

It's difficult to access the more than five million Tibetans living throughout western China. They live in the region's rugged mountains and high plateaus, tucked into valleys and on hillsides in small villages. Tibetan culture is resistant to the gospel, so Christians endure significant persecution as they share their faith. Tibetans across China believe in working for a better reincarnation, which makes it difficult to comprehend that Jesus gives salvation as a free gift. Many of the region's different languages and dialects need their own translations of the Bible so the people can understand the stories.

Pray God will send more workers from the Chinese church into the harvest. Pray God will call Tibetan Christians to share the gospel with their people and take responsibility for making disciples among their families and communities.



Bethany

30

THURSDAY
APRIL
2020

I prayed for six months that God would open a door to begin an English activity group in the community where a young church had started. Out of the blue, the local principal asked me to start an English class for parents in her school. At the same time, a colleague in town asked if I knew of any English venues where she could help teach. More than fifty parents signed up for this class, and many heard about Christ.

Pray for the hundreds of activities all over China that are run by Christians who seek opportunities to share truth. Pray they will find favor in the eyes of officials and be able to continue to use these meetings to tell students about Jesus.



Liza, Barb, Sharon, Lucy, Junia

1

FRIDAY
MAY
2020

I grew up in a single-parent home. My mom is Hui, and she raised me to be Muslim. My mom worked all the time, so she was not always able to pick me up from school, help me with homework, or feed me. A Christian family volunteered to help. Through their witness, I came to believe in Jesus. I attended a church and met other Hui Christians. I tried to share about Jesus with my grandfather, but he just wanted to make sure I still go to the mosque and celebrate Islamic holidays. I only go to the mosque when I'm home to appease my mom.

Praise God for drawing Muslims to himself. Pray young Christians will turn from all Islamic practices and trust Jesus alone, even when that means they will be persecuted by family.



Sarah, Penny, Durand

2

SATURDAY
MAY
2020

“The fool says in his heart, ‘God does not exist.’ They are corrupt, and they do vile deeds” (Psalm 53:1). We often see that when God’s existence is denied, corruption, vileness, and foolishness prevail. People do what furthers their cause, no matter the cost to others. With no God there is no moral standard, no absolute truth, and the line between right and wrong shifts. In such a world, to stand for what is right is difficult and not popular.

Pray Christians will hold fast to the truth of God’s unchanging Word. Pray they will choose the higher path when asked to be dishonest. Pray they will seek God’s strength to do the right thing when tempted. Pray they will turn the other cheek and press on when mocked.



Teresa, Maggie

3

SUNDAY
MAY
2020

Kenya has an East Asian population of roughly ten thousand people. Many of them are sent there by government-owned companies for infrastructure construction projects and leave when a project is completed. Some are small business owners who come with their families. Once their children reach school age, many move back to their home country. There are two East Asian churches and one fellowship group. An average of thirty people attend each gathering.

Pray for East Asians to have an open heart to hear the gospel as they live and work in this predominately Christian country. Pray for pastors to have perseverance and a Great Commission vision despite the transient nature of church members. Pray the children who study and come to faith in Kenya will develop the mindset of reaching the nations with the gospel.



Leigh

4

MONDAY
MAY
2020

Praise the Lord for the partnerships that East Asia has had over the years with various Baptist State Conventions in the United States. Numerous churches have sent short-term teams to East Asia to help reach the lost. Other volunteers have come to meet needs during missionary retreats or conferences, especially in the area of childcare. Pastors have taken vision trips to various locations within East Asia. As a result of these vision trips, some churches are now helping engage those who've yet to hear the gospel throughout East Asia.

Pray that as these partnerships continue, many new churches will commit to serve in East Asia. Thank God with us for our church and state convention partners.



none

5

TUESDAY
MAY
2020



Children's Day is celebrated in Japan on May 5 every year. This national holiday was established in 1948 to promote family unity and the equality of males and females. Up until this time, there was a separate holiday for boys and girls. On Children's Day, and for some time before it, families who have a son in their home often fly carp-shaped banners outside their homes and may display a samurai warrior's helmet or a samurai doll inside their homes. Everyone consumes special rice cakes made for this particular holiday. "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Matthew 19:14 NIV).

Lord, we ask that parents and others in Japan will not place obstacles in the way of hundreds of thousands of children coming to you.



Norman, Buddy

6

WEDNESDAY
MAY
2020

“For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens” (Ephesians 6:12). When God’s Word takes hold, opposition often follows. Zhengzhou is the capital city of Henan province and home to several church networks. Because many churches did not agree to sign government documents on how they will operate, they are under severe scrutiny and persecution. Churches are being destroyed, doors barred, and Bibles burned.

Pray for these persecuted churches and Christians. Many Christians are terrified, while others are bravely standing up for the Lord in this difficult time. Pray that they will not be discouraged but continue to be courageous.



none

7

THURSDAY
MAY
2020

During a parenting class, a young mother asked how she could effectively help her four-year-old daughter become well-behaved. Her young child is living with her grandparents in a distant city. According to the grandmother, the child has been “acting out” recently and is almost out of control. Today many families in China choose to have their children live with their grandparents so they have childcare while the parents work. Children are often separated from their parents, and sometimes husbands and wives choose to live separately for work-related and logistical reasons.

Pray these families will come to know the Lord and realize God has a different plan for them. Pray the Lord will help them see that time with their family should be a priority. Pray they will allow God to heal these broken family relationships.



none

8

FRIDAY
MAY
2020

Trisha* and Ken* are good friends—so much so that Ken was willing to travel several hours by car and perform in a music concert at Trisha’s invitation. Ken is a published singer-songwriter, but good music wasn’t Trisha’s only motivation for inviting him. Trisha is a Christian, and during a meal with other Christians, Ken heard the gospel. He didn’t become a Christian that day, but there was something remarkable about that encounter because he had an unexpected understanding of the gospel. This is uncommon for people of his culture who usually have had no exposure to the Word and struggle to comprehend its truth.

Join Trisha in praying that Ken will become a Christian singer-songwriter for God, like King David of the Bible, and bring the gospel to the people of his culture.

* Names changed



Kwang-Sun, Justin

9

SATURDAY
MAY
2020

A new Christian called to say her husband, a nominal Christian, had divorced her due to his father telling him to divorce her. We talked, prayed, and went back to God’s teaching that marriage is for life and that she and her husband needed to come together in obedience. As a Christian, she needed to stand firm in her conviction that marriage was a lifetime commitment worth fighting for. Later, she wrote and said they had come back together and that he and his father were both attending church.

Pray for Christians in East Asia to faithfully bear witness for Christ each day, no matter the challenges that come their way. Pray the Lord will use their faithful witness to inspire their lost family and friends to seek the hope that endures when all other hopes fade.



Anna, Peter

10

SUNDAY
MAY
2020

Kunming is the capital of Yunnan, a province in southwest China that borders Laos, Vietnam, and Myanmar. It doesn't take long to recognize that Kunming's dialect sounds very different from other dialects in China. This is because the majority of Yunnan's population consists of different minority groups. Of these minority groups, many are still unreached and have no Christian workers focused on bringing the gospel.

Pray the Lord will bless and strengthen the churches in Kunming and Yunnan to rise up and reach out to people groups with different lifestyles. Pray the church leaders will recognize the needs among these lost people groups, pray for their salvation, share the Good News, and establish churches among them.



Monica

11

MONDAY
MAY
2020



Day of Prayer and Fasting:

Lack of Exposure

China is approximately the same size as the United States, so it is easy to understand how difficult it is to travel to every village, valley, and mountaintop. Due to an atheist government, fear, and tradition, the gospel has still not reached everyone. The complete Chinese translation of the Bible has existed for one hundred years and shorter Scripture passages for nearly a thousand. However, many people do not have access to a Bible. "But how can they call on Him they have not believed in? And how can they believe without hearing about Him? And how can they hear without a preacher" (Romans 10:14)? Someone must go, but until they do, we call out to the one who can deliver them.

God, please make your name known to China's millions.



Chris, Lucy, Mike, Naomi Fisher

12

TUESDAY
MAY
2020

Bob* and Betty* have been struggling with their marriage for the past ten years. Both work and they have a three-year-old boy. Unfortunately, their primary focus is on making more money, and their child often feels insecure because his parents are not home. Because of these misplaced priorities, Bob and Betty also have problems with their own relationship.

Pray the Lord will restore and heal the many families in China who are struggling because their focus is on the things of this world. Pray that these struggling families will come to know the Lord as they seek help, and that they will realize the only true help comes from the Savior.

* Names changed



Ruth, So-Rae

13

WEDNESDAY
MAY
2020

Cheonggyecheon Stream is just under seven miles long and runs through downtown Seoul, South Korea, before flowing into the Han River. The stream was once hidden under an elevated highway when the country was focused on economic redevelopment after the Korean War. The elevated highway was removed in 2003 as part of an urban renewal project of downtown Seoul, and Cheonggyecheon Stream was restored to its present condition. The banks of the stream are now popular with both tourists and locals for evening outings and strolls. Jesus has promised, “The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him” (John 7:38).

Intercede for spiritual awakening and restoration for Koreans. Pray Koreans will seek and believe in Jesus and experience the outflowing of rivers of living water in their lives.



Bert

14

THURSDAY
MAY
2020

My first thoughts upon entering Xinjiang Province was that everything seemed different—the architecture, music, language, food, and faces of the people. Was I still in China? Xinjiang is home to the Uyghur (“We-ger”) people, one of China’s Muslim minorities. The Uyghurs account for half of the population in this area of northwest China, but Uyghurs live in cities throughout the country, often running restaurants that sell traditional foods like flatbread, lamb kebobs, and noodles. Their faith has come under attack—mosques are being forced to close, and people are being detained and sent away to camps.

When they feel abandoned, may they know God has not forgotten them. As they face times of deep despair, pray they will know the light has come, and his name is Jesus. Pray Uyghurs will turn to and trust in him, and display his glory.



none

15

FRIDAY
MAY
2020

Proverbs 29:18 warns us, “Without revelation people run wild, but one who listens to instruction will be happy.”

Pray for East Asian people to read and internalize God’s Word so as to gain wisdom for life and godliness. Pray they will hear from God and eagerly join him in his big vision for reaching those around them and the nations. Pray they will not be distracted by worldly cares or worries, seek selfish ambition, or fall prey to the deceptive lies of the evil one that tempts them to believe they are not worthy or capable of being used by the Almighty God. Pray they will see with spiritual eyes, serve with sacrificial hearts, and carry out the vision he has clearly commanded of us: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).



Marilyn

16

SATURDAY
MAY
2020

Over half of the people got up and left during the Lord's Supper. They knew that, as non-Christians, they were unqualified to partake of this ordinance representing Christ's atoning sacrifice. And yet, these lost East Asian people return to that church week after week. They depend on relationships for survival.

Pray that as they gather together for food, fun, and fellowship, they will hear and respond to the hope of the gospel. Pray they will be committed to the Word and their new spiritual family with the love and truth of the gospel. Pray they will be faithful to the task of encouraging and equipping one another to live out the gospel so that their neighbors will also encounter the gifts of Christ's love and forgiveness—making an eternal difference in the nations.



none

17

SUNDAY
MAY
2020

There was a “cruel winter” during Chairman Mao's rule from the 1950s to 1970s in China when an entire generation of church leadership was martyred. In the '80s and '90s, rapid church growth occurred in rural China. However, these newer Chinese churches have found themselves lacking the necessary skills to equip their church leadership. The rural church leaders were not trained by the previous generation of leaders because of the spiritual vacuum left after Mao's rule. Moreover, they are unable to train the newer church leaders of the 21st century because of their own lack of training.

Pray for those who will help mend the generational leadership gap by investing in Chinese pastors. Pray these younger pastors will learn how to be faithful, skillful, and humble servants of God who train the next generation of church leaders.



Jennifer, Audra

18

MONDAY
MAY
2020

Our family traveled far from our home after surrendering our lives to share Christ. We did not expect that God would allow the challenges and heartache of cancer. However, we learned that our good God is faithful in all things and desires our complete surrender and dependency on him. Through battling cancer, he did a hard work in me and my family to further refine us and make us ready to serve him. He brought us through this trial, did not allow cancer to overtake me, and now after a year of treatment, we look forward to sharing about God's faithfulness with Chinese Muslims.

Praise God that he has healed my cancer and strengthened our family's faith. Praise God for being the unchanging one, even when everything around us feels unsure. Praise God for providing a way for us to minister among Chinese Muslims.



Avril, Vivian, Jacob, Kate, Robert

19

TUESDAY
MAY
2020

Nancy* became a Christian through the witness of a traveling pastor. A Christian commuted across town to have Bible study with her and introduce her to other Christians. This resulted in Nancy's baptism. These new friends live in a different city, and because Nancy is the only Christian of her people group in her city, she could not find a church to attend. However, her new Christian friends are willing to have a worship service at her business. Unfortunately, they can only come once a month.

Pray for Nancy's spiritual growth— she loves God and is burdened for the salvation of her family and friends. Pray she becomes like a bright light that illuminates her city with the Good News.

* Name changed



Gideon, Hadley

20

WEDNESDAY
MAY
2020

Tokyo Metro Community is a ministry reaching out to people in the business world. The gatherings are called “Ecclesiastics,” because more than simply facilitating Bible study, the goal is Christ-centered community through meaningful relationships and prayer. There are groups meeting together in five locations throughout Tokyo. Participants desire to see God’s presence spread from inner-city Tokyo to the far reaches of the nation. Participants have found the fellowship to be an oasis in the desert of their city. One was so moved that he began a group for his colleagues in his office. Another member spearheaded the opening of a new group near his work location.

Pray for the tremendous potential for gospel impact that is inherent to this particular group. Lift up church planting initiatives within business communities.



Ashley

21

THURSDAY
MAY
2020

It is shocking how many Chinese Christians don’t know how to start a gospel conversation, what a full gospel presentation entails, or how to defend their faith when presented with common challenges. Whenever someone interested in the gospel appears in a church or in a Christian’s personal life, the non-Christian is almost always referred to a pastor.

Pray evangelism training will spread among Chinese churches. Pray more and more Christians will be confident and competent in presenting the full gospel well.



none

22

FRIDAY
MAY
2020

I was told that the resources of the kingdom are found in the harvest. Little did I realize, the number of Chinese Christians all around me are those resources the Father is using to draw Chinese Muslims to himself. Yet they need to be equipped to cross cultures. Many hours have been spent creating culturally relevant trainings that will help Chinese Christians contextually engage Chinese Muslims with the gospel of Jesus. However, crossing cultures is very difficult and unnatural.

Pray a project to help equip Christians will soon be completed and will be useful for those God is calling out among the Chinese to reach Chinese Muslims. Pray those who are trained will boldly step out of their comfort zones for the sake of the gospel and share their faith with Chinese Muslims.



Bethany, Ryan, Spencer

23

SATURDAY
MAY
2020

Learning a foreign language is a challenge for most people. For some Christian workers, having competency in more than two languages is necessary to communicate the gospel to certain unreached people groups. This is often the case for people ministering in East Asia. They must communicate in three languages due to their job, location, and the people group they serve. Typically, these workers are fluent in one language, capable in another, and studying the third. Gaining competency will enhance their ability to proclaim the gospel, improve their communication with national partners, and increase their effectiveness to train others.

Pray for proficiency in second and third languages. Ask God to encourage these workers as they study and bless them for the sake of his kingdom.



Sidney

24

SUNDAY
MAY
2020



Chinese Muslims celebrate Eid Al Fitr, breaking the fast, at the end of Ramadan. The community gathers for a meal of mutton, lamb, and beef. Some Chinese Muslims travel to their relatives' graves to clean the tombs, which is similar to a Chinese festival.

Pray Christians will be invited to break the fast with Chinese Muslims and that they will boldly share the gospel. Pray Chinese Muslims will be exposed to Christian communities and Christ-like fellowship. Pray for Muslim background believers—those who were Chinese Muslims who chose to follow Jesus—this can be a lonely time as the festival is closely tied to their cultural identity. Pray they find Christian community and true fellowship with other followers of Jesus.



Phillip, Brianna, Phillip

25

MONDAY
MAY
2020



The Tusu love to participate in festivals because they provide opportunities to relax and forget about the hardships of life. Festivals are a time to reconnect with family and friends, eat, dance, and even do business. Many Tusu observe a ceremonial washing, which they believe cleanses the past year's sins. They long to be freed from their sins, so they continue in their traditions. Who will go and tell them that there is a God they don't yet worship, but should? How will they know that Jesus has already paid the price for their sins?

Thank God that recently an evangelism tool was translated into their language and Tusu Christians are sharing the gospel with others in their people group. Pray the Good News will travel throughout the Tusu people this year and many Tusu will turn to Jesus and be saved.



none

26

TUESDAY
MAY
2020

According to Korea World Missions Association (KWMA) statistics, 27,993 Korean missionaries were deployed in 173 countries in 2019. The Korean church has been steadfast in their missions focus. Korean missionaries were sent to Shandong Province, China, as early as 1913. Even though the church was poor after the Korean War, they still heeded the Great Commission and sent missionaries to Thailand, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Mexico, and Brazil. The Korean church revival movement peaked in the 1980s, resulting in the deployment of a great number of missionaries. A current concern is the slowing down of the deployment of Korean missionaries. One key factor is the decline of Christianity in Korea.

Pray for revitalization of the Korean church and for Korean Christians to have a biblical understanding of missions.



Raul

27

WEDNESDAY
MAY
2020

Please join us in praying the “three opens” for East Asian peoples: pray that God will open the door to the gospel, Christians will open their mouths to clearly share the Word, and God will open the hearts of the people to receive his truth.

Each step of this prayer is crucial. We believe the same God who parted the Red Sea and set an entire people group free from slavery, who broke down the walls of Jericho and accomplished what he promised, who freed Peter from prison so he could go on to pen his eyewitness account of God's power, who turned Paul's heart from persecuting Christians to a man whose life was marked by proclaiming the gospel, is able. In faith, we pray doors once sealed shut to gospel revelation will be opened wide for gospel proclamation.



Helen

28

THURSDAY
MAY
2020

Many Chinese Christians sense a call to reach Muslims in Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East, along with the Buddhists and Hindus of Southeast Asia and South Asia. These Chinese missionaries often struggle with a support structure that can help them be effective in their work in a sustainable way, due to the fact that such entities would be viewed as illegal in China. Even if such a structure existed, there would be challenges with selecting viable candidates because cross-cultural missions is a relatively new ministry in China. Still, China's number of Christians suggests it is the greatest source of workers for the harvest field.

Pray God will show how to select, send, support, and sustain missionaries from China.



Winona, Sean

29

FRIDAY
MAY
2020

Athletes all over the world competing for the title of 2020 Olympic champion in their specific sports are now preparing themselves with rigorous schedules and dedicated discipline. Christian athletes are among these who plan to come to Tokyo to compete.

Like the famous Christian Olympic runner, Eric Liddell, who said, “. . . when I run, I feel his pleasure,” pray these athletes will feel God’s pleasure as they compete. Pray they will see themselves as God’s ambassadors to other countries’ athletes as they interact in the games and in the Olympic Village. Ask the Lord to keep them strong in mind and spirit, as well as in their bodies, so they don’t fall into temptation. May they continue to run the race that is set before them as Christians, knowing that who is waiting at the finish line is also running beside them.



Ky, Lillian, Andy

30

SATURDAY
MAY
2020

My wife and I are from a minority group in China. During college, we heard the gospel and believed. We were discipled and learned about unreached people groups. God called us to live among the Hui in China. Our small house church raised money to help us get started, but for the last four years, we've met our own needs. We opened two businesses. Our kids go to local schools, but it is not easy. Students are told to tattle on any classmates who have a religion or celebrate Christmas. The education system is designed to teach children that all religions are superstitious. How do we protect our children? How do we teach them to love Jesus and endure the mocking they receive daily?

Pray for Chinese Christians who live among the Hui. Pray God will fill them, encourage them, and give them fruitful ministry.



Lydia, Saul, Sang-mu

31

SUNDAY
MAY
2020

We are asking the Lord to start five new healthy churches in the city of Osaka in the next five years. To plant these churches, we need Japanese Christians and healthy disciples. As we partner with nationals and volunteers, we are asking the Lord to lead us to those who seek hope. Volunteers have helped with English Bible camps for children, prayer walked, evangelized on the street, and whatever else was requested. In November 2019, a two-year course in biblical counseling began. This contributed to the development of healthy disciples and healthy churches in Osaka. This course requires the commitments of time and energy outside of normal working hours, which is a scarce commodity in Japan.

Pray the city of Osaka will be saturated with the gospel. Pray the Lord will continue to shine in the midst of the darkness.



Kathryn

1

MONDAY
JUNE
2020



Today China celebrates International Children's Day. Schools host special activities. Parents may take their children to a park or movie and will often treat them to a special meal. Increased government scrutiny makes it difficult for churches to hold activities that honor children. In China, it is illegal to share the gospel with anyone who is under the age of eighteen. Children are trusting and have pliable hearts yet are restricted from hearing the best news ever.

Pray parents, aunts, uncles, other relatives, neighbors, and teachers will share the gift of God's love with Chinese children while they are young. Pray that Chinese Christians faithfully share the gospel with each generation.



Colt, Rachel

2

TUESDAY
JUNE
2020

Every June, China comes to a standstill for two days as high school seniors take a college entrance exam. This test is called the "GaoKao" and literally means, "higher examination." A student's earned mark determines future opportunities and money-earning potential. This score is the most important number in any Chinese student's life and is the result of years of memorization, study, and constant stress.

Pray high school students will find their worth not in their exam scores but in Christ. Pray local Christians will find ways to encourage students and their families during this incredibly stressful time. Ask God to help these families see and understand that our lives have worth only because of Christ.



Beatrice

3

WEDNESDAY
JUNE
2020

Summer is a time for fireworks, festivals, brightly-colored kimonos, dragon boat races, grilled squid on a stick, and ice-cold noodles. Summer among East Asian peoples also brings scores of US students who give up their typical summer breaks to share the gospel with those who have yet to believe. Students come for a week, or even their entire breaks, to serve alongside teams across East Asia. Their mere presence attracts new contacts and their verbal witness plants seeds of salvation.

As students come and share, pray for open doors to spread the gospel, open mouths to boldly speak truth in love, and open hearts to receive and believe. Ask that God will use this generation of students to reach students and take the gospel to every nation.



none

4

THURSDAY
JUNE
2020

One church in a large city meets in a mall, so church members always carry tracts to share in the stores and with customers. As a result, they shared the gospel more than thirteen thousand times in a six-month period, and fifty-five people accepted Jesus during a single evangelistic service. Because of security concerns, the church recently multiplied into four locations, but church members continue to share the gospel.

Pray God will continue to bless and protect this church and make its members fruitful for his kingdom.



Steve

5

FRIDAY
JUNE
2020



Saga Dawa, the Month of Merits, is recognized as the time of Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death. During this month, Tibetan Buddhists believe that meritorious acts like walking around a religious building, giving alms to monks, lighting butter lamps, or abstaining from meat will gain extra "brownie points" for karma. Some have even said the value of these good works is multiplied by as much as one hundred thousand times this month.

Pray Tibetan Buddhists will realize that no amount of good works can erase a person's sin because sin is not an action but a heart condition that results in actions. Pray they will find true and complete forgiveness through Jesus.



none

6

SATURDAY
JUNE
2020

Japanese churches have more senior adult members than young families, students, or children. Many Japanese people have not heard about Jesus, met a Japanese Christian, or been given the opportunity to read the Bible. Senior members of one church are learning how to share their testimonies and how this impacts their lives. Christians and other senior adults gather to sing and listen to one another's testimonies—an evangelistic outreach that any church can do to encourage people of this age group. In addition, senior adults can get into day care facilities and nursing homes with ease.

Pray this kind of evangelistic thinking will permeate churches in Tokyo. Pray more pastors will see the potential of senior adults in their churches and encourage them to reach outside church walls. Ask the Father to add more senior adult Japanese to his kingdom.



Tama, Rachel

7

SUNDAY
JUNE
2020

Bao Ni* is passionate about reaching minority peoples with the Good News. He wants everyone in his small church to grow in their understanding of the gospel and grasp the importance of using people's heart languages to reach the surrounding villages. This church hosts several annual outreach events, but Bao Ni desires that each disciple shares his faith more regularly. Six hundred thousand people live in their city and many more in the surrounding area. Bao Ni often feels ill-equipped to lead and help others reach spiritual maturity.

Pray Bao Ni will grow in boldness and allow the Holy Spirit to lead him as he leads others. Pray mature Christians will help with discipleship and evangelism. Pray church leaders will use reproducible methods of discipleship and evangelism and that the church will grow in its passion to see the entire county reached with the gospel.

* Name changed



James

8

MONDAY
JUNE
2020

Day of Prayer and Fasting: Government Restrictions

“God arises. His enemies scatter, and those who hate Him flee from His presence” (Psalm 68:1). Paul states in Philipians 3:18, “That many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.” These people aren't necessarily evil but oppose Christian values, God's Word, and God. We should expect this, as people who also once opposed Jesus. How then can Christians tell them about the cross, the way to heaven, and God's love?

Pray for access to the billion-plus people of East Asia. Ask God to give Christians creative ways to live among the lost, necessary language skills to communicate clearly, and favor with governments. Many Christians today influence leaders like Daniel did with King Nebuchadnezzar. May today's enemies become tomorrow's Christ-followers.



Lynn, Bethany, Janeen, Anna

9

TUESDAY
JUNE
2020

The very identity of an ethnic Tam* person is equal to being a Buddhist, which makes him historically resistant to the gospel. Tam people reject outsiders because of the political tension of previous decades. Recently, however, God has opened doors on two important fronts. With Bible storying, many non-Christian Tam people are learning and studying stories from Scripture, and some are even becoming followers of Christ. With online distribution of stories and songs, the gospel is spreading all across the mountains where Tam people live. One recent indigenous praise song had five hundred thousand hits in just a few weeks. Christians are excited to share the gospel in these ways, but many challenges and roadblocks remain.

Pray for the protection of these avenues, the boldness of Christian witnesses, and the openness of Tam hearts so that many more will be saved.

* Name changed



Chris

10

WEDNESDAY
JUNE
2020

Our vision is to see a spiritual revival in South Korea and the re-vitalization of Korean churches. Only a small percentage of college students claim to be Christians, and the majority of the population indicates that it has no religious affiliation. We long to see this changed.

Pray for the realization of our goal to make disciples and plant multiplying urban churches among college students and young professionals. As we partner with South Korean Christians and churches for the Great Commission task, pray for creative but meaningful work among young people. Pray national church planters will be willing to go to regions where there are very few Christians.



none

11

THURSDAY
JUNE
2020

It can be a challenge to share the gospel with family and friends. This is especially true in areas where practicing Christians face persecution. Yet the need is so great for non-Christians within these dangerous areas to hear the gospel message. This a desperate and dangerous situation that needs prayer. Eternal salvation hangs in the balance for these non-Christians.

Pray God will lead Christian workers who live in safe places to Christians who live outside of their people group's perilous areas. Pray these national Christians will be encouraged to share God's Word with their family and friends who live back home in unsafe areas. Pray many churches will be formed.



Joy, Dolores, Max, Rachel, Na, Joy

12

FRIDAY
JUNE
2020

“Wherever he leads me, I will follow. Whatever he feeds me, I will swallow.” This simple and sometimes lighthearted missionary creed speaks directly to—and proactively against—the human desire for earthly comfort. People find their home culture most comfortable. Yet Jesus, our perfect example of an incarnational witness, forsook his perfect home—all the comforts and glory due his name—and made his home with us, as a servant.

Pray East Asian missionaries and missionaries to East Asians will sacrificially love the people and cultures they seek to engage with the gospel. Pray they will desire the salvation of souls more than earthly or home culture comforts.



Christine, Grace, Robert, Celeste, Yolanda

13

SATURDAY
JUNE
2020

“How can you be so sure you will go to heaven?” my Christian friend asked me. I couldn’t believe that we were having this conversation once again. We had studied the Bible together for more than a year, yet this very basic question reemerged. How can Christians march forward when they’re unsure of the goal? How can they put on spiritual armor that they don’t know they need?

God, give East Asian Christians a hunger for your Word and an insatiable thirst to drink deeply from your well every day. Hide your truths deep in their hearts so they will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are their provider, protector and God. Chase away the doubt that arises and plant an unshakable faith in its place so they may strengthen others.



none

14

SUNDAY
JUNE
2020

A small church plant south of the city of Sendai began out of the rubble of the 2011 tsunami. The group meets in a small farmhouse in the middle of rice paddies. Previously, another church used the farmhouse as a relief distribution center. Through the Lord’s providence, on the very day that this church was praying about the center’s future, IMB missionaries visited and arranged to use the building to start a church. Many volunteers have helped fix up the house, distribute tracts, and host community events. Nearby, people who lost everything in the tsunami live in newly built communities. This area is steeped in Japanese tradition. The church has been blessed by a handful of salvations and a few baptisms.

Pray a rich harvest for the Lord will be gathered as the church leaders disciple young Christians and teach them to evangelize.



none

15

MONDAY
JUNE
2020

More and more East Asians are moving to other Asian countries for business or work. Hundreds of thousands of others travel for vacation or retirement. Though it is common for cultural traditions to be tightly held when in a new country, eventually, relocated East Asians grow weary in their search for something more. When they give up following their ways, they are ready to listen God.

Pray the Lord will open doors to allow Christian workers to partner with Southeast Asian churches to bring the gospel to the East Asian people living among them. Pray more laborers will be ready to share truth with the lost when they are ready. Pray East Asians will find meaning and purpose in Christ.



Marcus, Victoria

16

TUESDAY
JUNE
2020

The 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, start on Friday, July 24, and end on Sunday, August 9. The Paralympics follow from August 25 to September 6. All of these events occur during the hottest time of year in Tokyo. Event planners are concerned about the effect of the heat on the athletes as well as spectators.

Pray event organizers will have wisdom now about what needs to be done in preparation for the heat. Pray God will prepare a way for the Connect 2020 team to provide space for spectators to sit, talk, and enjoy a cool drink. As Jesus was offered a drink from the well by a woman, pray that many will reach out to those visiting Tokyo during these international events.



Gina

17

WEDNESDAY
JUNE
2020



China has more cities with a population over one million than any other country. In the past four decades, its urban population has grown from 170 million to more than 800 million. Christians and Muslims have recently been targeted and encouraged to rethink their beliefs. Churches face restrictions and their Christian activities are closely monitored, if even allowed. Foreigners are less welcomed and less trusted than ever before. However, God is not restricted by governments or afraid of being seen. In fact, he encourages people everywhere to seek him. God has placed a longing for him in every human heart.

Pray this longing will drive people to call out to God. He is not far from the Chinese, and he has promised them that they will find him when they seek with all their hearts (Jeremiah 29:13).



Wade

18

THURSDAY
JUNE
2020

As Song* Christians gathered to write lyrics in their own language, they discussed many issues within their church, including the topic of funerals. Christians faced persecution when they did not follow the local animistic customs after someone died. They decided to write a song to address this issue. Several months later, Christians and non-Christians gathered for the funeral of a Song believer. Instead of inviting the shaman to perform rituals to appease the spirits, the Christians sang the funeral song. Amazingly, a very unusual cloud pattern formed in the sky in the clear shape of a giant cross. Many of the non-Christians wondered aloud, “Your God must be a true God.”

Pray the non-Christian family members who attended this funeral will fully know God. Pray for boldness as the Song church uses music to deal with cultural issues and glorify God.

* Name changed



Song, Tessa

19

FRIDAY
JUNE
2020

China is home to more than four hundred people groups, many of which are unreached and unengaged. As the government makes efforts to remove foreign Christians, Chinese Christians sense the need to do even more to effectively reach all of these people groups. Beyond ethnocentrism, they face significant other challenges in crossing cultures. To address these concerns, organizations are providing mentoring, coaching, and training for cross-cultural workers to help them effectively plant churches in some of China's most remote locations.

Pray God will protect the organizations that are training these cross-cultural workers so that the lost people groups in East Asia will have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel unencumbered.



none

20

SATURDAY
JUNE
2020

“Remember the prisoners, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily” (Hebrews 13:3). Pray for the persecuted Christians of an unreached people group who are targeted and incarcerated solely because they are Christians. Many eventually die in prison due to poor diets and physical mistreatment.

Pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ to know God's love and comfort. Ask that they will miraculously remember Scripture and thus strengthen their faith so they can remain spiritually strong despite constant opposition. Pray they will courageously avoid providing the authorities with any information that can put others in harm's way. Ask that they will boldly share God's message of love and hope with their fellow prisoners and guards. Pray many will come to know salvation through them.



none

21

SUNDAY
JUNE
2020

A Japanese house church leader named Gaki* recently changed his method in spreading the gospel message in the city of Kobe, Japan. He used to eagerly go to the streets and proclaim God's Word to anyone who would listen. While continuing to preach to the small Japanese church, he has also created a farm where locals regularly volunteer. He grows many types of vegetables at the farm that he gives to needy families and makes many new relationships with the volunteers.

Pray the Lord will continue to use Gaki to lead the Japanese church and use his farm to build relationships with other Japanese in order to share the gospel with them.



Wayne, Oscar, Clara, Chuck, Tracey, Heather

22

MONDAY
JUNE
2020

Xi'an has a history of more than 3,100 years and has been the capital for thirteen different dynasties. Although Nestorian history says Christianity was first introduced to China through Xi'an in the year 635, it is still one of China's unreached cities with fewer than 322,000 Christians out of a population of 12 million.

Pray local believers and churches will not only persevere in the midst of recent persecution from the government but will also grow stronger and more mature in their faith. Ask the Lord to save more people in the city than ever before. Plead for God's grace and pray he will use Xi'an as a gateway city to reach out to the northwest area of China and beyond with the gospel.



Rex, Thomas

23

TUESDAY
JUNE
2020

More than one million Chinese people, including over sixty-eight thousand students, reside in South Korea. While there, they have freedom to go to church, investigate Christian beliefs, and grow in their faith. Furthermore, every year millions of Chinese people visit as tourists. Given the broad scope and immense task of reaching all of them with the gospel, we covet your prayers for their salvation and discipleship.

Pray for projects that focus on reaching out to tourists through Bible distribution. Pray for the training of international students through universities and Christian professors. Pray for effective networking among churches in South Korea.



Samantha, Jack, Radford

24

WEDNESDAY
JUNE
2020

The Yi are China's seventh-largest ethnic minority group with nine million people. They live primarily in mountainous areas of the rural southwest. Most Yi believe they came from the same ancestor. Like many minority people groups, the Yi are accomplished musicians, and have several festivals and traditions that draw tourists to their area. Their traditional religious belief is a form of animism, which means they worship many deities and spirits, though some Christians exist in different subgroups. Most Yi believe that angry gods cause storms and bad spirits cause sickness and crop failure. They also worship ancestors.

Pray the Yi will know the God who calms storms, raises the dead, and gives new life. Pray for churches in their language to dot the mountains where the Yi live, offering them a chance to hear, believe, and begin to really live.



Gordon, Doris, Paul, Jan, Angela, Leia, Denise, David

25

THURSDAY
JUNE
2020



Much of East Asia celebrates Dragon Boat Festival on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, which is today. This holiday's commonly-believed origin relates to the death of Qu Yuan in 278 BC. Qu Yuan was a poet and statesman, as well as a loyal minister to the king. When the king allied with another kingdom, people jealous of Qu Yuan's wisdom and intellect accused him of conspiracy and exiled him. Due to his sorrow over the state of his people, Qu Yuan drowned himself at the age of sixty-one. People searched desperately for him and threw rice into the water to keep fish from eating him. Today they celebrate by having dragon boat races and eating rice dumplings, or *zongzi*.

Pray Chinese people will hear the truth of Jesus who also sorrowed over his people and died for them that they might live.



London

26

FRIDAY
JUNE
2020

Korea Baptist Theological University/ Seminary (KBTUS) is the theological institution of the Korea Baptist Convention. It is located in Daejeon, south of Seoul. It began in June 1953 as the Baptist Bible Institute, became Korea Baptist Seminary the following year, then finally took its current name in 1993. Currently, KBTUS has about 1,500 undergraduate students and 800 in graduate programs. The undergraduate program offers majors in liberal arts and education as well as fine arts. The graduate program offers both master's and doctoral courses. Affiliated with KBTUS is the World Missions Training Center, which was established to train missionaries, pastors, and lay people.

Pray the students will acquire a deep love for God and share his heart for the lost. May they stand firm and grow in their faith in Jesus and be light and salt wherever they go.



Joshua

27

SATURDAY
JUNE
2020

The joy of seeing people come to faith and then grow in that faith is priceless. How my heart sang for joy when I heard Larry* and Diane* talk about the new church they had started. Just a year ago, they wondered what they would do when their previous church was closed. How could they meet with others? How would they grow spiritually? It was a difficult year, but God's faithfulness saw them through.

Pray for Larry and Diane as they reach out to others, preach the Word, and disciple. May they see Christians multiply in cities that have little gospel witness. Pray God will strengthen weak hearts and faith and turn more East Asian Gideons into mighty warriors (Judges 6:12).

* Name changed



Jenifer, Hannah

28

SUNDAY
JUNE
2020

Missionaries in Osaka planted gospel seeds and disciplined local Christians but were unable to plant a church for several years. Their hearts were burdened to see God's church serve as a light in one of the most densely populated districts of the city. As more Christian workers joined the team and God connected them to local Christians with a shared vision, he answered prayers and a church was planted in 2019. In their first year, they experienced the joy of gathering weekly to worship the Lord, grow in obedience, share testimonies, pray together, and proclaim the gospel. An ongoing need is to secure a sufficient meeting space near the train station.

Pray God will meet the need for this gathering space and that this church will be a light that brings his hope to this community.



Stewart, Clyde, Jennice, Peter

29

MONDAY
JUNE
2020

Nearly twenty-eight million people attend universities in China—that's 20 percent of college students worldwide. The exam of their lifetime awaits each student at the end of their high school education. Those who achieve the highest scores within each province are then vaulted into the world of higher education. Although many study away from their hometowns, they still feel pressure to succeed for the sake of their families. In this collective society, honor for the family is of utmost importance, so identity can be tied to whether they succeed or fail.

As many university students grapple with the daily pressure to succeed, pray that God will give them an opportunity to hear about a loving heavenly Father who sent his Son to die to purchase their souls. Pray this truth will change them into sons and daughters who find their identity in God alone.



Louise, Emily

30

TUESDAY
JUNE
2020

The Word of God will accomplish what he desires and achieve the purpose for which he sent it (Isaiah 55:11). Among a group of 1.5 million people, God will use 300 known Christians to tell their people group about him. The Bible in their mother tongue has reached them through digital methods and MP3 players. For example, Christians left an MP3 player loaded with Scripture, Bible stories, and spiritual songs with a group of Christians so they could take turns listening to it in their heart language. Christians now share Bible stories with unbelieving friends and family members. For the first time, many who live in villages are hearing the gospel and that God speaks their language.

Pray that every person on every mountaintop will hear the gospel and that a thousand new churches will start among this people group.



Jon



1

WEDNESDAY
JULY
2020



In Japan, less than 1 percent of 126 million people are Christian. Many neighbors, friends, and coworkers of Christians are not followers of Christ and may never have heard the gospel. Surrounded by others who do not share their faith and families that may not be supportive, many Japanese Christians feel pressure to blend in. Most Japanese churches are small, and the average attendance is around thirty-five. Many of these churches are located in neighborhoods with Shinto or Buddhist neighbors.

Pray for believers of Jesus in Japan to take opportunities to grow as disciples and boldly share their faith with others. Pray for Japanese churches to have hearts that love those around them with the love of Christ. Pray this love will compel them to find ways to minister and share the gospel with those in their communities.



Curtis, Robert, Gary

2

THURSDAY
JULY
2020

“Unless the Lord builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain; unless the Lord watches over a city, the watchman stays alert in vain” (Psalm 127:1). The Lord is building his house in East Asia. We do not labor or pray in vain. God watches over East Asians and desires for them to know him. As you pray, is God calling you to organize a prayer group or mission trip from your church?

Ask him, “What is my role? As part of the body of Christ, what do you want me to do?” The task may seem too daunting, the people too many, the needs too great. Our God is greater and sends us out in his power. Ask him to equip you to do what he is calling you to do. Don’t wait, just obey. Don’t fear, just believe.



John

3

FRIDAY
JULY
2020

Seven years ago, Christians prayed fervently over a local valley of villages that was in utter spiritual darkness. Then, two Christians from another country visited and shared with a man whom the Lord had prepared. He believed but didn't know how to follow. Two years later, a Christian noticed a sign, "The Lord Bless this House," on this new brother's property. A discipleship relationship began. Christians from another part of the country began coming faithfully to share the gospel. This brother is now ready to begin leading a small group of other new Christians. Jesus says, "Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2).

Pray for unrelenting waves of evangelists from the Chinese church to partner here. Pray Christians will commit to the harvest and healthy churches will grow within reach of every person in this valley.



Kenneth

4

SATURDAY
JULY
2020

Faithfully investing in the people of a new culture involves learning the host language to a high proficiency. One couple felt quite discouraged about this challenge and wondered how they might succeed. They prayerfully launched into a learning program, then intentionally engaged every person around them. This led to growing relationships with neighbors and a shared interest group with whom they proclaimed the gospel in the local language. God provided what this couple needed and blessed them with an efficient arrival at solid language proficiency. Walking with clear motivation, they faithfully pressed on through a variety of unexpected challenges.

Pray men and women learning languages such as Japanese, Korean, and Chinese will have a clear vision for how to accurately proclaim the gospel among people who speak these languages (Colossians 4:2-4).



Gavin

5

SUNDAY
JULY
2020

Being a gospel worker and living in an area that isn't friendly toward Christianity brings some special challenges. For example, one minister couldn't find a safe place to baptize new Christians. After pondering Proverbs 3:5-6, he sensed that God didn't want him to act on his own or rely on his own understanding. Psalm 46:10 encouraged him to be patient and wait for God's provision. Therefore, that's what he did, anticipating that God would provide a safe place for the baptisms. God did exactly that when the owner of a local business with a bathtub in a private bathroom gave permission for the worker and his family to use it anytime they needed. God provided perfectly.

Please ask God to bless these new Christians and the Christians reaching out to this people group.



none

6

MONDAY
JULY
2020

Imagine you are sitting in a university, seminary, or higher theological education course. As you listen to the professor explain the requirements for the class, you hear you have to write a twenty-page research paper. However, there are no resources available to help you support your thoughts. How can you write your paper and support your opinions? Students attending a seminary in East Asia have lacked resources for years. A library is finally being established for the faculty and students. A database has been compiled, books are being cataloged, and procedures are being created for borrowing the resources.

Praise the Lord for his provisions. Pray the library staff will be unified as they put all the processes together. Pray the resources will be protected and helpful to the students as they develop a deeper understanding in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.



Jordan, Sophie, April

7

TUESDAY
JULY
2020

Approximately 41.6 percent of the world's population—more than seven thousand people groups— are unreached with the gospel. Many of these are still unengaged or have little to no Scripture resources in their native tongue. For those remaining unreached people groups, many live in places where it is hard for a team of Christians to remain and make disciples. There are growing efforts to find creative ways to not only have identity with, but also have long-term support among unreached people groups.

Pray that God will lead followers of Jesus to these unreached places using God-given business skills in order to provide opportunities for the gospel to be heard.



Brooks

8

WEDNESDAY
JULY
2020

Eight years ago, Baptist Global Response donated a small building in a temporary housing compound in Sendai, Japan, so people could have a place to gather. Many volunteer groups used the building to hold social activities. Missionaries began to hold monthly Bible studies, Christian singing, and fellowship events in this building. The group grew and moved to a larger meeting room in this same compound. Then after eight years, when most of the people had finally moved into permanent housing, God miraculously provided a public community center for continued meeting. Every month, about fifteen older adults gather for Bible talks and fellowship. Only one of these people is a Christian. We rejoice that God is working in these people's lives, and long to see more trust in Jesus.

Pray with us for many more to believe and trust in Jesus.



Tyson

9

THURSDAY
JULY
2020

Yonsei University, located in the heart of Seoul, is considered one of the top three universities in Korea. It was founded by missionaries well over a century ago and still maintains a Christian heritage. However, its student body is largely non-believing and far from Christ.

Pray this school, which was birthed as part of the missionary task, will experience a spiritual awakening. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move powerfully among the students to orient their hearts toward Jesus as the true answer to what they seek. Pray the Spirit will move the faculty, knowingly or unknowingly, to point to God and Christ in their teaching so that their students will be encouraged to seek God and his truth. Pray, too, that the administration and faculty will be faithful followers of Christ, and that they will seek God's wisdom in everything they do.



Peter

10

FRIDAY
JULY
2020



The Wenma Zhuang live near the Vietnam border and are known as “people of the soil” because they primarily work in agriculture. They are also superstitious, believing in and worshiping spirits while trying hard to not offend them. The first Southern Baptist missionary to the Zhuang arrived in 1862. Eventually, churches attracted a small number of Zhuang. Today, very few of the Wenma Zhuang are Christians, and no resources exist that would enable the Wenma Zhuang to hear, understand, or respond to the gospel.

Lord, break through long-held superstitions and open the eyes of the Wenma Zhuang so they see you. Burden the hearts of Christians to translate the gospel and take the message of hope to this people group living in darkness. May this happen not by might or power but by God's Spirit (Zechariah 4:6).



Wes, Sue

11

SATURDAY
JULY
2020



The Naadam Festival, which takes place July 11-13, is one of the two largest annual holidays in Mongolia and attracts worldwide attention. Another name for Naadam is “The Three Men’s Games.” It features wrestling, horse racing, and archery in celebration of Mongolia’s past empire and her present independence. While Naadam has Buddhist and Shamanist religious elements, it has become more secular since the 1930s. Families and friends gather to watch the events and enjoy traditional Mongolian foods including a variety of dairy products that are abundant in the summer months.

Ask God to prepare hearts to hear the Good News of Jesus as Christians boldly and creatively share with family and friends during this holiday. Ask God to protect young children who ride in the horse races; because of the heat and intense preparation for the event, horses often fall during the race and the children are injured.



Cindy

12

SUNDAY
JULY
2020

China has labeled Christian education for children as illegal through a religious doctrine law. The “Morals and Values” section of the elementary school curriculum teaches how to resist religion, urges children not to partake in religious activities, and demands that they keep watch and report. This creates a barrier between Christian parents and their children, who no longer want to listen to stories of faith. The Bible teaches future generations the right path they should walk so that they will not stray from it in the future.

Pray children will discern truth so they will grow in wisdom, prayer, and Scripture to become a strong generation of Christians.



Yuko, Da-Rae, Charles, Gil, John

13

MONDAY
JULY
2020



Day of Prayer and Fasting—Pride

Pride says, “I don’t need God.” It rests on its own wisdom to achieve what it wants. Pride says, “Look at us. Aren’t we great?” The Bible warns against the sin of pride, and we see the destruction it can cause. National pride is not wrong until it becomes a snare and keeps a person from God. Several countries in East Asia instill national pride in their citizens, telling them that all they need is what the government provides. “Look to us and you will be fine. Trust us,” they say. But God says in Isaiah 45:22, “Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth. For I am God, and there is no other.”

Pray for a humbling of hearts and a turning to God throughout East Asians.



Andrea, Justin, Charles, Erica, Adam

14

TUESDAY
JULY
2020

Many East Asian missionaries struggle to find sustainable means of living in their new areas of service. Securing visas, employment, and housing can be difficult and often keeps them from being able to focus on ministry.

Pray the Lord would pave the way for creative access entities that will allow local missionaries access to the people they seek to serve. This would make visa processes easier to navigate. Pray Christian workers will find favor in foreign governments’ eyes and receive work visas that give them credibility in their host cultures. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to also reveal himself as the Lord of access to the harvest.



Barbara, Paul

15

WEDNESDAY
JULY
2020

A local Japanese man named Ace* has become interested in God. During his entire working career, he has traveled the world and heard and experienced many different aspects of religion. Christianity has stuck out to him the most. Ace's adult son decided to follow Jesus and be baptized at one of the local Baptist churches in the city of Kobe. He explained the gospel to his father and how he gave his life to Jesus. His son then decided to move to the Philippines and ended up having an accident that took his life. After his son's tragic death, Ace started going to the Baptist church where his son accepted the Lord.

Even though Ace has doubts, pray that the Lord will give him the faith to believe in Jesus.

* Name changed



Joseph, Vickie

16

THURSDAY
JULY
2020

In China's largest cities it is often quoted that at least one out of every five people is a migrant. Many migrant workers can hear the gospel for the first time when they move to big cities, but their lives are miserable there—it is normal to work more than twelve hours a day and they are far from family as their children live in rural hometowns with grandparents. Large numbers of migrant workers are now coming to faith and Chinese churches are growing tremendously. However, churches are challenged in how to help with spiritual growth because most of the church members are first-generation Christians with little experience in discipleship.

Pray all migrant workers will have the opportunity to hear the name of Jesus, turn to him, and be saved. Pray for their spiritual growth and their families' salvation.



Rachael, Calvin

17

FRIDAY
JULY
2020

Eighteen million Zhuang make up the largest of China's ethnic minorities. Their language consists of dozens of dialects without any approved written form. "Zhuang" has been used for a thousand years, but previously they called themselves by multiple different names. They are farmers who revere nature and spirits, using altars in their homes to worship various spirits, gods, and ancestors. Once a week they make an offering to the gods, and they are fearful they have not done enough. The younger generation is drifting from religion toward atheism. Christian influence has been limited but effective, and in some areas the church is taking root.

Pray for the Zhuang to worship the God who has always known their name. Pray they will hear him call to them in their heart language, and for their fears and traditions to grow dim and pass away as they follow him.



none

18

SATURDAY
JULY
2020



The gospel first came to Guangxi in 1862 and churches were planted among the Han Chinese. A gospel foundation eventually was laid among the Central Hongshuihe Zhuang people group, but even today less than 1 percent is evangelical. The Central Hongshuihe physically resemble the Han Chinese but have a separate language and customs. The Zhuang have reportedly been receptive to the gospel. Why then do so many of the fifty Zhuang subgroups, like the Central Hongshuihe, remain unreached and even unengaged? Please stand in the gap on their behalf (Ezekiel 22:30).

God, we cry out to you on behalf of the Hongshuihe Zhuang. Reveal yourself to them, speak to their hearts, and send messengers to proclaim the Good News to them in their own language. Embolden local Christians to share the truth they know with those around them.



Lincoln

19

SUNDAY
JULY
2020

“Can salvation be lost?” And, “Should we even be open to sincere inquiry and discussion about the Trinity?” Or, “How should we view speaking in tongues when some Christians assert it as the external evidence of being baptized by the Holy Spirit?” Chinese Christians come up with legitimate questions about faith and practice. Unclear and ambiguous answers to questions like these will only hinder their spiritual growth and can even lead them to wrong understandings and practices that are outside biblical Christianity.

Pray church leaders will be well taught by quality systematic theology trainers in China. This is crucial in order to lay a strong foundation for the Christian faith.



none

20

MONDAY
JULY
2020

Macau has a reputation as a “city of sin.” Gambling revenues there surpass even those of Las Vegas. Materialism and greed are rampant, as is evidenced by the city’s small number of churches and large number of casinos. Gambling addiction is growing, and little has been done to address this issue. Some local church groups have seen the need to minister to these addicts and are beginning to work on how to help.

Pray God will direct people lost in the addiction of gambling to churches that lead them to Jesus. Pray these souls will find their hope and salvation in God and not material things.



Roberta, Cathy, Ashlee, Diane

21

TUESDAY
JULY
2020



Today is the first day of the sixth lunar month, when the Naxi people of Lijiang celebrate talbiuq. They celebrate on different days, based on each clan's choice. They host a meal for family, friends, and deceased ancestors, seeking to honor and worship them. One person described it as a time for ancestors to come and rest in your home.

Pray for God to soften the hearts of the Naxi who are largely enslaved to ancestor worship and the fear of man but pride themselves on becoming modern and scientific. Ask God to break down pride and show the emptiness of ancestor worship and modernity. Pray they will learn to fear God instead of man. Ask for a greater gospel witness among them and for God to bring a great harvest of Naxi people who will be wholehearted disciples. Pray many more Naxi churches will be established.



Zechariah, Don, Peter

22

WEDNESDAY
JULY
2020

“We need to learn to interpret and apply the Bible so we can teach our people and equip them for ministry.” These were the words of East Asian church leaders about ten years ago. As the church in East Asia grew, a need arose for theological training that could equip pastors and missionaries. A seminary was launched by a team of theological educators to meet this need. From the beginning, the team prayed for God to raise up nationals who could help lead the seminary. Recently, God answered that prayer through Timothy*. He graduated from the seminary and became the school's first national faculty member.

Pray for him and his wife as Timothy grows as a teacher and leader. Pray God will fill them with wisdom, protect them from evil, and give them joy in Jesus.

* Name changed



none

23

THURSDAY
JULY
2020

A woman with throat cancer had to have her voice box removed. She learned to speak very softly without it, however, hearing her required being close to her. Similarly, Christians must stay close to Jesus in order to hear his voice. John 10 portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd whose sheep hear, know, and follow his voice. John 15 says Jesus is the true vine and his disciples are the branches. These two analogies emphasize that Christians need a constant, close relationship with Jesus to follow his instruction. Many workers in East Asia serve in unsafe areas among people groups with overwhelming needs. Stress is a daily reality. These special servants need prayer.

Pray they will daily remain close to God through Bible study and prayer. Pray for them and their partners to hear God's voice and follow his guidance.



Woori, Claudia, Stella

24

FRIDAY
JULY
2020

The Olympic games officially begin today. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, “Don’t you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize. Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a crown that will fade away, but we a crown that will never fade away.” We are to run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1), forgetting what lies behind and straining for what lies ahead, pressing on toward the goal (Philippians 3:13-14). This is so we can say in the end, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

Pray that those running the race throughout East Asia—missionaries, pastors, lay people—will finish well.



none

25

SATURDAY
JULY
2020

Around 750,000 East Asians live in metropolitan Vancouver, Canada. Despite the presence of ethnic churches, most East Asians living there have never clearly heard the gospel nor responded in genuine faith to Jesus Christ.

Pray the Lord of the harvest will call out more workers into this mission field to make disciples among East Asians. Pray ethnic church leaders will receive a fresh revelation of the greatness of God that increases their desire to know the Lord better and obey him more fully, especially in reaching the lost and helping new Christians grow in Christ. Pray new leaders will be trained and sent out to reach second-generation immigrant youth and young adults. Pray for courage and desire among East Asian Christians to reach out and make disciples cross-culturally, especially to those who follow Islam in Vancouver.



Alex, Phil, Lisa, Gus

26

SUNDAY
JULY
2020



During the annual summer Dong New Rice Festival, the Dong people honor their ancestors by harvesting unripe ears of rice. They make this sacrifice with the aim of appeasing their ancestors and wish for a plentiful harvest. They cook the grains into a porridge with duck or fish meat and consume the meal with their entire family.

Pray those who put their faith in superstition will realize that these tributes are fruitless and turn to follow the way of the true Provider. Pray God will bless Dong Christians who must navigate these types of festivals steeped in superstitious traditions. Ask God to guide them with wisdom and discernment to participate in ways that honor both God and their families.



none

27

MONDAY
JULY
2020

Many East Asian societies are notably competitive. Dense populations, an emphasis on education, and dreams of wealth feed the desire to compete for success on individual, corporate, or government levels. This competition can be very fierce and ethical lines are easily blurred if advancement by any means necessary is the only goal. Obviously, unchecked ambition and questionable ethical practices naturally lead to corruption. These problems are so common and frequent in East Asian countries that many expect nothing will ever change for the better. But we can ask God to intervene.

Pray international attention will trigger East Asian country leaders and their advisors to stop their harmful and often illegal practices. Ask God to reshape their ambitions into love for him and others and a passion to proclaim his gospel to the ends of the world.



Ivy, Meredith

28

TUESDAY
JULY
2020

China does not have many megachurches. The average church size is around fifty people. At one time, most large cities had congregations of two hundred to three hundred members. But new government regulations have forced them to stop meeting or to gather in smaller groups of less than twenty people. Some churches prepared well beforehand and started small groups before the policy changes occurred. However, many churches did not plan for this and now need to raise up small group leaders.

Pray these small groups will continue to worship God as bodies of believers and not be discouraged.



Phillip, Ben

29

WEDNESDAY
JULY
2020



For years, the Qiubei Zhuang have remained unengaged with the gospel. They live isolated in the mountains of China's Yunnan Province. Most live in market towns or villages and work in the fields during the day. Villages vary in amenities, but none resemble most towns and cities in the twenty-first century. The men are known for their love of alcohol and its accompanying problems, and they do not trust people who won't drink with them. The Qiubei Zhuang live in fear of the spirits they worship and believe that ghosts and spirits can be their ancestors, so they try to manipulate the spirits to leave them alone or help them.

Pray the Qiubei Zhuang will be set free from the oppression of spirit worship and alcohol addiction. Pray they will hear the gospel and read Scripture portions in their own language.



Renae, Dan, Ken

30

THURSDAY
JULY
2020



Japan is a country that appreciates beauty in nature. Many parks and gardens are meticulously cared for and maintained with reverence. The Japanese traditional Shinto religion holds that “kami,” or gods, reside in rocks, mountains, trees, and waterfalls. Many shrines and temples are dedicated to honoring these gods. Japanese people need to know that there is a Creator whose power is displayed in his creation. Paul writes in Romans 1:20, “For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse.” God alone deserves to be worshiped and honored by the Japanese. They need to know that true peace is available through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pray all Japanese will hear this Good News and choose to follow Jesus.



Edith

31

FRIDAY
JULY
2020



During Qurban, Muslim families honor Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac by killing a sheep or goat. All sacrifices in the Old Testament point to Jesus' perfect sacrifice. But what does this holiday mean for Muslims? Each year that a sacrifice is made, one person in the family is chosen as the recipient of the sacrifice. The sacrifice applies only to the individual, and each Muslim needs at least one of these sacrifices in their lifetime. Without it, one cannot reach God in the afterlife.

Pray for Muslims who depend on their Qurban sacrifice will find true comfort in the sacrifice of Jesus. Pray for Muslims who live in fear of death will search for the Savior who can take their place on the day of judgment. Pray this belief in Qurban will serve as a bridge to bring many Muslims to the truth.



Maria

1

SATURDAY
AUGUST
2020

Grow BeTWEEN is a monthly Bible study for girls ages seven to fourteen that meets at a flower shop owned by a Japanese Christian. Hana-san* allows missionaries and local Christians to use her shop as a place to disciple these girls so they will continue to grow in truth, love, and grace. The mothers of these girls are also learning about what it means to follow Jesus during this time of fellowship, praise, and worship. Half of the group of girls are Christians; several girls have not yet decided to follow Christ.

Pray these young girls will confess Jesus as their Lord. Pray that their mothers will also choose to follow Jesus. Pray for the leaders of the Bible study to have wisdom as to what to teach these girls. Pray for Hana-san who uses her business place for God's glory.

* Name changed



Mindy, Allen

2

SUNDAY
AUGUST
2020

Jim* and Sarah* headed to the mission field filled with a variety of emotions. They were anxious about navigating the new culture and language, but it was also thrilling. Once they arrived in their new destination and began to do life in unfamiliar territory with a language they couldn't yet communicate in, Jim and Sarah started to realize how much they needed to learn before feeling competent. New personnel like Jim and Sarah often have high expectations and put a lot of pressure on themselves.

Pray for new missionaries to persevere in the midst of challenges and spiritual warfare. Pray for leadership as they seek to effectively mentor and train first termers for the calling Christ has put on their lives.

* Names changed



Hubert, Carey

3

MONDAY
AUGUST
2020

The Korean Hands On program is a pathway for Korean Christian young adults to have mission field experience and training. It is a partnership with the Korea Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board; the IMB; and Engaging the Unengaged, an interdenominational missionary sending agency. The Korean Hands On students join IMB missionary teams for a term of six months, during which they are mentored by the field missionaries and are also involved in active ministry. The testimonies and changed lives of Korean Hands On students have been most effective in mobilizing for the program.

Pray these Korean young people will continue on as precious kingdom workers and will develop into next-generation leaders for the church in Korea and the world mission movement. Pray for the mobilization of and recruitment for deployment in early spring and early September each year.



Moriah, Jordan

4

TUESDAY
AUGUST
2020

When asked why he was willing to go overseas, a student from a cross-cultural training program responded, “When I was three years old, I was riding on a bike with my parents. My mom saw we were about to be hit by a car, so she threw me to the side of the street. My parents didn’t survive the accident. . . . my aunt who raised me always told me the Lord saved me so I could be his servant. . . . I believe the Lord is calling me into cross-cultural ministry and calling me to share the gospel with Muslim peoples.”

Pray for this brother as he prepares to cross borders to serve long-term among an unreached people group whose context is different than his own.



Anita, Amber

5

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST
2020

Refugees often encounter unexpected hardships when they make the difficult decision to flee. They often find themselves escaping one inhumane situation only to be trapped in another. This was true for Susan*. She felt compelled to leave her home country with hopes of getting a job. Sadly, she fell victim to human trafficking and was sold as a bride twice. Following these abusive experiences, Susan desperately decided to escape to yet another country. Thankfully, she met a Christian who shared the gospel with her, and she became a Christian. For the first time ever she experienced real love, hope, and peace. Unfortunately, Susan’s tragic story is common for female refugees of her people group.

Pray for Susan’s continued spiritual growth and healing. Pray refugees will meet Christians who will help them and minister to their spiritual needs.



none

6

THURSDAY
AUGUST
2020

No standardized answer exists for the question of how to disciple Christians. Some have worked through discipleship materials to complete a program, spent a lot of time and effort in building personal relationships, or simply counted fellowship with food as discipleship. But mentorship is the key. Our own spiritual mentors taught the Word of God, were examples of healthy Christian, and offered support and encouragement in hard times.

Pray more and more Christians, Chinese pastors, and their wives will step into mentor roles. Pray those who have been properly mentored will mentor others so healthy disciples will grow.



none

7

FRIDAY
AUGUST
2020

Li Pei* became a Christian three years ago when he moved to a megacity for his first job. He first heard about the Great Commission last summer at church when a man spoke of taking the gospel to unreached people groups previously unknown to him. Since then, Li Pei has felt a restlessness in his heart to follow in the footsteps of other Christian workers. Is Jesus now leading him to leave his predictable life to go to the ends of the earth? How will he learn what he needs to know to be successful?

Pray the Lord will raise up cross-cultural Christian workers willing to leave their comfort zones for the harvest field. Pray these cross-cultural workers will get the necessary training to thrive in difficult places as they plant and lead healthy, multiplying, indigenous churches.

* Name changed



Owen

8

SATURDAY
AUGUST
2020

There are many reasons for homelessness in Tokyo. Feelings of abandonment by family, friends, work, and society lead to feelings of hopelessness, hurt, anger, confusion, and loneliness. The Good News promises love, forgiveness, and acceptance. Through Christ, lives are transformed by love, joy, hope, peace, and belonging. These people are no longer eternally homeless (even though they may continue to live in a park or train station) because they have found their home in Christ.

Pray those who take on leadership responsibilities in homeless ministry will grow strong in their faith. Pray those who are being disciplined will reach out to others who are still hurting and broken. Pray ministry volunteers will show God's love, grace, and compassion to all they meet.



Anita, Danielle, Diane

9

SUNDAY
AUGUST
2020

Pastor Gabe* and his wife have a young son named Aiden*. At home they always pray before meals. When Aiden started first grade, he naturally bowed his head in prayer before he started eating in the school cafeteria. Immediately, a teacher singled him out and asked, "What are you doing? What religion do you belong to?"

Pray for the protection of the children of many faithful Christians. Pray for this pastor and others like him who seek to lead their families in the ways of the Lord. Pray they will have wisdom in how to guide their children and respond to difficult times.

* Name changed



Chris, Presh

10

MONDAY
AUGUST
2020



Day of Prayer and Fasting— Ancestor Worship

Micah promises that someone whose origins are in the distant past will come as the source of true peace (Micah 5:2,5). Appeasing spirits or worshiping, praying to, and asking ancestors for help will never bring peace. Only Jesus brings true peace. In East Asia, the custom of worshiping ancestors is passed down from generation to generation. Christians do not participate in this, which strikes at the heart of a good Chinese, Korean, or Japanese son or daughter. It is very shameful to parents if their child becomes a Christian, because the child will not worship their parents when they die. These customs are a significant stronghold in East Asia.

Pray for freedom from this generational burden. Ask God to tear down this barrier and open the eyes of East Asians to see that he is our refuge, strength, and help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1).



none

11

TUESDAY
AUGUST
2020



Nghari (“Nah ruh”) Tibetans live in the far northwest of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. They are adherents to Tibetan Buddhism. People flock to Nghari’s Mt. Kailash, a holy place for Hindus and Buddhists. It is believed that traveling once around the mountain (a distance of thirty-two miles, or approximately fifty-two kilometers) can atone for a lifetime of sins. They also revere Tibet’s Lake Manasarovar, the highest freshwater lake in the world. They believe it is holy and that bathing in it or drinking its water purifies sins. Additionally, they believe those who trek to the top of the 18,500-foot (5,640-meter) Domna Pass will be born again in the process. Many have never heard that only Jesus has the power to wash sins away and offer new life.

Pray the Nghari know that what they seek is available only through Jesus. Pray they will be born again.



Hank, Boorum

12

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST
2020

Several years ago, I took a taxi from the airport to the downtown area of a large city in southwest China. At a stoplight I saw an ox pulling a cart on the right side of the road. The driver of the cart waved to us and smiled. On the left-hand side I saw a Mercedes Benz. Its driver seemed preoccupied and did not notice us. In 2019, I was in a taxi in the same location. It had become nearly impossible to drive an ox cart there due to the large numbers of expensive cars on the roads and the increased amount of people who accompanied the towering new buildings. No one waved or smiled at us.

Pray the Lord will slow the pace at which people are chasing material gain and bring peace and joy to the people of these changing East Asian cities.



Peter

13

THURSDAY
AUGUST
2020



Every June 24 on the lunar calendar, the Yi people celebrate their biggest and most exciting holiday, the Torch Festival. For three to five days, most people sing, dance, and enjoy meals with family, friends, and neighbors. Some participate in bullfights or friendly wrestling events. The culmination of the main day of the festival involves lighting large torches and dancing in the streets. Witchdoctors play a major role, which may involve sacrifices, chants, and trying to appease the spirits that they believe are affecting all areas of the people's lives. The Torch Festival is a time of celebration but also a time to offer praise to these spirits.

Pray the Yi people will know the truth about Christ and worship him alone. Pray that one day their singing, dancing, and fellowship will be because of their love of the one true God.



Josh, Margerita, Fred, Asher

14

FRIDAY
AUGUST
2020



During August, in the lull just before harvest, Nosu people also gather with family and neighbors to celebrate their Torch Festival. The holiday commemorates an ancient Nosu hero who drove away a plague of locusts using torches made from pine. The celebration includes horse races and bullfights, wrestling for men, and beauty contests for young women. During the Torch Festival, families need to light torches to illuminate the corners in their rooms as well as their fields. Some villagers have torch parades for the purpose of driving away bad luck and praying for a good harvest. This holiday provides a wonderful opportunity for Nosu Christians to return home and share their faith in Christ.

Pray Nosu Christians will be sensitive and bold to share the gospel, and that God will soften family members' hearts to hear and receive the Good News with joy.



Bill, Kay

15

SATURDAY
AUGUST
2020



National Liberation Day commemorates the end of Japanese occupation on the Korean Peninsula on August 15, 1945. It is the only Korean holiday that is celebrated in both North and South Korea. In South Korea it is known as Gwangbokjeol (“Restoration of Light Day”) and was officially designated a public holiday in 1949. All buildings and homes are encouraged to display the national flag, Taegukgi. The Gwangbokjeol song is sung at official ceremonies in remembrance of the blood shed for this liberty and in exhortation to guard it. In honor of the independence activists, their descendants can visit most public museums as well as ride public transport and intercity trains free of charge. Praise God for religious freedom in South Korea.

Pray Koreans will be free in Christ and not be enslaved to materialism and secularism.



Theo, Susan

16

SUNDAY
AUGUST
2020

The majority of small churches in South Korea are financially dependent on their denomination, or megachurch, or other supplementary earnings. Some of the pastors' wives work outside the home to support their families while the husbands minister full time. Some pastors (and their wives) run small businesses, not only for income, but also as outreach platforms in the community. These pastors have more of a pioneering spirit than a traditional mindset. One such pastor who is a professional fitness trainer started a small exercise center that also serves as their church. Another pastor gives out free waffles to school kids and children in the church neighborhood to connect with the residents. Praise God for the courage and pioneering spirit of these young pastors.

Pray for more to join them. Pray for spiritual wisdom and creative business ideas for pastors who are bi-vocational.



none

17

MONDAY
AUGUST
2020

Tetsu-san* was the only Christian in his home. A missionary met him at a local church a few years ago. Soon after, this new Christian participated in a discipleship study. As he learned, he felt burdened to pray for the lost and share the gospel, especially with his own family. Within one year of the study, Tetsu-san shared the gospel with more than fifty people and led the first of many people to Christ. As he faithfully sought to show and share the love of Jesus with his family, his wife accepted Christ! Through discipleship studies, many fully surrendered their lives to being on mission, boldly sharing the gospel and making disciples.

Pray Tetsu-san will continue to faithfully share the Good News and that he will have many disciple-making opportunities. Ask God to raise up more Japanese laborers like him.

* Name changed



George, Eunice, Paul, Hannah

18

TUESDAY
AUGUST
2020



Shoton, or the Yogurt Festival, is held annually in mid-August. The festival begins with the once-a-year unveiling of the Buddhist Thankas, giant embroidered tapestries of Buddhist statues housed at the Sara and Drepung monasteries. These tapestries cover the side of an entire building. Pilgrims rise in the middle of the night to begin walking to the monasteries to burn incense and throw khatas, ceremonial scarves, onto the Thankas. Then they make their way to a park to picnic and watch traditional Tibetan operas.

Pray the enjoyment of a summer picnic and days off from work will be redeemed from a time of worshipping idols to a time of celebrating the Most High God. Pray Tibetans will sing and give thanks to the Lord rather than look to idols. Pray Tibetans will be glad and rejoice in the Lord (Psalm 92:1-5).



Julianne, Lucy

19

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST
2020



The family gathered stray bits of paper that had blown from the huge pile of burning spirit money in the middle of the parking lot. Today marks the beginning of Ghost Month, the seventh month of the lunar calendar, when it is believed that the spirits of the deceased come back to roam the earth. During this month, people honor their ancestors by burning paper replicas of food, cars, houses, money, or even modern things like computers and iPhones. They also stay home at night, fearful of the ghosts that they believe wander freely.

Ask that the Lord of the harvest will raise up harvesters to share the gospel of hope to those who dutifully serve the dead. Pray those who live in fear will meet the God who loves them and gives eternal life. Pray the Lord will free these families to believe in Jesus.



Dorothy, Caleb

20

THURSDAY
AUGUST
2020

East Asians are going to hard places to share the gospel and make disciples. But few of them have the support structure—prayer or financial—to help them serve long term. Many of them come from a small collection of churches that promise to fund their first few years of service. However, these missionaries rarely have a budget for language learning, health emergencies, or educational needs. As such, the financial burden is a major factor that prevents them from acquiring the longevity that promotes healthy, reproducible churches.

Pray the East Asians who are going as cross-cultural workers will be fully supported financially. Pray the sending churches will grow in sacrificial giving as they support their missionaries through prayer.



Abel, Craig, Steven

21

FRIDAY
AUGUST
2020

Chinese evangelist John Song Shangjie wrote, “The thing Satan fears the most is saints praying together in one accord. Praying together in one accord is the primary stepping stone to revival. . . . A church will die for lack of prayer.” E.M. Bounds wrote, “Our praying, however, needs to be pressed and pursued with an energy that never tires, a persistency which will not be denied, and a courage which never fails.”

Ask that Chinese Christians will pray without ceasing. Pray they will call out to the Lord for him to accomplish his purpose in and through them. Pray they will be quick to obey God’s call, wherever it may lead them.



Dara

22

SATURDAY
AUGUST
2020



The Alxa (“Ah-la-shan”) Mongols live isolated in and around the Gobi Desert of Inner Mongolia, China. Though surrounded by Buddhism, atheism, and communism, they remain fervently dedicated to Islam, which creates a barrier between them and other Mongolians. They are one of the smallest Muslim people groups within China and there are no known Christians among them. The Alxa Mongols rely on camels for survival. The estimated two hundred thousand camels in the region outnumber the people eight to one. Camel milk is used for cheese, butter, yogurt, ice cream, and beverages. Though the Bible exists in their language, few Alxa Mongols have heard the gospel. They love to tell stories through songs.

Pray for the gospel to be sung in the villages where they live. Pray God will break down any barriers that stand in the way of them coming to faith.



none

23

SUNDAY
AUGUST
2020



Missionaries who first came to Taiwan more than 150 years ago faced a difficult life and resistance to their message. Today, life is easy in Taiwan, but the spiritual darkness is still great. Only when more Christians embrace the Great Commission will we see more churches being planted to advance the kingdom. We long to see a movement of God that results in lives transformed by Jesus Christ.

Pray that a culture of evangelism and discipleship will be as normal as eating and sleeping in the churches of Taiwan. Pray for cross-cultural workers who will take the gospel to the nations. Pray for established structures to equip and support the sending of many East Asian workers. Ask the Lord to give churches a heart for all peoples—and pray for men and women to obey the call to go.



none

24

MONDAY
AUGUST
2020

As missionaries encounter unique cultures, they must learn and adjust. An added layer of adjustment often exists for families with younger children. One couple struggled through the decision of whether or not to send their child to a local pre-kindergarten during a season of focused language study. After prayerfully deciding to send their child, cultural differences related to child-care and education became more apparent. In the strength of Jesus, the parents sought to listen and understand. Over time a new routine developed, and they began engaging with other parents of children at the school. These relationships developed and the Good News was proclaimed.

Ask the Lord to grant faithfulness in learning for those who daily walk in unfamiliar environments. Request God's grace for the moments when the differences in culture feel overwhelming. May these be opportunities to invest more deeply (Philippians 4:10-13).



none

25

TUESDAY
AUGUST
2020

Like their missionary parents, Third Culture Kids (TCKs) also face struggles that come with leaving their homes and moving to unknown cultures. They have to learn how to live in new cultures and go to new schools. While their parents are in language study, they often have the opportunity to attend international schools. For most TCKs, this is a new experience as well. After mom and dad have completed their full-time language study, the children likely will again be asked to transition to new places with new people and possibly begin homeschooling.

Pray for all the TCKs as they make many transitions throughout their years on the mission field.



Matthew, Gideon, Daniel, Steve

26

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST
2020

Buddhism arrived in Korea in AD 372 and still claims many adherents today. In opposition to the Bible, this traditional Asian religion teaches that humans are responsible for attaining their own salvation and can do so through Buddhist practices. God has revealed to us that we can only be saved through faith in Jesus Christ, not a result of any works or good deeds we perform. Unfortunately, Buddhism has been very influential upon Korean culture and there are thousands of Buddhist temples throughout the land.

Pray God will open the hearts of Buddhists in Korea to hear and obey the gospel. Pray the work of Satan will be crushed and that Koreans who claim Buddhism will instead claim Christianity by the time of the next national census. Rejoice that the Lord is calling people out of Buddhism and into his light!



Hannah

27

THURSDAY
AUGUST
2020

Approximately half of China's population lives in cities. The China State Council predicts population growth in cities will continue at about 1 percent every year. The large number of people moving to and living in cities has put tremendous pressure on public services. Traffic jams are frequent and housing prices continue to soar. Often rural people who try to relocate to urban centers face difficulties in finding housing and accessing services as local governments struggle to provide basic services and sustainable living environments.

Pray Christians who live in these urban centers will reach out to new arrivals. Pray they will offer encouragement and look for ways to bless people. Pray Christians will be bold witnesses as God brings people into their lives who likely have never heard the name of Jesus.



Mary-Jane, Seth, Ted, Chloe

28

FRIDAY
AUGUST
2020

Korean popular music—K-pop—is a growing global phenomenon and the vanguard of Korean popular culture. Featuring such international stars as BTS and Psy, K-pop has developed a passionate and growing fan base, not only in Korea, but also the United States and around the world. BTS, in particular, is a boy band with enormous influence and popularity. It is great fun to dance along to Psy’s “Gangnam Style” and attempt some of the intricate choreography of BTS and other K-pop artists.

Pray God will utilize the global influence of K-pop to spread the gospel. Pray the Holy Spirit will use this music genre to turn hearts and minds to Christ. Pray the artists themselves will follow the Lord and be ambassadors for his name. Pray Christian fans of K-pop groups will guard their hearts from idolatry.



Trenton, Samuel

29

SATURDAY
AUGUST
2020

A special outdoor worship service on Easter Sunday yielded three unexpected results in a society with very few Christians as well as among a people group that has been resistant to the gospel. The first surprise was being able to secure a good venue—amazingly, a non-Christian couple offered their place. A second surprise was the attendance of many non-Christians at the service, including the owners of the property. The final surprise was that a Christian friend who usually works on Sunday was also able to attend this special worship service. Praise God for how he moved! The results greatly encouraged the workers among this unreached people group.

Pray for the non-Christians who joined this event out of curiosity and heard the gospel. Pray their spiritual curiosity will develop into a deep yearning for a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.



Brad, Kyle

30

SUNDAY
AUGUST
2020

China has seen a significant number of churches planted over the past couple of decades, mostly in urban centers. Recently, churches have begun to collaborate to reach unreached people groups in dark and difficult places that lack mature, reproducing churches. They are developing prayer initiatives, deploying short-term teams, sending church members to cross-cultural missions trainings, and pulling together resources so they can support their own long-term Christian workers. Some larger churches have gathered enough resources to undergird those they send out. Yet they struggle to tend to missionaries spiritually while they face difficult challenges. Christians in smaller churches also are saying the Lord is calling them to missions.

Pray these churches can get the training they need to equip those they send. Pray the larger congregations will help the smaller churches develop the needed infrastructure to support their sent ones.



Marie

31

MONDAY
AUGUST
2020

In Japan, prayer walking led to telling stories about God through cooking and culture classes at a public center. Because of these classes, eight non-Christians attended Easter services at a new church start. Two of these people began to attend regularly and became Christians. Four Japanese Christians were introduced to the classes for further opportunities, and many gospel messages were shared.

Pray for opportunities to tell more stories from the Bible. Pray God would be glorified through current ministries through which local churches and missionaries are partnering, such as English Bible classes and Bible studies. Pray for consistency and intentionality in all of these activities. Pray the gospel seeds grow so people's hearts will be opened to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Pray they will call out to the Father instead of their ancestors.



Ross, Rose, William, Edith

1

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

Officials in areas of China are trying to persuade pastors to include communist ideology in their sermons and to affirm traditional Chinese beliefs, such as ancestral worship. Government-approved churches face severe restrictions. Pastors who fail a test on communist beliefs are not allowed to be pastors. Christian doctrines such as eternal life, heaven, and hell are prohibited from being included in sermons.

Ask the Lord to give wisdom to the affected pastors. Pray the Holy Spirit will lead them as they deal with government authorities. Pray this situation will embolden Chinese pastors to preach the gospel faithfully as they reflect on Peter's answer in Acts, "Whether it's right in the sight of God for us to listen to you rather than to God, you decide; for we are unable to stop speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:19b-20).



none

2

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020



Today in Taiwan, many people will put tables of food in front of their doors or businesses for the “hungry ghosts” that wander the earth. The Taiwanese believe that on the fifteenth day of the seventh lunar month all the ghosts come out of hell. Food is placed outside for these “hungry ghosts” so that they will not bother the people inside the home or business. They believe the ghosts then return to the afterlife at the end of the lunar month. Year after year, people perform the same rituals, often looking for peace as they fulfill their duties. They will continue looking until they find the Prince of Peace, Jesus.

Pray for those who continue these traditions built on lies. Pray that today someone will tell them the Good News that can set them free and they will believe.



Dalin, Walter

3

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

As we seek to reach the next generation for Christ, one thing is certain: God is using students to reach students. The longer international Christian students are in East Asia, the deeper their relationships go, and the greater their impact on the students around them.

Pray God will call out more students to spend a semester or even a year doing life the East Asian way, sharing the gospel over dumplings, kimchi, rice, or ramen. Pray students who currently live among East Asian peoples will walk each day according to the Spirit's leading and take advantage of every opportunity he sends them. When they speak truth, ask that the Spirit will eliminate language barriers so their non-Christian friends might fully understand the gospel. Pray with us for a mighty movement of the Spirit among East Asian students.



Al, Jennifer, Tiffany

4

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

“In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4). Christian workers are in a battle for the minds and hearts of people groups throughout East Asia that are blinded by Satan. Age-old ideologies and cultural norms become strongholds, especially when challenged by God's revolutionary truth. Persuading people to reject historic cultural values in favor of accepting God's liberating truth is a daunting yet possible task as God leads and equips his servants.

Pray God will empower his gospel workers and that all the people groups of East Asia will hear and understand his truth. Pray old strongholds will be torn down and that multitudes of the spiritually blind will experience salvation in Jesus Christ.



Martin, Isaac

5

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2020

There are three types of Chinese people working in the northern part of Africa and the Middle East: blue-collar workers, most of whom are allowed to live only inside a closed camp; merchants, who are typically unavailable to talk; and white-collar workers, who are fewer in number but easier to engage.

Pray local Chinese-speaking Christians will have compassionate hearts for the lost among each segment of workers. Pray God will open doors to the workers living in the camp so local churches can reach them with the gospel. Pray for Christians among the merchants to boldly share the gospel with their neighbors. Pray God will open the hearts of white-collar workers to be receptive to the gospel. Pray for God-honoring partnerships between missionaries and among various mission groups as training centers are started to equip workers to reach each of these segments.



Kathy

6

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2020

Historically, Osaka has been the commercial center of Japan and an industrial center that is key to the development of capitalism in Japan. It now functions as one of the command centers for the economy in the country. To keep this economic “machine” going, it must be fed with hours of overtime by the heads of families who leave their homes as early as 6:00 a.m. and return at midnight or later. Some mothers also work, try to maintain a healthy marriage, and raise the children almost single-handedly. Missionaries have come alongside these mothers by offering a time for them and their young children to gather in their buildings. They do crafts, cook, and study a biblically-based book about child-rearing.

Pray these ladies will come to know the Father who designed the family to glorify God.



none

7

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

God has providentially positioned ethnic Chinese minority people in places that western Christians cannot go. Many of them are from multigenerational Christian families and who speak the local language. These places have large numbers of unreached people groups that need to hear the Good News. Beginning in 2020, we want to see fifty churches started among these unreached peoples over a period of ten years. It will not be an easy task to accomplish, but we serve a God who brings down walls and builds his church. What does he ask of us? To be faithful.

Pray for the right people to answer the call to be cross-cultural missionaries where they live. Pray for several faithful Chinese Christians with energy, vision, and a sense of adventure to attend a mobilization conference in October.



Bill, Jesse, Miriam, Diane

8

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

Suna's* life was turned around through her six-month experience with Korean Hands On. God led her to minister to the homeless in an East Asian city. She witnessed some of them gain new hope and courage to look for jobs and return to their homes. Some also started to believe in God and go to church. This mission experience totally changed Suna's life perspective and aspiration. Instead of only praying for herself and her family's happiness, she has started to pray for others and for their salvation, and she is amazed at the great joy she feels. She has decided to give up worldly desires and to go wherever the Lord leads.

Pray for Suna as she prepares for Christian ministry at a Baptist seminary. Pray for other Korean Hands On students to have strong Christian support and mentors in their spiritual journeys.

* Name changed



Ruth, Scotty, Hannah, Cole, Lily

9

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

A six-year-old girl became very sick after tripping and falling. Six months after her fall, her skin became yellow and her eyes turned red. Whenever she ate or drank, she threw up. Her parents sought answers everywhere, but the future seemed hopeless. Doctors suggested an operation, but the parents decided to seek herbal care in different villages. One night, they heard that some Christians were in their village, so they asked them to pray over their daughter. Both parents cried hopelessly as they described her condition. They decided to take her for the operation. The Christians prayed over her twice before they returned home. They asked the Father to heal her by the time the family got home so that she would no longer need the operation. As the family returned home that night, this girl was healed just as the Christians had prayed.

Praise the Lord!



Jay, Paul, Tracy, Adam

10

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

Megan* left her home country due to poverty and hardship. After spending several years as a refugee, Megan made the dangerous trip to yet another country that is considered safe for her people group. During her journey and after her arrival, God sent Christians to show her his love and share the gospel with her. Consequently, she was saved, baptized, and now attends church. But it's difficult for Megan to understand the Bible and completely believe it. When she was young, she was taught that Christians, the Bible, and its teachings are bad.

Pray for Megan and others of her people group who struggle to believe. Ask for God to set them free from the ideologies and lies of the past. Pray God's truth will fill their hearts and minds, growing their faith in him and a daily trust in his Word.

* Name changed



Carter Hub, Sophie

11

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

It was easy to strike up a conversation with others crowded into the Lanzhou beef noodle shop as we enjoyed the delicious soup. *Lamian*, which literally means pulled or stretched noodles, originated in Lanzhou. This city is the capital of northwest China's Gansu province. Historically, the Northern Silk Road passed through here, and it was at times controlled by Tibetans and Mongols. It is now home to many Muslim communities and is a melting pot of China's fifty-six ethnic groups.

Pray for the church here to be bold in serving its neighbors and in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. Pray for unity among the brothers and sisters, doctrinal soundness and protection against cults, and wise servant-leaders among the pastorate. As people gather for lunch over a bowl of noodles, pray that the gospel will be shared to nourish their souls.



none

12

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

A church in Kamaishi, Japan, held its first baptism in a long time. Many people in the area are hesitant to go to the ocean, let alone get in it. A woman, who is normally very shy, loudly proclaimed her faith in Christ and eagerly went into the ocean on a cool and cloudy day. The pastor was hesitant to wade too far out so he kept her close to shore. When she knelt down and tried to go under the water, it wasn't quite deep enough. The pastor felt she had been sufficiently immersed and brought her out. However, not satisfied, she went back in on her own, stretched her whole body facedown in the water, stayed a while, then came up rejoicing. Four weeks later, another Christian who had witnessed this also was baptized!

Pray for continued spiritual growth for Japanese Christians.



Jenna, Thomas

13

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

A group of Christians recently celebrated ten years of serving with local churches to provide disaster relief and community development for church planting. Throughout these ten years they have seen more than five hundred churches planted and have helped share the love of Christ in practical ways with tens of thousands of people who have gone through crises. Many of the crises they helped respond to occurred in rural areas amongst unreached people groups. This gave them incredible access and opportunities that very few other Christians have.

Pray for wisdom and discernment for this group that can't help everyone after a disaster but want to help as many as possible. Help them know how to go about their work in a way that enables the gospel to go forward with Christ-exalting efficacy and bears much spiritual fruit.



Nat

14

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020



Day of Prayer and Fasting— Cultural Pressures

“What will it benefit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his life” (Matthew 16:26a)? Many East Asian parents begin preparing their children for university before kindergarten, choosing the “best” schools so they can attend the “best” universities and get the “best” jobs. For the sake of their studies, students do not have time for youth group. For the sake of their jobs, working men and women do not have time for Bible study or a quiet time. They reach levels of worldly success but leave God behind or do not take the time to know him. Is it any wonder that suicide rates are high and family relationships are broken?

God, awaken East Asian hearts to the fact that pursuing the things of this world will not satisfy. Compel them to carve out time to know you more.



Rebekah, Linda, Tabitha, Joel

15

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

The Korean church has a strong missionary force in the world. Many Korean missionaries have been in their field long term and have a good understanding of the local culture, language, and mission situation. They also have connections with local people and churches. We have the privilege of partnering with some key Korean missionary-sending agencies for globalization. The objective is to connect Korean missionaries with IMB missionaries for the purpose of mutual help, vision, and resource sharing. At the request of Korean missionaries serving in other regions of the world, IMB has helped with trainings in mission field safety, security, and strategy.

Pray the globalization partnership between IMB and these key Korean mission agencies will remain effective and strong. Pray globalization will pave the way for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.



Robert, Sharon, Anna May

16

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

The “Landing City” is a training community where first-term missionaries learn about the Japanese culture and language to help them evangelize, disciple, and plant churches. Making disciples that result in new church plants begins with entry and evangelism. Engaging with the community by eating at the local ramen shop, enjoying coffee with neighbors, and even playing at the park are just a few examples of where we have seen the gospel shared and lives changed. Development is more expansive than just “doing,” it also focuses on being a man or woman of God. By daily walking with the Lord and seeking to have a deeper relationship with him, missionaries are then able to disciple new Christians and plant healthy churches.

Praise God for a new church plant, Osaka Hope Community, where Japanese people are experiencing God’s love through missionaries and national Christians.



Adrian, Esther, Alison

17

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

I saw a group of people singing on a rooftop in my village. I was sure they were singing Christian songs. Being a Tibetan Buddhist nun, I had never met a Christian. Surely, they knew something about the stranger that kept visiting my master. I invited them to our temple, where my master told them of the visitor in white who called himself Jesus. They talked about Jesus like they knew him personally. They even told us that we could know him, too. They spoke with energy and joy, and when my master asked questions, they happily answered. They had a delightful and lively two-way conversation. I will not soon forget them or this Jesus they told us about. I hope he visits my master again as she meditates. I hope he visits me.

Pray these nuns will come to know Jesus personally.



Renee, Kate-Ruth, Abigail

18

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020



The Jiamao Li of China live on the southeastern part of Hainan Island and are descendants of the island's original inhabitants. Most Jiamao Li are farmers but many are also excellent cloth weavers. In the past, these animists consulted shamans and witchdoctors to deal with sickness. They would often sacrifice animals to gods and spirits. Today, most Jiamao Li have turned to Chinese and Western medicine. The earliest Christian presence on the island was in 1630, and in the early 1900s, many came to Christ. Today, only a handful of Christians exist among the Jiamao Li. Many have not yet heard the Good News.

Ask God to send laborers to this harvest field. Pray for the fertile soil of hearts in which Christians can plant gospel seeds. Pray the Jiamao Li will turn to Christ from traditions that are based on lies.



Judith, Micah, Moses, Justin

19

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

The global Chinese church is passionate about seeing unreached people groups reached with the gospel. It sends missionaries to many remote places in China. Often, however, these workers feel lonely, isolated, and unequipped. One brother said, “I have been here for eleven years but have to work full-time just to stay. I share [the gospel] when I am able, but most of my time is spent working.” Another said, “We don’t feel equipped to baptize new believers or administer the Lord’s Supper, so it is hard for us to be a part of healthy churches.” However, one brother said he now knows the next step to help grow healthy churches.

Praise the Lord that these workers can now receive training and encouragement. Pray these Christians will be encouraged, and the Lord will plant his church in these remote areas.



Joseph, Rachael, Jessica, Deborah

20

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

Americans are often reminded of the economy’s instability, especially when trade wars began. For Chinese families, most simply want to provide a promising education and future for their children.

Pray the financial pressures that Chinese families experience will cause them to look to God as their ultimate hope. Pray for Chinese Christians to model the hope and joy that’s found in trusting Jesus as their provider. On a national level, pray that Chinese leaders who have influence over the economy will become aware of their hopelessness apart from the hope found in Christ. May disciples of Christ emerge as economic leaders in China in order to lead with his wisdom and provide a testimony of the goodness and provision of the one true Creator God. Ask that God will bless the church in China, so that they will bless families and the whole nation.



Clancey

21

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020



Respect for the Aged Day is celebrated on the third Monday of September each year. This national holiday was established in 1966 as a day to honor the contributions of elderly citizens to family and society. The roots of this holiday go much deeper than the history of the day might suggest, as honoring the elderly is deeply engrained in Japanese culture. The Japanese media is filled with programs dedicated to honoring the elderly throughout the day. They interview some of the oldest citizens of the nation, and the Japanese government gives a silver cup to each person who reaches the age of one hundred. Japan is the most rapidly aging society in the world.

Pray many will hear of Jesus, offer their hearts to him, and come to our loving Father before their time on this earth draws to a close.



none

22

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

Chinese Christians have the passion to go to the ends of the earth and share the Good News with unreached peoples but lack the means to do so.

Pray for opportunities for Chinese Christians to learn how to serve cross-culturally so they will be equipped for the task. Pray for knowledgeable trainers, clear teaching, and abundant opportunities to practice what they learn. As they are faithful to take the first step, pray God will give them confidence to continue walking forward. As they give their lives to the task of reaching the unreached, pray they will feel God's pleasure. Pray for smooth teaming relationships as they venture into the world of missions. May Christian workers of different nationalities reflect the beauty of Jesus' words, "By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).



Lee

23

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020



Before 1990, the Yanghuang people of China were not yet an official people group but part of an Undetermined Minority. Today they remain unaware of the God who has always known them. They live among other people groups in the hills of Guizhou, so most Yanghuang are multilingual, speaking Chinese or Bouyei in addition to their native tongue. Because of their great language skills, it is possible for them to hear the gospel through radio broadcasts or local evangelistic efforts. Yet the Yanghuang continue in the darkness of polytheism and animism.

Pray God will burst from the heavens and come down to reveal himself to the Yanghuang and bring them home. Before they had their own name, he knew them. Ask God to send faithful Christians to their village to tell them the Good News and grow them into faithful followers of Jesus.



Andy, Eva, Bruce, Victoria, Josh

24

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

Maki-san* was very closed to Christianity. In spite of this, she came to the Love of Jesus Church since it began. Church members were intentional to help her know the Lord by praying and fasting for her, inviting her into their homes, and encouraging her through the Word and personal testimonies. Sadly, her stony heart didn't seem to be opening. However, two ladies who attend the church invited Maki-san to go to a hot spring one evening with the purpose of sharing the gospel. They stayed until 2:00 a.m., and Maki-san made a decision to follow Christ.

Pray she will grow as a Christian and share the gospel with others. Pray for the Love of Jesus Church to continue to be fruitful in sharing the gospel and making disciples.

* Name changed



Fred

25

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

In early August 2019, a church started in a home in Seoul. The church-planting team had been in Korea for only a few months and hadn't planned out every necessary detail to start a church, but the Holy Spirit repeatedly prompted this group to take a leap of faith and start the church. Sure enough, God brought more than thirty people to the official launch service, and a group of at least ten have faithfully attended each Sunday since.

Pray God will bless this new congregation and use it to reach the city of Seoul—especially its young generation. Pray specifically that the church leaders will be granted wisdom as they work out the many details, including what church membership looks like. Pray the church members will be thoroughly equipped and sent out for God's work.



Sheila, Mary-Jane

26

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) air quality scale, any air pollution rating above three hundred means the air is unsafe to breathe. When the ratings get this high, authorities advise people to stay indoors and run air purifiers. Many of China's cities face significant air pollution from coal-burning electric plants. China now burns over 45 percent of the world's coal, which is nearly the amount used by all other countries around the world combined.

Pray for the people who live in these cities—God has not forgotten them. Pray that as people suffer the ill effects of pollution, they will realize that God wants to give them life eternal, even if their government may not protect them here on earth. Pray many people will put their hope in Christ and not things of this world.



Allie, Drew

27

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

Asia University, International Christian University, and Kaetsu University in western Tokyo have the potential to populate church plants all over the country and across East Asia as God transforms students from being lost to leaders in the church. Churches can have a great impact in this area as they reach and equip students, but they must be prepared.

Join us in praying that the gospel will be shared, and God's Word will be studied every day of the week on college campuses throughout Tokyo. Pray for God to soften hearts and open minds on campus, and that those who come to know him will be filled with a passion for Christ that spurs them to boldly and effectively share their faith with friends and classmates so that the gospel saturates every corner of their campus.



none

28

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020

Successful ministry to unreached people groups requires the teamwork of Christian workers and their partners who are passionately unified in their goal of sharing the gospel. An exciting meeting occurred last year when Christians of different ethnicities, languages, and nationalities met to strategize and discuss how to better engage their people group for the purpose of evangelism and church planting. This collaborative endeavor needs your prayers.

Ask God to give these workers wisdom as they seek to enter and remain in inhospitable areas and meet members of their people group. Pray for God to give them sustainable methods of access so that they can build good relationships that result in friendships and gospel conversations. Pray for the people to understand and believe the Good News. Ask God to protect new Christians.



Jerry

29

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020



Chuseok, meaning “eve of autumn,” is a major Korean holiday celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth month in the lunar calendar, which this year is October 1. Traditionally, Koreans perform two key traditions during Chuseok: holding ancestral memorial services at home and visiting ancestral gravesites to clean them and pay respect. Masses of people travel to their hometowns during this holiday. Chuseok is incomplete without *songpyeon*, colorful half-moon-shaped rice cakes filled with red bean or chestnut paste or sesame seeds and honey. It is common for Koreans to send Chuseok gifts to families, relatives, and friends.

Pray for Koreans to earnestly desire and share the greatest gift of all—the love of God! Pray for Korean Christians to have the boldness and wisdom to not participate in ancestor worship when under pressure by nonbelieving parents and relatives.



none

30

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER
2020



Similar to the Korean holiday of Chuseok, Mid-Autumn Festival is an important lunar holiday for the Chinese that this year also falls on October 1, China’s National Day. Mid-Autumn Festival is a time for gazing at the full moon, reuniting with family, and eating mooncakes, which are rich pastries filled with sweet bean paste, meats, nuts, or various other delicacies. For the Chinese, the full moon represents reunion, harmony, and happiness. The public holiday started three thousand years ago as a harvest festival, when people thanked the moon god for the harvest.

Pray Chinese people will have the opportunity to hear about the God who put the moon in the sky. Pray they will worship him, the Creator, rather than his creation.



Priscilla, Trudy, Chip, Thad, Jill



1

THURSDAY
OCTOBER
2020



National Day commemorates the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949. It's often celebrated for seven days with hopes that people will shop more, travel more, and spend more money during this long holiday. Military parades are held in Beijing, streets are decorated with slogans and flags, and millions of people travel. It is a day of great pride for China's ruling party as it celebrates its accomplishments. During this time, things that are perceived as anti-government are tightly monitored, which means religious activities are at risk.

Pray Christians during this time will hold onto hope and be bold (2 Corinthians 3:12), and confidently speak the words God gives so they can make known the mystery of the gospel (Ephesians 6:19). Pray they will call to God, hear his answer, and be bold with strength in their souls (Psalm 138:3).



none

2

FRIDAY
OCTOBER
2020

It is estimated that a fifth of the world's population is ethnically Chinese. This statistic, coupled with the fact that Chinese people live in almost every country in the world, makes loving, serving, encouraging, and partnering with Chinese Christians unique and exciting. Because many already live cross-culturally, we have the honor of helping them see themselves as "sent" (Romans 10:15).

Pray the ethnic Chinese around the world will see the people living around them as souls created by our loving Father that need hope for this life and eternity. Pray they will follow the Lord's leadership to share with their neighbors, a people group in their host country, or another foreign land. Chinese Christians are already uniquely positioned to reach the nations with the gospel—pray they will recognize that they are also poised to finish the task.



Kate

3

SATURDAY OCTOBER 2020

God has been working in miraculous ways in Takasaki, Japan. A steadily growing church plant meets in the office of a local Christian's business. Through the faithful testimony of Japanese Christians, many have made professions of faith in the past several months. Two of these were a local doctor and his daughter. Hi-san* is ten years old and decided to follow Jesus at church one Sunday. Her father's curiosity grew when he saw how involved she was with the church. Through his interest, he became involved in a weekly men's Bible study and told the men that he had decided to follow Christ! He has been reading his Bible, praying for his patients, and encouraging his family because of the work of the Holy Spirit!

Pray for this family, specifically that Hi-san's mother will also choose to believe in Jesus.

* Name changed



Marshall, Taylor

4

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2020

Baptist work in northern Taiwan began seventy years ago, when two female missionaries and one local pastor arrived. Taiwanese people predominantly believe in a combination of Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and animism. Thank God for his kindness to Taiwan Baptists over the last seventy years. Some of the first churches are still active today!

Pray for the people of Taipei to receive the gospel with joy and gladness. Pray many will repent of their sin, turn to Christ in faith, and surrender their lives to him. Pray for Taiwan Baptist churches as they seek to reach their neighborhoods, engage university students, develop new leaders, send out missionary teams, and plant new churches. Pray northern Taiwan will be saturated with healthy, multiplying Baptist churches that partner with the IMB for global church planting.



Jan, Parker, Sherry, Kate, James

5

MONDAY
OCTOBER
2020

My family was expelled from our home country. Upon arriving in our new country, our second daughter suddenly passed away. At our baby's funeral, some Christians came to support us and told us about Jesus and how to have a personal relationship with him. My wife and I decided we wanted to follow Jesus. Life continues to be difficult for us. The leaders in our new town do not act kindly toward us. They dug up our baby's body multiple times. Finally, after much prayer, the mayor intervened and granted my wife citizenship so our baby's body will not be dug up again. Even though we face many hardships, Jesus is our strength.

Praise God that this family has a new citizenship in heaven. Pray this family will be used for his glory among the unreached in their new country.



Elizabeth, Felix, Alex, Doug, Don

6

TUESDAY
OCTOBER
2020



“I was sought by those who did not ask; I was found by those who did not seek Me. I said: Here I am, here I am, to a nation that was not called by My name” (Isaiah 65:1). The Buriat live where China, Russia, and Mongolia meet. Many practice shamanism and allow mediums to control interactions between them and the gods. In the 1500s, Buddhist missionaries traveled to this area and greatly influenced the people and a mixture of beliefs developed. Under communism, many became atheists. Christian work has been successful among the Buriat, but they lack Scripture or gospel recordings in their language.

Pray the Buriat will hear God calling them in their own language and will lay down idols and traditions to follow him. Pray for resources in their heart language so they can grow in knowledge and obedience of God's Word.



Joy-Marie, Bo-bae, Desmond, Isiah

7

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Jesus said, “I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world” (John 16:33). The workers and refugees of a certain unreached people group live in constant danger. The bulk of this people group are difficult to meet with where they live, but some become accessible when they flee as refugees due to poverty and starvation. However, life as a refugee or aid worker can be perilous. Some countries’ governments are hostile toward refugees and Christian workers who try to give aid.

Pray for God’s protection of and provision for refugees. Pray for his wisdom and encouragement for those sharing the gospel and giving aid. Pray fear will be replaced with God’s peace and that many of this people group will turn to God in believing faith.



none

8

THURSDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Historically, Korean society has placed great value on family. There is no denying the benefit of keeping Korean families in close relationship with each other, but the negative side of this can be the practice of ancestor worship. Though multigenerational living and many other traditions are fading, children and family remain very important values in Korean society.

Pray God will use this cultural value for his kingdom in Korea. Pray families will indeed be a strength for the Korean people, and that marital strife, generational strife, and broken families will be reduced by the power of Jesus Christ and his gospel. Pray Christian parents will not make idols of their children but will love them and teach them in the ways that God commands. Pray children will respect and honor their parents.



Harv, James

9

FRIDAY
OCTOBER
2020

A thirteen-year-old boy named Shin* stepped on a rusty nail. Ten days later, he was unable to eat or sleep, so his family took him to the hospital. He had contracted tetanus and was in intensive care for four days. Shin's father worships his ancestors, but Shin and his mother are Christians. The doctor said Shin's condition was hopeless and asked the family to take him home to die. His father began preparing funeral clothes, but a group of Christians began praying. The next day, the doctor reported that Shin's heart was beating stronger. Prayers continued, and each day Shin's condition improved. Today, Shin attends school like any other teenager.

Rejoice at the awesome way God's love was demonstrated through this miracle! Pray Shin's testimony will bring many others in his village to faith.

* Name changed



none

10

SATURDAY
OCTOBER
2020



October 10, or “Double Ten,” is Taiwan’s National Day. It commemorates the start of an uprising in China that led to the end of the ruling Qing Dynasty and established the Chinese republic. This day may be celebrated by military parades in Taipei, fireworks, and speeches, with the Taiwanese flag prominently displayed on many main streets. It is a time to shop and enjoy time off from work. As a democracy, religious beliefs are not restricted. Christianity has been in Taiwan for over 150 years, yet the number of Christians—including Protestants and Catholics—is only 7.1 percent of the entire population.

Pray Taiwanese people will celebrate what Jesus has done for them. Pray Christians will always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks them to give the reason for the hope that they have (1 Peter 3:15).



June, Brad, Kathy

11

SUNDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Christianity has had a presence for more than one hundred years in the eastern part of China, where hundreds of churches currently meet. However, in recent years, government restrictions have been placed on churches. Some have been closed, others were forced to remove crosses from their buildings, and at others, pastors were brought in for questioning.

Pray Chinese Christians will find their strength in the Lord and be an example to non-Christians of the peace that surpasses understanding as they walk through difficult days. May they remember that they are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus. If God is for them, who can be against them? Nothing will separate them from Christ's love, and they will have overwhelming victory through him (Romans 8:31-39).



Leah

12

MONDAY
OCTOBER
2020



Day of Prayer and Fasting—Cults

“For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine, but . . . will multiply teachers for themselves because they have an itch to hear something new. They will turn away from hearing the truth and will turn aside to myths” (2 Tim 4:3-4). Across East Asia, cults are stealing the sheep and false teachers are leading people away from sound teaching. Sometimes they subtly change God’s Word or attract people with false promises of riches and success. Others use more drastic methods like kidnapping and brainwashing.

Pray Christians will know God’s Word and discern the truth from lies. Pray they will test the spirits to know if they are from God (1 John 4:1). Pray those who do not yet follow Christ will be protected from these ravenous wolves dressed in sheep’s clothing and will have ears only for God’s Word.



Christopher

13

TUESDAY
OCTOBER
2020

When Japanese travel or study abroad, their hearts are often more open to spiritual ideas. By God's providence, many end up making Christian friends, attending church for the first time, or staying with Christian families. Bible studies, ESL classes, and hospitality serve as avenues for Japanese to interact with Christians and experience God's love while abroad. Some become Christians and return to Japan with a desire to be discipled and plug into a local church. Others remain curious about how one can live as a Christian in Japan and want to learn more before believing. God has connected missionaries in Osaka with many Japanese who have spent time overseas. Friendships have blossomed, but more importantly, these returning Japanese are reading and hearing the gospel in their heart language, meeting Japanese Christians, and being drawn to faith in Christ.

Pray God will bring spiritual fruit.



Richard

14

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Due to tremendous efforts made by young people toward their education, dating relationships are usually discouraged until after college. Young adults then feel intense pressure to find a suitable mate and get married between the ages of twenty-five and twenty-eight. Usually family, friends, and colleagues begin to introduce prospective spouses. This can be challenging for local Christians, as candidates are almost always not Christians. Culturally, being unmarried after thirty years of age is shameful for the family in this culture where shame and honor are incredibly important.

As Christians seek to marry other Christians, pray they can hold to biblical values while they wait to find believing spouses and seek to honor God above man.



Bintang, Vincent

15

THURSDAY
OCTOBER
2020

China is officially an atheist country with an atheist government. Communist Party members number well over seventy million. Estimates are that the Christian population has far surpassed the number of Party members. It has been observed that increasing numbers of Party members have become Christians.

Pray more will realize atheism is full of deceptive lies. Pray that Christians who are working within the government, albeit secretly, will be a light in the darkness and a force for change. Pray they will use their positions to protect other Christians who are under persecution. Throughout the Bible, God gave favor to his children who honored him even under pagan governments. Pray Christians will find strength in these stories and will stand firm in their faith.



none

16

FRIDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Sogang University, located in Seoul, was founded in 1960 by Jesuits as a school that operates in accordance with Catholic values. It is now a major liberal arts and research institution in Korea that boasts more than fifteen thousand students at various undergraduate and graduate levels. Many Christians live near the Sogang campus.

Pray the Spirit will open doors for Christians to find key people on campus. Pray gospel opportunities will abound and many students will turn to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. Pray Christians will boldly share the gospel and not be discouraged by rejection. As more come to faith and are discipled, pray that Sogang becomes a hub for spiritual revival in South Korea.



Arthur, Amanda

17

SATURDAY
OCTOBER
2020



The Xinping Lalu love music and often gather to sing traditional songs and play folk instruments. Every year in the second lunar month they hold a singing competition. The male and female winners are considered to be the most eligible people to marry and are greatly pursued. For generations, the Lalu have worshiped many gods, ghosts, and demons. They believe that people become good or bad spirits when they die, depending on their character while alive. Some Lalu follow Christ and have gospel recordings in their heart language.

Pray these Christians will be bold and experience miraculous events in their midst. Pray demons will be cast out and people will get rid of idols and sing songs to God. Pray that in this powerful way, the Word of the Lord will flourish and prevail (Acts 19:20).



Patricia, John, Susan, Kim

18

SUNDAY
OCTOBER
2020

“God has only children, not grandchildren.” This saying teaches that faith in God can’t be passed from one generation to the next through bloodlines like a family heritage. Each person of every generation must have his own faith in God through Jesus Christ. Each person must understand and believe the gospel for himself. This is significantly harder in areas where Christianity and faith-based activities were once allowed but now are illegal. In these circumstances, Christian influences naturally wane over time.

Pray for an unreached people group that once had a strong Christian heritage many years ago, however, due to government oppression, most of its people today have never heard the gospel. Please ask for God’s protection for the few Christians who remain. Pray they can help lead a new generation of their people group back to faith in God.



none

19

MONDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Most newly-appointed missionaries to East Asia come to areas that provide the opportunity for intensive language study in settings that immerse them in their target languages and cultures. This is often a difficult time of transition for those who are living overseas for the first time as they learn to navigate life in a different way. They typically begin this time very dependent on others, but soon grow independent as they learn how to get around and take care of daily matters.

Pray for new personnel as they work through culture shock, full-time language learning, and adjusting to life in a culture that is far different from their home culture.



InGoo, Noah, Antonio

20

TUESDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Many rural Christians have a burden to engage unreached villages with the gospel. But they are often hindered by financial constraints and access to unreached villages. A group of church leaders recently attended a training to learn an innovative method of poultry farming. After the training, the Christians returned to their home villages to put into practice what they learned. Once up and running, each poultry farm will produce three hundred eggs a day. Not only will this provide income for the Christians, but they will also gain access to unreached villages by teaching this technique to other farmers.

**Pray the Christians will be able to set up healthy, productive farms.
Pray that these projects will give Christians access to villages that have no gospel witness.**



Jonathan, Penelope

21

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER
2020

A friend took Takeshi*, a young Japanese man, to church when he was learning English at a university in the United States. When Takeshi returned to the city of Kobe, he started attending a local church. He has heard the gospel message several times but doesn't want to believe or be baptized. However, he desires to go to church every Sunday and hang out with other Christians often.

Pray that the Holy Spirit keeps bringing Takeshi closer to Jesus and giving him a desire to hear God's Word. Pray he will understand the meaning of the cross and make the decision to follow Jesus.

* Name changed



Heather, Joy

22

THURSDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Today many mature churches in China have a strong passion for missions. This is something to be thankful for and pray about.

Pray these churches will learn and grow as they seek to send more missionaries. Pray they will know the joy of experiencing God's provision as he equips and enables them to support their workers who go to the nations. Ask God to provide whatever these churches need to stay healthy and continue to pass along the DNA of missionary-sending to the next generation of disciples and churches. Pray for strategic and mutually beneficial partnerships that will facilitate Chinese churches sending their own missionaries cross-culturally. Ask for God to provide good cross-cultural training for these sending churches.



Ken, Jessica

23

FRIDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Isaiah 66 tells us that God's hands made both heaven and earth, and that they, and everything in them, are his. East Asia is filled with incredibly beautiful scenery, and people annually flock to these areas. God created this world to be enjoyed but not worshiped. However, many East Asians have done exactly this. "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served something created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen" (Romans 1:25).

Pray for hearts to be humbled and people to tremble at God's Word. Pray East Asians will realize the lie they worship, repent, and quickly run to the safety of Jesus. May new life be seen in every corner of East Asia.



Mia

24

SATURDAY
OCTOBER
2020

At any given time, missionaries in Osaka are making contacts with unbelieving Japanese people in every imaginable venue, whether it be coffee shops, hospitals, local businesses, exercise clubs, or parks. Often the following questions are asked: "Why did you come to Japan?" "Where is your church?" "Will you teach me English?" and "How can I know God when I have never met a Japanese Christian?"

Pray every question will receive concrete answers in their heart language. Pray that answers like, "I came to tell people like you about the wonderful love of Jesus," "Our church meets at [this] place," "Come and join us for our monthly game night where you can practice your English," and "Come to our new church and meet many Japanese Christians," will be well received.



Phillip, Billy, Lucas, Patrick, Dylan

25

SUNDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Boaz* is a pastor in China. His church originally began ministering on a university campus. While many people heard the gospel, the group ebbed and flowed as students graduated every three to four years and moved away. A large group of those who decided to stay have married and are beginning to have children. As the church grows and matures, there is even greater responsibility upon the leadership. Boaz also homeschools his children. His wife works full-time so that they can continue to serve their local church. Many pastors in East Asia are overworked and exhausted. Instead of training the saints in the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12), they tend to do the majority of ministry themselves.

Pray for churches like this to create a disciple-making environment that trains the next generation of leaders and disciples.

* Name changed



Jessie

26

MONDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Rosewell Graves died in China in 1912 at the age of seventy-nine. He went to China as a Southern Baptist missionary in 1856 at the age of twenty-three and served there for fifty-six years. One thing he realized, which is still true today, is that foreigners can never fully evangelize China. Chinese Christians need to reach their own people with the gospel. Long ago, much time was spent training men for the ministry. Graves was brilliant in theological education and he disciplined numerous men to be evangelists and pastors. This is still a key need, not just in China, but in all of East Asia. Pastors are aging and few are stepping into this difficult but rewarding role.

Pray for the leadership of East Asian churches to be fully committed to God's Word and the making of disciples who will lead tomorrow's churches.



Autumn, Caroline, Sarah

27

TUESDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Christianity was introduced to Hong Kong in the mid-1800s, but today it is short on Christian leadership. Emigration plays a part in many churches not having pastors. This means a number of people without leadership experience are having to step up and lead.

Pray for Bible colleges and seminaries as they train up men and women to serve in churches. Praise God for a number of churches that are consistently seeking how to be involved in missions—many are looking for ways to help the churches in China to grow. Pray Christians in Hong Kong will continue to look for ways to be involved in kingdom work. Pray they will have wisdom in where to invest their time and money in missions.



Austin

28

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER
2020



South Korea is located on the southern half of the Korean Peninsula. It is separated from North Korea by the Demilitarized Zone, China by the Yellow Sea, and Japan by the East Sea. More than 80 percent of the fifty-one million people live in cities with easy access to mountains, parks, and rivers. The country is culturally homogenous—99 percent of the population speaks the Korean language. South Korea was devastated by the Korean War (1950-1953) but has amazingly risen to be one of Asia's economic powers. Today it is renowned for Samsung, LG, and Hyundai products, and for K-pop and K-dramas. It's notable that South Korea is the only country in East Asia that has a high percentage of Christians and religious freedom.

Pray Korean believers will exercise their religious freedom to proclaim God's awesome power, deeds, and salvation among all peoples.



none

29

THURSDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Seoul is a vibrant city at the center of Korean culture. The arts are flourishing in the city, from music to theater to photography and beyond. Korea's young generation—especially university students—are passionate about experiencing this environment as much as possible. This presents great opportunities for Christians in Seoul. The IMB team there is asking for the Lord's guidance in how to connect with the creative community through artistic outreach. Possibilities include theatre work, street music performances, and other more adventurous ideas.

Pray the Lord will clearly guide the team in these matters. Pray the team will not waste time and effort on projects that God has not called them to do. Pray the Lord will use these projects to turn Koreans to himself and bring more brothers and sisters into the Christian family.



none

30

FRIDAY
OCTOBER
2020

Pray for Sawara Christ Church in Japan to become a healthy church with biblical disciples. Last year, a volunteer team helped the church host their first Vacation Bible School (VBS). Church members stepped up to serve during the event and were encouraged through this outreach to their community. Good contacts were made with families. Many parents joined the last day of the VBS and heard the gospel clearly. Some of the families came back to join the follow-up events and a few moms decided to join a Bible study.

Pray the members will be intentional to connect and faithful to follow up with the church's new and returning visitors. Pray they will see God-given opportunities to witness about Jesus and obediently speak the truth in love.



Isabelle, Wade, Matthew, Zhi, Jana, Jordan

31

SATURDAY
OCTOBER
2020

A partner unsuccessfully attempted to visit an unreached people group for several years until God gave him a special chance to go. Members of this people group are unusually difficult to meet, and this partner had long prayed for such an opportunity. While his visit was shorter than he expected, God still worked in amazing ways. He shared Bible stories and started relationships with people in authority. These incredible experiences occurred because God worked in response to this Christian's faithful prayers.

Pray this partner will be able to visit this people group again and continue to develop these new relationships. Ask that those who heard God's Word will desire to know more. Pray God will continually create other opportunities for Christians to be able to engage this people group and share the life-changing message of the gospel with them.



Paul, Loren

1

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Many people hope to see churches in East Asia send an unprecedented number of missionaries. Many Christians desire to go to the lost, and in all the excitement, wonder how to do so. We are developing sustainable, local sending agencies and training centers to facilitate the sending of a multitude of local missionaries.

Please pray for these entities to quickly become locally owned and operated with a vision of accomplishing the Great Commission throughout the world. Pray that the God who controls all governing authorities will cause the legal and financial processes to go smoothly, and for these local entities to be effective in serving local churches.



Ashley, Hanna, Daniel

2

MONDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

God is using a group of persecuted Christians to effectively minister among refugees of one unreached people group in East Asia. These persecuted Christians are sensitive to the challenges that the refugees face because of their own daily struggles with the authorities in their country.

Please pray for God to protect and strengthen these precious servants as they seek to effectively reach out to refugees and share the gospel with them. Please reflect on Colossians 1:9-11 and pray that they “. . . may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that [they] may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God. May [they] be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy.”



none

3

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Approximately twenty years ago, an East Asia worker introduced me to a non-Christian named Nathaniel*. During our meeting, I had the opportunity to share the gospel with him. A couple of decades later, my wife invited Anna* to our home in Taipei for lunch. Anna, a fellow church member, is from Mongolia. While chatting about her family in her home country and her burden to reach out to them, she showed me an image. I immediately recognized the Taiwanese man in the picture—it was Nathaniel! She said Nathaniel, her husband, though baptized years ago, fails to come to church.

Pray for Anna, who has lived in Taipei since 1998 while her family remains in Mongolia. Pray Nathaniel will begin to come to church and grow in his faith so they can serve God together.

* Names changed



Robert

4

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

The Korean economy was built on a culture of hard work and social mobilization. Today, South Korea is a world leader in technology, telecommunications, ship-building, and car-making. However, the corporate culture of men working long hours from early morning until deep into the night, then going out to drink alcohol until the early hours of the morning, causes many children in Korea to grow up with mostly absent fathers. Strained families break apart because one or both spouses overwork. The obsession with accumulating enough wealth to ensure a comfortable retirement and provision for children has turned work and money into very powerful idols in Korean society.

Pray God will transform the culture of work and wealth in Korea so people can find true treasure in God rather than in created things. Pray Korean families will be healed.



Marge

5

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Mentoring can take place in both secular and spiritual relationships. A mentor works to shape mentees into good future mentors. If done well, the mentor-mentee relationship can have a lifelong impact on both people.

Pray spiritually mature Christians will be willing to share what they've learned in their Christian walks with those who are less mature. Ask that new Christians will have teachable spirits and hearts that are willing to be challenged to grow in their walks with the Lord. Pray that those being mentored will reach out to others who in turn mentor others in their relationships with God.



none

6

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

A young man accepted Christ and was baptized. After four months of focused discipleship, he changed, not just spiritually but mentally and socially. At home, he was no longer an irresponsible young son. His mother talked about how he was now teaching Sunday school to the children. She said he was no longer the person he was before. Another young man was discipled and after a few months, his mom cried tears of joy at how her son had visibly changed in so many different parts of his life. She was thankful that he believed in Jesus and was growing in his understanding of the Bible. It is amazing what God's Word can do to a person.

Pray for young Christians to grow in their faith, obedience, and understanding of biblical truths.



Mary

7

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER
2020



When a Southeastern Luoluopo dies, the family organizes a “dance of the spirits.” The ceremony is meant to help the person’s soul find its way to the place where ancestors rest. Before death, members of this people group are plagued with the question, “Have I done enough, or will the spirits be angry about something I have forgotten?” To relieve some anxiety, each Southeastern Luoluopo home contains an altar to the spirit of the house and an ancestral altar, both in prescribed places. There are no known Christians among the Southeastern Luoluopo, and they have no gospel recordings or Scripture in their language. Overlooked by the world, their minds have been kept in the dark. But God knows them.

Pray they will know Jesus, whose finished work on the cross is enough for them.



Priscilla, Lisa

8

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

When Ota-san* chose salvation three years ago, he had a lucrative job and worldly view of success and priorities. His life was transformed after hearing God's heart for the nations and being discipled. He and his wife led both of his parents and three others to Christ. They open their home to lead Bible studies and are leading a nine-month discipleship study. Last year, Ota-san shared with the church family that he and his wife had surrendered their lives to full-time ministry. He is continuing to be discipled and trained in biblical teaching and leadership. This year, Ota-san will become the full-time pastor of the Love of Jesus Church in Yokohama, Japan.

Praise God that he is raising up leaders and pastors for the next generation! Ask that the Lord will give the new leaders wisdom and love to shepherd the flock well.

* Name changed



none

9

MONDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Day of Prayer and Fasting—Spirits

The majority of East Asians have ties to the spirit world. Whether they worship ancestors or gods, they believe these spirits provide guidance to those seeking answers. Fortune tellers, mediums, and offerings to the gods are parts of religious practices that go back thousands of years. To the average person, these gods are not evil, but protective. The gospel is veiled because the god of this age has blinded the minds of many East Asians so they cannot see its light (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). Until they know the truth, they will not see that they are being deceived and will blindly follow the gods of their ancestors.

Pray their eyes will open to the truth, their hearts will awaken to the deeper longing for things eternal, and their ears will hear God's voice. Pray for centuries of bondage to be broken and captives set free.



John

10

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Teresa* is a refugee who felt hopeless due to many difficulties, like being discriminated against. She received some music that gave her hope and touched her deeply. She didn't know that she was listening to hymns, but the truth of God's words in the lyrics ministered to her. Because a Christian recorded the hymns and shared them with others, by God's providence, they made their way to Teresa. Christians were praying for her people group for two years when she received the hymns. Later, Teresa became a Christian and was baptized.

Pray for Teresa and the other refugees of her people group. Pray God's Word will make it to their hands and into their ears and hearts so they can know him and make him known.

* Name changed



none

11

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER
2020



In November, just after harvest, Nosu people gather to celebrate their New Year. Groups of young men go from house to house, helping slaughter pigs. Each family feasts on pork, buckwheat bread, and potatoes roasted in fire. What isn't eaten of the pig is cured to nourish the family through the winter.

As they plan for the coldest season and look toward a new year, pray for a great harvest, not just of their crops but souls. Pray against the authorities of the unseen world, mighty powers in this dark world, and evil spirits in the heavenly places—all that might war against the Nosu. Pray for groups of people who will go from door to door to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, who is far above any ruler, authority, power, leader or anything else both today and forever.



none

12

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

In November, just after harvest, Nosu people gather to celebrate their New Year. Groups of young men go from house to house, helping slaughter pigs. Each family feasts on pork, buckwheat bread, and potatoes roasted in fire. What isn't eaten of the pig is cured to nourish the family through the winter.

As they plan for the coldest season and look toward a new year, pray for a great harvest, not just of their crops but souls. Pray against the authorities of the unseen world, mighty powers in this dark world, and evil spirits in the heavenly places—all that might war against the Nosu. Pray for groups of people who visit the homes of their neighbors to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, who is far above any ruler, authority, power, leader or anything else both today and forever.



Stacy, Eileen

13

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Fuki-san* is a third-year college student near Takasaki, Japan. She attended a high school that was founded by missionaries but never fully understood who Jesus is. After attending the church plant in Takasaki and becoming friends with several Christians, Fuki-san decided to follow Jesus and was baptized. Since then, she has been discipled and is learning to lead Bible studies. She professed that she has felt the Holy Spirit fill her up when she has been afraid to share the gospel, allowing her to speak through her fear. After graduation, Fuki-san wants to serve in college ministry as well as use her passion for painting and drawing for God's glory.

Pray for Fuki-san as she asks God what exactly to do after college. Ask that the Holy Spirit will continue to fill her up and equip her to share his love and light.

* Name changed



Donna, JinLi, Ted, Hannah

14

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

At the time of this writing, Korea and Japan are in the midst of a major trade dispute and relations between the two nations are at a low. This fits an ancient pattern of animosity between the two countries. Their mutual history is filled with various conflicts. Korea was under Japanese rule for many years until the end of World War II. This, and particularly the colonial rule of the early twentieth century, has led to a difficult relationship between the two nations today.

Pray Korean and Japanese leaders will find common ground and bring the nations into a more peaceful coexistence and mutual cooperation, as they have been able to in the recent past. Pray Korean and Japanese people will set aside old grudges. Pray Korean Christians will be leaders of reengagement and peaceful relations between the two peoples.



none

15

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

A significant number of Christians and Christian leaders in China lack a deep, mature faith in Jesus. They are easily susceptible to false teachings, are not making disciples consistently, and lack vision to cross cultures and make followers of Christ in other nations. Their growth in Christ is, for whatever reason, stunted. They also continue to struggle with their relationships at home and with other church members. They experience little of Christ's victory over sin, giving in to temptations and not understanding the importance of accountability for holiness and growth in Christ. Even though the internet is censored in China, pornography has recently become very easy to access, especially for youth.

Pray for brokenness among Christians, that they will see their need for returning wholeheartedly to God. Pray they will experience his joy and power that comes from living a Spirit-filled life.



Kate, Mindy, Margaret, Deborah

16

MONDAY
NOVEMBER
2020



The Cona Monba people of China live just north of the borders of Bhutan and India. Because of their location and government restrictions, the Cona Monba are one of the least reached people groups in China. They migrated across the Himalayan Mountains roughly three centuries ago, and until 1949, lived as oppressed serfs under the Tibetans. Today, they reside primarily in areas where access by foreigners is limited. Few people know about them and fewer have prayed for them. Christians from Bhutan have shared the gospel with them. However, about 98 percent have never heard the Good News, and no known Cona Monba Christians exist.

Pray they will be adopted through prayer and the name of the Cona Monba will daily be brought before the Lord. Pray God will speak to them in their dreams. May God's salvation come to these people.



Lee

17

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Living in Indochina involves serving in multiethnic contexts. This poses some unique challenges but also offers some exciting opportunities. The people of the world's most widely spoken language live within our area. We hope to encourage and equip the people we serve to be gospel workers where they live, as well as equip other gospel workers throughout the world.

Ask that we will have favor among the national churches and Christians where we live, so that we may be able to partner with, invest in, and encourage them. Pray we will truly partner with other Christians in bringing the gospel to the nations.



none

18

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

God has been doing a mighty work in Sendai, Japan. In 2010, three of the city's four Baptist churches were without a pastor. While the churches were in the process of calling leaders, God brought missionaries to the area to join two of the congregations. Since the Japan earthquake, tsunami, and radiation disaster of 2011, God has been working in and through the church families, their new pastors, and the missionary families. God has established bonds of Christian love as these people have learned to walk, minister, and intercede together for their community and for one another. In 2018, one Sendai church saw three students come to faith and be baptized!

Praise the Lord that other churches have similar stories of how God is working in and through their intercessory prayer and combined ministry!



none

19

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

In a world of distrust and uncertainty, it is easy to look at people as enemies, but they aren't. Restrictive governments are not our enemies. Our neighbors are not our enemies. Those who mock us are not our enemies. The Bible clearly tells us that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of the dark world (Ephesians 6:12). That accuser and deceiver of old, Satan, works to cripple Christians by bringing doubt and fear into their lives.

Pray Christians in East Asia—be they American, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or any other nationality—will be confident in their faith. No matter what happens to upset their plans, pray they will truly believe that God is able to change any situation. Even if he doesn't, pray they will hold fast to Jesus and not give up or give in (Daniel 3:17-18).



Tara, Laura

20

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

China has the third largest land mass and contains the highest mountains and plateaus in the world. Its climate is diverse and ranges from tropical in the south to subarctic in the north. Its eastern seaboard is highly industrialized, and its western areas have deserts and mountains. It is a land of contrasts, beauty, and people. China has the highest population in the world and more than one hundred cities have populations of more than one million people. Shanghai is the largest city with more than twenty-four million people.

Pray Chinese Christians all over this land will call out to God and ask him to soften the hearts of their people. Pray Christians will boldly share the hope they have in Christ (Romans 10:14).



Samantha, Katelynn

21

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Please lift up students on the college campuses in Korea. University students are consumed by their studies, social lives, and future careers. This leaves little room for spiritual matters or church attendance. In particular, please pray for Jin-ho* and Young-sup*, two students majoring in Russian at a local university. They have attended the new church plant and one has expressed a growing openness to the gospel.

Pray the Holy Spirit will convict their hearts of sin and their need for a Savior. Pray the Christians around them will faithfully continue to share the gospel with them and love them. Pray for more opportunities for the team in Seoul to meet university students. Pray they will find the key people the Spirit has prepared to hear the gospel and respond in faith.

* Names changed



none

22

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Due to teaching received in public schools, some children are no longer willing to listen to stories of faith. Due to persecution, churches in China are meeting in smaller groups. Due to government restrictions on religious education to children under eighteen, the enthusiasm and vision of many church leaders for Sunday School is disappearing. Under these situations, Christian parents' role of teaching and raising their kids at home becomes even more important.

Pray Christian parents will not be shaken and will raise their children in faith with God-given wisdom. Pray their children will be open to the full restoration of family worship in every Christian home in China. Pray leaders in churches across China will not be discouraged by this persecution but will remain dedicated and devoted to discipling children with greater boldness. Pray for revival.



Jennifer, Dennis, Yong

23

MONDAY
NOVEMBER
2020



Labor Thanksgiving Day is celebrated in Japan on November 23 each year. This national holiday was established in 1948 to give thanks for the efforts of workers throughout the year. Schoolchildren traditionally make holiday cards for local policemen, firefighters, medical personnel, Self-Defense Force workers and others who protect society. Businesses give out awards or express thanks to employees with good reviews. The origin of the day has to do with a harvest festival celebrating the year's hard work when the emperor dedicated the harvest to the gods.

“Lord, the emphasis of this day of thanksgiving in Japan is on offering appreciation to the workers. We pray that countless Japanese will soon come to understand that true thanksgiving is offering our hearts to you in appreciation of your many gifts, especially salvation that is found only in Jesus Christ our Lord.”



Sam

24

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Success and achievement are the unquestionable goals for most university students. Unfortunately, stress and anxiety commonly accompany these students as they seek to excel in their classes. For many, not succeeding in their academic careers is not an option. Because of the high priority that is placed on education, some students also suffer from depression and have suicidal thoughts when they do not perform the way they think they should. Many feel they have no one to turn to when they face these feelings of discouragement and hopelessness.

Pray for God to place Christian friends in these students' lives to show them Christ's love and provide safe relationships for these students to share their struggles. Pray these Christian friends will tell about the hope found in God through a relationship with Jesus Christ.



Derek

25

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Disasters stand out in our minds and serve as constant reminders of pain and sorrow (e.g. 9/11, the Sichuan earthquake in 2008, and the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster in Japan in 2011). We reference or focus on these events, yet daily in East Asia, nearly 35,000 people die every day, slipping into a Christ-less eternity. This should drive us to our knees in prayer. Jesus asked his disciple, “So, couldn’t you stay awake with Me one hour?” (Matthew 26:40)? God says, “For My name will be great among the nations, from the rising of the sun to its setting” (Malachi 1:11a). Who knows what God will do because we pray.

God, make your name known among the people of East Asia!



Nancy

26

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER
2020



On this Thanksgiving Day, missionaries in East Asia can reflect on God's grace and provision over the past 175 years. Though the first Southern Baptist missionaries went to China in 1835, they were officially sent by the Foreign Mission Board upon its conception in 1845. Since then, every country in East Asia has seen churches planted, schools opened, and people saved. Today, missionaries reap a harvest from what was sown with blood, sweat, and tears—they stand on the shoulders of giants and are grateful. Some gave their lives that the Chinese might be saved. But today's missionaries do not boast about their missions' legacy or their ministry—they boast in a God who has been faithful for 175 years to call, equip, send, and sustain his servants for the fulfillment of his plan.

Proclaim how great God is and tell everyone of the wonderful things he has done (Psalm 75:1).



none

27

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

President Jae-in Moon, the leader of South Korea, has been in office since 2017 after his predecessor, Park Guen-hye, was impeached. His predecessor was the leader of the rival political party, and supporters of the former leader and her party fiercely oppose President Moon and his administration. The political divide in Korea is getting wider. There are frequent demonstrations near the presidential residence and Seoul's city hall, as well as the National Assembly Building, where the Korean legislature meets.

Pray God will grant President Moon wisdom as he leads the nation. Pray President Moon will seek the Lord and obey his will. Pray God will move to quiet the political anger in the country and heal the political divisions there.



none

28

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Ya-san* attends a church plant in Takasaki, Japan, and shares the gospel with everyone she meets. She invited Ta-san* to an English conversation event. He came one Tuesday night to check it out and soon made friends with several of the local Christians and missionaries. He began almost every day with them. One of the Christians and his wife shared the gospel with Ta-san, to which he responded, "Give me a month to decide." At the end of the month, after attending church, men's Bible study, and other events, Ta-san decided to follow Christ! He reads his Bible, continues to spend time with other Christians, and yearns to know more about being a true follower of Jesus.

Pray Ta-san will continue to seek Christ every day and that the Holy Spirit will grow him and teach him!

* Name changed



Meredith, Parker

29

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Pray God will stir the hearts of students and teachers at the universities and high schools in Fukuoka and Kitakyushu, Japan, to seek to know him. God provided opportunities for missionaries and a local pastor to speak to a large assembly of students in the girls' school, founded by Southern Baptist missionaries nearly one hundred years ago. Last year, God saved two of these students as a result of the pastor's message and many prayers.

Pray these new Christians will grow through God's Word and in their obedience to Christ, and that spiritual fruit will be produced through their witnesses. As more opportunities arise to share the gospel, pray God will continue to speak through the Christians here and give them words that will penetrate hearts and produce a bountiful harvest. Pray for blessed and favorable connections with the teachers.



Paul, Neil

30

MONDAY
NOVEMBER
2020

Training the next generation of Christian workers is vitally important. Over the years, a worker has disciplined and trained several who are now his valuable partners in ministry. Last year, these partners organized and held five Christian youth camps in several locations. More than 150 youth, children, volunteers, and teachers from ten churches worked together to make these camps successful. They even held fundraisers and contributed their own money to reach the youth of an unreached people group with the gospel.

Praise God for twelve new Christians and many others who committed their lives to following the Bible's instruction. Pray for sound discipleship and the spiritual growth of these new Christians. Pray for them to mature into effective evangelists and church planters among their people group. Ask God to guide the partners' ministry to reach more people with the gospel.



Anna

1

TUESDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Have you ever dreamed of trading the hustle and bustle of a modern Christmas for something with more of an East Asian flare? Instead of being “home for the holidays,” college students from across the United States are halfway around the globe sharing the true reason for the season. They might be dressed like Santa, engaging passersby in gospel conversations on busy sidewalks, passing out tracts at seasonal illumination displays, or even explaining the meaning of the nativity scene while hosting Christmas parties.

Pray with us that these U.S. students will wisely and boldly share the hope of the gospel whenever they have the opportunity. Pray the hearts of their new East Asian friends will be softened to the gospel and be drawn to the Savior born to set them free.



Ethan, Justin

2

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER
2020

The beauty of God's power is the great gift of reconciliation through grace and forgiveness. Because of Jesus' atoning sacrifice, we are reconciled to God and in his goodness, he has also bestowed on us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). Furthermore, he has equipped and enabled us to be his ambassadors—his personal messengers and representatives. As such, we must guard our hearts against all forms of pride and disunity.

Pray for East Asian Christians to desire, seek, and strive toward reconciliation. Pray strongholds of disunity will be demolished in their hearts and that the world will truly know and experience the love of Christ through their love for each other (John 13:35).



Jennie

3

THURSDAY
DECEMBER
2020

A grandma was the only Christian in her village and often ridiculed for her faith. When she got very sick, one of her daughters encouraged her to seek the shaman for healing. The shaman tied strings on her wrist and neck to protect her from evil and said she would be well in a few days. Her condition worsened and she was hospitalized. Her other daughter, a Christian, reminded her mom to be faithful to God, stay strong in the faith, and completely cut ties with the devil. This grandma cut off her strings that day. Other Christians visited, brought her food and prayed for her. She is now strong and doing well. She smiles when she shares her story.

Pray for villagers like her to hear and believe the gospel. Ask God to show himself as almighty among these many villagers who follow shamanism.



Mary, David

4

FRIDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Japanese Christians turn to Jesus from a religious context in which they seldom practiced their faith—they likely went to a shrine once or twice a year. Sometimes it is a challenge to help new Christians understand that they need to daily abide in Christ, serve the Lord through a local church, and share the Good News with others.

Pray for Saki-san*, Chinatsu-san*, and Mari-san*, who are all new followers of Christ! Thank God for drawing these precious ladies and others like them to himself. Pray for missionaries and local Christians in Yokohama, Japan, to seek God's wisdom about how to bring new Christians into the local church and help them begin to grow in their new life in Christ.

* Names changed



Prescott

5

SATURDAY
DECEMBER
2020

“For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Many East Asians are interested in learning American Easter and Christmas traditions. Unfortunately, most only know about a bunny and Santa Claus. However, the subject matter provides workers and partners a wonderful natural bridge to the gospel, and conversations with the curious make for ideal opportunities to share the redemptive story.

Pray Christians will have many opportunities to share the gospel message during the Easter and Christmas seasons. Ask that those who hear will open their hearts to the Good News and experience salvation, especially those of unreached people groups. Pray the workers and partners will effectively follow up with new Christians.



May

6

SUNDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Chinese Baptist churches all over the world are seeing spiritual renewal and awakening as they obey Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations. In many Chinese diaspora churches (i.e., Chinese churches that exist outside of China), 2019 was the first time they sent members on mission trips to a people group other than their own. The Holy Spirit is prompting a fresh awareness and burden to be a part of the missionary task to unreached people groups and places. Many churches have joined in prayer, provided additional financial support, and set short- and long-term teams to join in the strategy to plant fifty new churches among fifty unreached people groups by 2022.

Pray that during the annual Chinese Missions Conference from December 27 to 31, the Lord of the harvest will call Chinese diaspora workers into his harvest field.



Michael

7

MONDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Praise God for strengthening the church among the Shannan* people that meets in multiple locations across the southern mountain range. While undergoing months of intense persecution and intimidation, more than fifty new Christians were added to their numbers and baptized. During this time, many stood strong, but some fell away.

Pray the Shannan leaders will grow in their knowledge and obedience to God's Word, and that Christians will continue to meet together. The Bible is being translated into this language—pray any obstacles will be thrown down and the road made smooth so that thousands will clearly hear the Good News for the first time in their heart language. Pray these Christians will remain faithful in the midst of persecution and intimidation.



Ward, Jim

8

TUESDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Once a month during language study, “Landing City” students are placed in pairs or teams to go out and share the gospel. Many of the students have only been in language study for a short time, but this gives them an opportunity to share and use the language they have absorbed. This also creates a pattern for them to follow in the years ahead as they seek to be intentional about evangelizing the lost around them.

Pray that as they go out, they will boldly use what language they have and will discover that sharing the Good News is as natural as breathing. Pray for their words to fall on understanding ears and receptive hearts. Pray for redemptive relationships to be built.



Paul

9

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER
2020

God is still calling workers into the harvest areas of China, so how will he provide a way for these “sent ones” to establish a long-term presence in an increasingly unwelcoming environment? Perhaps God will call various nationalities or those with a desired skill set to do the work. Perhaps he will raise up workers from the harvest field of China. He has a plan and it will not be thwarted.

Pray for wisdom and for sensitivity to God’s Spirit in how to continue to reach those who have never heard the Good News of salvation in Jesus. Pray for those God is calling, that he will give them wisdom, patience, perseverance, and creativity so they can be salt and light to those who desperately need hope and salvation in Christ.



Anna

10

THURSDAY
DECEMBER
2020

God has presented a missionary family with the chance to connect with fellow parents of children who attend their daughter's preschool. They pray that God will use these opportunities for his glory and to call people to himself. Many of the parents are consumed with idols such as their children, money, or social status.

Pray the children at the preschool will come to know Jesus as their Lord at an early age. Pray the Spirit will break these parents' hearts and turn them to Jesus so they will seek his kingdom first and foremost. Finally, pray for this family and other Christians in Korea who are trying to connect with parents and reach them with the gospel. Pray for opportunities to boldly share the truth and a growing, selfless love for the parents.



Franklin

11

FRIDAY
DECEMBER
2020



Since the eighteenth century, the Xijima culture and language have been overtaken by the surrounding Han influence. Only certain dances, festivals, and religious practices remain to distinguish them as a separate people group. The Xijima language is nearly extinct, with only a handful of the elderly still able to speak it—younger generations speak Mandarin. Some have adopted Daoist practices, but the younger generation is basically nonreligious. Scripture and gospel recordings are available to them, yet no known Christians or churches exist among the Mandarin-speaking Xijima. Until someone goes to show them a better way, they will continue to be greatly influenced by the atheistic society around them that views religion as backward or foolish.

Pray for light to shine in their darkness and lead them back to God.



Julia, Nicole, Serena

12

SATURDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Donna* and her sister were orphans who lived secretly as refugees during a chaotic childhood. Provisionally, they were adopted by a Christian woman who helped raise them in a safe country. Today, Donna is a baptized Christian who is growing in her faith. She's training to become a teacher and hopes to instruct the children of her people group. Unexpectedly, Donna heard the news that her mother is alive and in the same city where she lives. During their years of separation, the mother searched diligently for her daughters without success. However, miraculously, after the mother became a Christian, God made a way for them to be reunited.

Thank God for this miracle and pray for his complete healing of the traumas this family has experienced.

* Name changed



Chandler

13

SUNDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Pray for Lifetree Christ Church in Japan to become a healthy church with healthy disciples. This church plant started in 2017 with three core members. One student made a commitment of faith and was baptized and became the fourth member, but later became inactive in the church. In 2018, God brought missionaries to partner with this church to pursue kingdom work together. They started prayer walking the area together weekly and began doing ministries together three days a week. At the beginning of last year, the church gained five members, four of which came from cooking and cultural classes at the community center. These classes began as opportunities to reach the community.

Pray for the pastor, missionaries, and church members as they ask for God's vision for the church.



none

14

MONDAY
DECEMBER
2020



Day of Prayer and Fasting— Merit-Based Works

Pride, self-reliance, and merit-based works all stand in the way of salvation. East Asians think they are happy because they have reached a level of success. They believe they can control their thoughts and obtain enlightenment, offer a sacrifice and have their sins forgiven, climb a mountain and be born again, or do more good than bad and all will be okay. Dialoguing about who God is and what he has prepared for East Asians is a great start for them to question exactly what they believe.

Pray Christians in East Asia will joyfully, carefully, and clearly communicate that joy, peace, forgiveness, and salvation are freely available because of Jesus. Pray people will give up merit-based methods and surrender to the one who has already paid the price. “Come, let us discuss this,’ says the Lord” (Isaiah 1:18).



John, Candice, Elizabeth

15

TUESDAY
DECEMBER
2020

A Japanese Christian woman has focused on reaching out to her community in Kobe, Japan. She has invited acquaintances and neighbors over to her house for food and fellowship. Then someone, sometimes a local missionary, shares a message from the Bible. Many of the Japanese people that come to this gathering have never heard the gospel or any other part of the Bible but are very eager to learn more. They have regularly returned and ask a lot of questions about Jesus.

Pray this group of Japanese people will keep wanting to learn more about the gospel, asking questions about the Bible, and will soon follow the King of Peace, Jesus Christ.



Lukas, Allen

16

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER
2020

In recent years there has been an increased emphasis in schools on the primacy of communist ideology and god-less Marxism. Students and teachers are being told to view Christianity as a threat to Chinese life and culture. God is able to take this situation and turn it into an opportunity for non-Christians students, teachers, and administrators to see the love and power of Christ demonstrated in the lives of those who are being pushed down for their faith.

Pray for the Christian teachers and students who are feeling the pressure to conform. Ask for God to encourage their hearts and fill them with peace and joy as he walks with them through difficult times. Pray that even those who are very antagonistic toward Christians will be convicted of their sin and turn to Christ.



Jenny, David, Reuben

17

THURSDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Jennifer* met God's ambassadors and heard the gospel but didn't believe. She lives in a society with very few Christians and, while growing up, was taught negative things about Christianity. Consequently, it is difficult for people of her culture to believe and have faith in God. Years later, Jennifer developed cancer and tried a natural healing remedy that failed. Loving Christians urged Jennifer to seek conventional medical treatment and continued to share the gospel with her. Finally, while she was in the hospital, Jennifer opened her heart and trusted Jesus as her Savior and Lord. She immediately wanted to be baptized. Christians had prayed and sought a relationship with Jennifer for four-and-a-half years. Miraculously, their prayers were answered!

Pray for Jennifer's spiritual growth and physical health. Ask that her testimony will help encourage many of her people group to have faith in Christ.

* Name changed



Kayla

18

FRIDAY
DECEMBER
2020

We long to see a spiritual revival in South Korea, especially among the younger generations that are increasingly turning away from the church. God continues to send more workers to this harvest field, and it is necessary for them to follow God's will in all matters.

Pray God will maintain vibrant and healthy team dynamics among the various Christians in South Korea. Pray he will protect them from potential internal conflicts. Pray God will grant wisdom in making decisions, boldness in obeying the Great Commission, humility in service, endurance through hardship, and joy in the Christian life. As part of the body of Christ, may we work in harmony and not in competition. May God use us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him in every place (2 Corinthians 2:14).



none

19

SATURDAY
DECEMBER
2020



The Jiasou live in an area that remains significantly unreached. There are no known Christians among them, and only a small percentage of Christians among their Zhuang, Yi, and Han neighbors. Some Jiasou claim that at one time their people worshipped an all-powerful God who was above the spirits but contact with him has since been lost and they have been bothered by demons ever since.

Pray the Jiasou will again worship the all-powerful God. Pray God will appoint watchmen on the walls around the Jiasou people, and that they will never be silent, day or night. Pray these watchmen will rest not and give God no rest until this area and these people are his (Isaiah 62:6-7).



none

20

SUNDAY
DECEMBER
2020

With an estimated 1.5 million immigrants from China living in Japan, the work to reach the lost and equip the ethnic church calls for great prayer. Many immigrants come for employment opportunities or education and can now freely hear the gospel for the first time. Chinese churches in Japan need training to reach the nations, specifically their own motherland.

Pray for seeds to be sown in the Chinese diaspora in Japan. Pray for the ethnic churches there to grasp the vision to reach the people in their home country, the Japanese people around them, and the many people groups of the world.



Edward

21

MONDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Due to western cultural and Christian influences, Christmas Day is actually a holiday in South Korea. Decorative lights can be seen in the capital city of Seoul, and even a Santa Claus can be spotted now and then. With the Christmas celebration deeply tied to the gospel message and the incarnation of Jesus Christ on earth, Christmas is a great opportunity for reaching Koreans with the gospel.

Pray many unbelieving Koreans will be curious about the meaning of Christmas, and that the Holy Spirit will open their hearts to the gospel message. Pray Christians will be eager and bold to share the gospel during the Christmas season. Pray for the volunteer teams from the United States that travel to Korea to help spread the gospel news during this time.



Brock, Myung, Jay, Sam, Myung

22

TUESDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Recent years have seen an increase in water pollution incidents. In Shanghai, dead pigs were seen floating down the river, and a chemical leak into a river resulted in people being hospitalized after drinking the water. More than half of China's surface water is so polluted that it cannot be made drinkable and 25 percent is so dangerous it can't be used in industries. Unfortunately, the ground water isn't any safer. This has far-reaching consequences for the people of China.

Pray Christians will not live in fear. Pray they will have wisdom in how to best protect themselves and their families from this type of pollution. Pray they can speak into non-Christians lives the truth of God's Word—that he holds all our days in his hands and is the source of living water.



none

23

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER
2020

In 2016, China lifted its one-child policy, but in 2018, births in China dropped to its lowest level in almost sixty years. It seems the country's shift to allow more births has not reversed the slower birthrate. Young couples struggle with the cost of raising children, especially in larger cities, and educated women are delaying childbirth to pursue careers. Some young Christian parents follow traditions of expecting their parents to help raise their grandchildren so that they can invest in their work. Leaving children with non-Christian grandparents, they go to other cities to provide for their child's future.

Pray Christians will see the need to raise up their children to love and follow God. Pray they will break free from thinking that their work is the primary means to provide for their children.



Tim

24

THURSDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Tonight, many East Asians will celebrate Christmas Eve. People seem to know this night is special, even if they don't know why. At a Baptist meeting in 1835, J. Lewis Shuck put a slip of paper into the offering plate on which he wrote, "I give myself." In 1836 he and his new bride arrived in Macao. Pray for missionaries as they serve during this Christmas season. For some it is their first Christmas away from friends and family. For others, it may be years since they have celebrated Christmas in their home country.

As you celebrate Jesus, the true gift of Christmas, pray for those who have answered the call to take this gift to a dying world. Pray joy will flood their hearts and spill out to the lost all around them. Pray many will receive God's gift of salvation this Christmas.



Kristen, Jenni, Susan, Jason

25

FRIDAY
DECEMBER
2020



South Korea is the only East Asian country that designates Christmas as a national holiday. Schools, government offices, and businesses are all closed on Christmas Day. For non-Christians, this is a holiday for shopping, outings, and parties. Unlike other Korean holidays, there are no obligations for family-centered activities. Children associate Christmas with Santa haraboji (Grandpa Santa) and his gifts. For Korean Christians, Christmas is primarily a religious holiday with church services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Caroling is also popular on Christmas Eve. Non-Christian family members and friends are more likely to accept invitations to go to church for Christmas services.

Pray for churches and Christians in Korea to be beacons of the light of Jesus for the lost. Pray non-Christians attending Christmas services will hear and receive the gospel.



Yuri

26

SATURDAY
DECEMBER
2020

The Korean peninsula has a rich and long history of more than five thousand years. It was devastated during the Korean War, which resulted in the two Koreas, North and South. Since the war, the two countries have taken vastly different paths. The contrast is further seen by the wildly different conditions of their populations and economies. Relations between the North and South are complicated and delicate, to say the least. But many South Koreans want unification and are doing what they can to reach this goal.

Pray for the Christians of South Korea to lead the way by prayer and practical support for unification. Pray for God to compel the leadership of the two countries to seek what is best for the Korean people as a whole. Pray God's will be done among these divided people.



Elizabeth, Larry, Ralph

27

SUNDAY
DECEMBER
2020

In recent years, materialism and the false teachings of the prosperity gospel have become more appealing to immature Christians in China.

Pray for Christians to desire to know God more, genuinely change their lives, and develop a closer, more intimate relationship with Jesus. Ask God to help them see their need for him and turn from worldly temptations. Pray Christians will know his Word so well that they easily recognize false teaching. Ask God to raise up humble leaders within churches who are not afraid to speak the truth and who will teach God's Word without compromise. Pray God will give Christians hearts to obey his Word and walk in the Spirit so they may become mature in their faith and learn to live godly lives.



Guy

28

MONDDAY
DECEMBER
2020

Due to numerous worldview obstacles, when it comes to the concept of absolute truth, it's very difficult for Tibetan Buddhists to accept the gospel message in a way that makes true regeneration and salvation possible. Christians must make the gospel more understandable by living it out, thus making it visible. This is accomplished best by the Christian applying the Bible to their marriage, family, childrearing, and vocation. Scripture speaks to all of these with stunning clarity and shows us how the gospel radically transforms the life of a Christian with regards to their spouses, children, jobs, and most importantly, God.

Pray Christians living among Tibetan Buddhists will see and understand the dire need to pair their bold proclamation with authentic lives marked by gospel transformation.



Hannah, Mary

29

TUESDAY
DECEMBER
2020



There has never been a known church or Christian among the Ersu people of China. They consider themselves Tibetan Buddhists but are very nominal in practice. Perhaps God has protected them from becoming entrenched in a religion that will prevent them from turning to him. Neighboring areas have had gospel activity, but few if any attempts have been made to reach the Ersu. They believe in reincarnation and presume the afflicted among them are receiving what is due them, thus they are not motivated to help the hurting.

Pray these people will know and be overcome with the love of Christ and begin to help others. May the evidence of their new life be visible to all, bringing glory to God and drawing many into the kingdom.



Roxie, John, Yvonne

30

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER
2020

The East Asian Diaspora (East Asians who live outside of their home countries) is scattered throughout the world. Whether they be Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or any of the ethnic minorities, they take their traditions with them and adhere to them even more. They are outsiders when they arrive and often relocate near those like them to retain a sense of home. They will continue to live without a saving knowledge of Christ unless someone tells them. As Christians, God has been gracious to us and his face has shown upon us. He has blessed us so that his ways and saving power will be known among the nations (Psalm 67).

Pray Christians will befriend East Asians all over the world and tell them of the God who loves and relentlessly pursues them. Pray they surrender to him.



Michelle, Ian

31

THURSDAY
DECEMBER
2020

“All mankind will come to worship Me from one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another,” says the Lord” (Isaiah 66:23). Thank you for journeying with us in prayer this year. Your prayers have strengthened, encouraged, and comforted us. Perhaps your prayers brought someone to salvation or prevented another from walking away from God. We may never know the exact outcomes, but if we have been faithful in prayer, we have done our part. We pray that it has been a time of agony as you wept over the lostness but also a time of rejoicing as you celebrated God’s goodness to the East Asian people. From one year to another, our prayer is for all mankind to worship God.

**If we can help you in any way continue your involvement or become more involved, please let us know.
eastasiaprayer@pobox.com**



George