



NEW
AFFINITY

PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Asian Pacific Rim Koreans to the Nations

IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN THE EFFORTS OF WESTERN MISSIONARIES FOR THE REVELATION 7:9 VISION TO BECOME A REALITY. THE NATIONS MUST REACH THE NATIONS. IN THE NEW ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES AFFINITY (APAC), THE KOREAN CHURCH IS ALREADY POSITIONED AS A KEY PARTNER IN ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSIONARY TASK.

The Korean church leads in finishing the missionary task by praying and going

The new Asian Pacific Rim Peoples Affinity (APAC) consists of 16 countries where 2.3 billion people live. Less than 5 percent of them are evangelical Christians. An estimated 43,500 people pass into eternity without Christ every day. The missionary task ahead is enormous, but God has already been preparing and using His church in this area to serve together in the mission goal.

South Korea has long been known as a powerhouse of prayer, faithfully meeting daily at 5:00 a.m. for prayer. From these meetings God has called missionaries to the nations. For 47 years they have been sending long- and short-term missionaries into the world. As secular materialism has drawn many younger Koreans to focus more on education and careers, the missions baton is joyfully received by retirees who have the passion, energy, and desire to continue to be used by God.

The desire to finish the missionary task is a common call for local pastors; the



A young man in Korea's "Hands-On" program.

challenge now is discerning how to improve on what they are already doing. They embrace the IMB's vision to mobilize 500 global missionary partners (GMPs) by 2025, and trainings have begun to help better prepare missionaries in this effort. To re-engage the younger generation, a "Hands-On" program sends young Koreans for one year to work alongside

IMB teams. As God uses these young adults, several have been called to long-term work. The wisdom and steadiness of the older Koreans and the energy and passion of youth join to beautifully impact the nations together.

Pray that God will spark a great revival in Korean churches that spreads as they share the gospel throughout the world.

1 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES.

As materialism and disillusionment with church grows among Korean young adults, church growth and Christianity decline there. Pray for churches to engage this generation in life changing ways that will keep them from being lured away by worldly attractions.

2 SANTIAGO, CHILE. Members of the

Santiago Team have begun reading the Bible together with another family in their building. Ask God to move in the hearts of this family and draw them close to Himself. As they read, may they trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

3 KAZAKHS OF KAZAKHSTAN. Pray for

the orphans of Kazakhstan, especially those in a dangerous foster care situation. Ask God to provide for the fatherless as He promised in His Word. Pray that those without parents will hear and receive the gospel and find true love and family in His church.

4 SOUTH ASIAN UNENGAGED

PEOPLES. Among the Maran Nairs of India, succession is generally through the younger son instead of the older. Pray that when they encounter a Bible story of the younger sons receiving the blessings (Genesis 27 and 48), it will resonate and drive them to learn more from the Word.

5 FRENCH NATIONALS OF FRANCE.

IMB representatives have recently started a weekly small group in their neighborhood. Pray for this new group as they grow together and learn to be the hands and feet of Christ. Pray that they will grow into a new church plant in partnership with a local church.

6 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. Pray

for three young Korean missionaries who are serving in Zambia for one year. While serving young adults there, may their own faith grow stronger, and may they see God working in tangible ways. Pray for team relationships to model His command to love one another.

7 SYRIAN SUNNI ARABS OF SYRIA.

After fleeing war in Syria years ago, two sisters heard the gospel and chose to follow Jesus! When their mother died, they moved back to Syria. Now their family pressures them to leave Jesus for Islam. Pray for their grieving hearts to heal and for their faith to grow.

8 HAUSA OF WEST AFRICA. The

Hausa are known for their resistance to the gospel. They hold tight to their cultural and religious beliefs and find it hard to consider any other way. Pray that the Spirit will work among these people and that they will know the deep love that Christ has for them.



9 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES.

Two Korean families have moved to Cambodia to serve God. Pray for their children as they face new schools, language, food, and culture. May God use their families as a testimony of healthy marriage and child-rearing.

10 DEAF PEOPLES. A worker in an

Asian country recently discussed truths in God's Word with a newly believing Deaf couple and their two adult sons. The couple is eager to learn, but they still hold onto some old beliefs. Pray for this whole family to discern truth.

11 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES.

Abigail,* an international student in Taiwan, wandered into church one day. She was welcomed, received the gospel, and was later baptized. Pray for her as she recently began an online Bible study in her language and is helping a church to reach her people group.

12 EUROPEAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES.

Between 250,000 and 400,000 Balkan Romani people live nomadic lifestyles throughout Greece. Many identify as Orthodox or non-religious. Pray for the unreached Balkan Romani people of Greece. May their hearts be softened and receptive to the gospel.

13 TAJIKS OF TAJIKISTAN. Pray for

Tajik believers who are the only believers in their communities and families. As they experience a cultural celebration, a wedding, or a funeral, it can be lonely and challenging. Ask the Lord to strengthen their hearts and to make their testimonies effective.

14 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES.

South Korea has sent over 22,000 evangelical missionaries who are currently planting churches and making disciples domestically and abroad. Pray for collaboration and unity among the denominations to make sending and supporting them on the field long-term a reality.

15 PUNJABIS OF INDIA. Pray for

believers in Punjab to have renewed spiritual fervor and zeal. Ask that they will persevere and be filled with the Spirit as they take the gospel to new places and follow up with those who want to learn more. Pray that they will not grow weary and give up.

16 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. A

variety of nationalities live and work in South Korea. Pray for opportunities to train international churches in areas that will spur members on to take the gospel to the lost of Korea and the world.

17 LILONGWE, MALAWI, AND BEYOND. The Malawian church is materially poor and can get focused on their own needs. Ask that they will see their riches in Christ and lift their eyes from their physical needs to the lost world that is dying without Him. Ask God to send Malawians to the world with His gospel.

18 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. The 6 million Hararghe Oromo are the most impoverished group in Ethiopia, living without access to education, health care, electricity, running water, or the gospel. They fear many evil spirits that torment them. Ask God to send believers to share the gospel with them.

19 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. Asian churches tend to be very structured and traditional, which can seem uninviting to the younger generation. As pastors empower others to lead, pray for an increase of inviting and loving churches that do not compromise on God's truth.

20 WIWA OF COLOMBIA. Please pray for Joy* who recently decided to follow Jesus. Pray that she will continue to grow in her walk with Christ, and that she will be bold to share her new faith with others in her community.

21 KURMANJI KURDS OF LEBANON AND SYRIA. Praise God that a local church has formed among the Kurmanji Kurds of Lebanon and Syria! Many believers have been baptized and want to be further disciplined. Pray for this movement of God among this people group to spread to their family, neighbors, and the world.

22 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. Pray for local pastors and church leaders to be above reproach, not arrogant, self-willed, hot-tempered, or greedy for money. May they be welcoming, use wise judgement, be holy, and self-controlled. Pray they will hold firmly to the Word and teach it well (Titus 1:7-9).



Koreans practicing for a worship service.

23 DEAF PEOPLES. Recently, the Deaf team in the Asian Pacific Rim saw health issues and motor accidents on top of increasing COVID-19 cases in their area. But God is mightily working amid these hardships and growing His kingdom. Pray for their endurance. Praise God for His faithfulness.

24 PEOPLES OF IRELAND. Most Irish consider religion to be harmful or insignificant to everyday life. Christianity in Ireland is largely cultural, having nothing to do with the gospel. At 0.5% evangelical, Ireland is one of the most unreached nations in Europe. Pray for the peoples of Ireland.

25 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. A missionary training center in Taiwan is preparing to send out their second class of missionaries. These adults from several countries are excited to take the gospel to the nations. Ask God to continue providing students, teachers, and funding for this training.

26 SPARROW PEOPLE OF THE HORN OF AFRICA. Believers shared the gospel many times with several Muslim men who practiced folk Islam. Finally, the entire group believed! However, they have not professed their faith to others or left their mosques. Pray for boldness. May their faith and their love for Jesus grow.

27 KARAMOJONG OF UGANDA. Pray for peace and maturity among the Karamojong believers as they

struggle with sin's strongholds. Pray for protection for the leaders of this church and for courage. Ask that they will boldly share Christ with nearby villages of unreached peoples and plant churches.

28 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. As the church in APAC grows exponentially, a host of godly leaders is needed. Pray for many younger believers to accept the mantle and honor of pastor and lead the church into the future. May older pastors retire knowing the church is in good hands.

29 PEOPLES OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA. The Gadchiroli district is a very hard place to serve. One believer shared that they are "often targeted and either persecuted physically, excommunicated, or have false cases filed against them. Pray for the believers there; a kind of fear is there among them."

30 ZOQUE OF MEXICO. Pray for the Zoque of Mexico who live in varying degrees of poverty with little access to medical treatment. Many families cook over fire and depend on agriculture to survive. Pray that God will open their eyes to see great and wondrous things from His Word.

31 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES. Many APAC countries have well-established Baptist conventions. Pray for God to ignite hearts and light a fire that will burn brightly – purifying, refining, and forging people together in one heart, mind, and vision to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Korean youth use cultural bridges to reach the edge of lostness

Youthful exuberance is known to go to the edge of lostness for the sake of the gospel, and South Korean young people are no exception. In five years, 114 “Hand-On” missionaries have gone to the nations, and 25 percent of them extended their service time beyond the one-year standard. APAC has 488 unengaged, unreached people groups living on remote islands, hard-to-reach valleys, and high mountaintops. Many bridges exist to connect Korean youth with the lost of other countries. The Korean culture shares similarities with other Asian cultures, and other Asians are showing interest in the Korean language. Also, Korean pop music, K-pop, is gaining worldwide attention. But it’s not just

Korean youth who are engaging the missionary task. Older and younger



Korean youth crossing cultures and generations in Japan.

South Koreans work together to cross cultures, generations, and other obstacles to reach the edge of lostness in the Asian Pacific Rim. Pray for unity and love among these missionary teams so that, “By this all people will know that [they]

are [Jesus’] disciples, if [they] have love for one another” (John 13:35 ESV). Pray for the missions flame to ignite sleepy churches and inspire Christians of all ages, resulting in thousands who will say, “Here I am! Send me” (Isaiah 6:8 ESV).



ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES

2.3 BILLION PEOPLE

97,122,106 (4.2%)

EVANGELICAL BELIEVERS

43,454 DYING DAILY WITHOUT CHRIST

3,346 PEOPLE GROUPS

1,134 UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

488 UNENGAGED UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS



The new APAC affinity covers 16 countries in the Asia and Pacific Rim area.

MAJOR RELIGIONS

NON-RELIGIOUS
1,299,209,425 (56%)

ETHNIC RELIGION
381,989,910 (16.5%)

ISLAM
257,988,185 (11%)

BUDDHISM
234,040,725 (10%)

CATHOLICISM
142,217,485 (6%)

HINDUISM
6,166,150 (0.3%)



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