

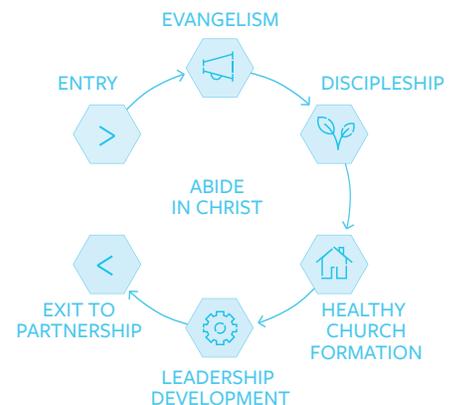


PRAYERPOINTS

A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Healthcare Missions and the Missionary Task

THE MISSIONARY'S TASK INCLUDES ENTRY, EVANGELISM, DISCIPLING NEW BELIEVERS, TRAINING LEADERS, AND FORMING HEALTHY CHURCHES. CARING FOR NEEDS OF PEOPLE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF EACH OF THESE. HEALTHCARE MISSIONS GIVES ACCESS TO THE UNREACHED, ALLOWS INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS, MEETS NEEDS, MAKES DISCIPLES, AND EMPOWERS THE CHURCH.



From clinic to church: Medical workers gain villagers' trust then share the gospel



A volunteer nurse checks a woman's blood pressure during a medical exam at a clinic.

A village on the edge of a mega-city was a spiritually hard place, hostile to missionaries and their usual entry approaches. But the village leaders recognized that their people needed good medical care. So they gave permission for healthcare workers to conduct a free medical clinic as long as they did not share the gospel. The clinic event was successful, and the village leaders were honored for making it possible. Based on the trust that they gained through the successful clinic, the healthcare workers were welcomed for follow-up visits in homes where they could pray and share the gospel with people in private. Many were healed of their afflictions and believed in Jesus Christ. A Bible study began in one of the homes, and from that, a small group of believers were discipled and baptized. Thus, a new

church was planted, and a leader soon emerged. The next step was to train the new believers to tell their faith stories to those who were close to them but far from God. The church grew! Soon it became the base for outreach events that employed another health strategy – women's health and hygiene trainings. Women of the church invited lost family and friends to these events, and some became believers who then began house groups in their own villages. Many leaders and teams have been developed. Now the new church sends out teams to share the gospel, baptize, and train others. Already, the church in that once-hard place has multiplied to the fourth generation. Praise God for these new churches, and pray for continued multiplication.



A 97-year old woman in Thailand consults with a volunteer doctor at a mobile medical clinic.

1 EUROPE. People are struggling with depression, anxiety, suicidality, grief, and addiction. Pray for mental health workers to prioritize well and to not be overwhelmed by the needs around them. Pray that support groups will give people hope beyond their circumstances.

2 SOUTH ASIA. Pray for health clinics in an urban, unreached area. Local doctors and churches have partnered to provide physical and spiritual care. Follow-up visits in people's homes allow for sharing the gospel. One new church has already resulted, and leaders are developing.

3 MIDDLE EAST. Pray for young healthcare workers across the Middle East who cannot find jobs or must work in extremely difficult conditions. Pray that God will win their hearts in their time of need.

4 CENTRAL ASIA. Pray for the Caring Heart project that works with at-risk mothers and children. Some live in a crowded home, while others come for school, and many are fed daily. Pray for staff, resources, and additional space. Most of all, pray that they will experience the love of Jesus.

5 ASIA-PACIFIC RIM. Pray for facilitators who are working with trauma healing groups to be effective. Pray that more workers will be trained to use this tool to bless more hurting people and introduce them to Jesus, the ultimate source of hope.

6 NORTH AFRICA. On the edge of the Sahara Desert, unreached peoples live in villages with no access to water or healthcare. Through well projects, health lessons, and Bible stories, there are new believers and groups of believers. Pray for them as they share with other villages.

7 ASIA-PACIFIC RIM. Through clinic and home visits in this rural area, the gospel is being shared. Pray for a growing number of recently baptized believers who are gathering weekly and telling neighbors and family their faith stories. Pray that many more will believe.

8 AMERICAS. Shipping containers of food and medicine have been sent to an island in the Caribbean. Pray that as the items are delivered to hungry and sick people and as the gospel is shared, many people will come to know Christ not only as their provider but also as their Savior.

9 SOUTH ASIA. Pray for God to raise up laborers to fill critical staffing shortages at a Baptist mission hospital in South Asia. Please ask God to intervene so that needed government approvals and clearances are granted for the hospital and its staff.

10 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Pray for Dikshan,* a language helper to a newly arrived doctor in Africa. Through acts of kindness and caring, the door has

already opened to gospel conversations. Pray that Dikshan will meet the Great Physician, repent, and believe.

11 MIDDLE EAST. Marriage between cousins is an accepted practice in this part of the world. Pray for children with birth defects and for their parents who care for them. Pray that doctors and public health workers can bring about social change in this custom.

12 GLOBAL. In the past year, more than 60 new healthcare workers have gone to into the world. Pray for them as they learn language and culture and adjust to life in a new place. Pray that relationships will be built with the professional community wherever they live.

13 EUROPE. Workers in eastern Ukraine will host at least eight medical teams in 2022 to work among displaced people. Pray for them as they partner with local individuals and churches in these clinics. Pray for volunteers who are willing to serve. Pray for many to be saved.

14 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Clinique Keru Yaakar (House of Hope) serves a very poor, ethnically diverse, and densely populated area in a capital city. Pray for consistent gospel witness.

15 NORTH AFRICA. Wind- and solar-powered water pumps are being installed to provide clean water. As pumps are installed, Bible stories are shared. Many people have become believers as a result. Pray for even more believers as well as discipleship training that leads to new churches.

16 SOUTH ASIA. A series of health lessons on women's hygiene along with Bible stories are used in small groups. Pray that women who are introduced to the Savior will believe. Pray for open homes and hearts to welcome the gospel. Pray for protection from nearby extremists.

17 AMERICAS. Church leaders working with displaced people along the northern Mexican border are being trained

to use New Hope Trauma Healing material. Pray for the groups that will start among these fearful, grieving refugees. Pray for emotional and spiritual healing.

18 GLOBAL. Many national partners are sending workers to the nations of the world. Pray that healthcare workers will respond to God's call to go. Pray for equipping and financial support for these workers. Pray that they will integrate effectively into church planting teams.

19 NORTH AFRICA. COVID-19 rules for frequent hand washing are hard for farmers and tent dwellers who have little water. Pray for availability of vaccines, public health teaching, and water supply projects. Pray that they will hear stories about eternal life through Jesus.

20 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. The Kigoma Baptist Hospital is a lighthouse in western Tanzania, giving physical and spiritual care. The team of workers there are facing difficulties obtaining work permits. Pray that these permits will be granted on a recurring basis.

21 EUROPE. Some personnel who are reaching Europeans in Canada have moved to a new location. Pray for them as they use health strategies that involve sports and outdoor recreation to connect to college students in this new location and share the gospel.

22 ASIA-PACIFIC RIM. Over several years, mobile clinics in villages have allowed workers to share the gospel, resulting in new believers and new churches. Recently, COVID-19 has prevented these clinics. Pray that workers can resume outreach soon and that God will prepare receptive hearts.

23 SOUTH ASIA. A Bible story based addiction recovery program will be piloted in coming months. Pray for the translation of the program materials to be efficient and accurate. Pray for the training of facilitators and formation of addiction recovery groups across South Asia.

24 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. A pediatric physical therapist and a special education teacher in West Africa plan to open a center to help children with special needs. Pray for logistics, including licensing for the therapist. Pray for each family who will be affected in the year ahead.

25 NORTH AFRICA. Pray for a new food distribution project in a Muslim neighborhood of immigrants living in a European city. Pray that believers will impact city leaders as well as those who receive food in this low-income community. Pray for this project in the coming year.



Short-term volunteers pray for a woman during a medical clinic in Mexico.

26 EUROPE. Malta has faced many mental health challenges amid COVID-19. Pray for plans to do mental health first aid training for churches. Pray that Maltese believers will desire to be equipped by volunteer Christian counselors to help those in need.

27 South Asia. Sessions at a global training center for nurses will begin in 2022. Nursing students will be trained in global health and cross-cultural missions. Pray for curriculum development and selection of leadership. Pray that students will respond to God's call.

28 AMERICAS. Doctors have moved from one nation to another to serve indigenous peoples who have no access to healthcare. Pray for them and their families as they travel to remote villages to treat the sick, guide them to better health, and tell them about Jesus.

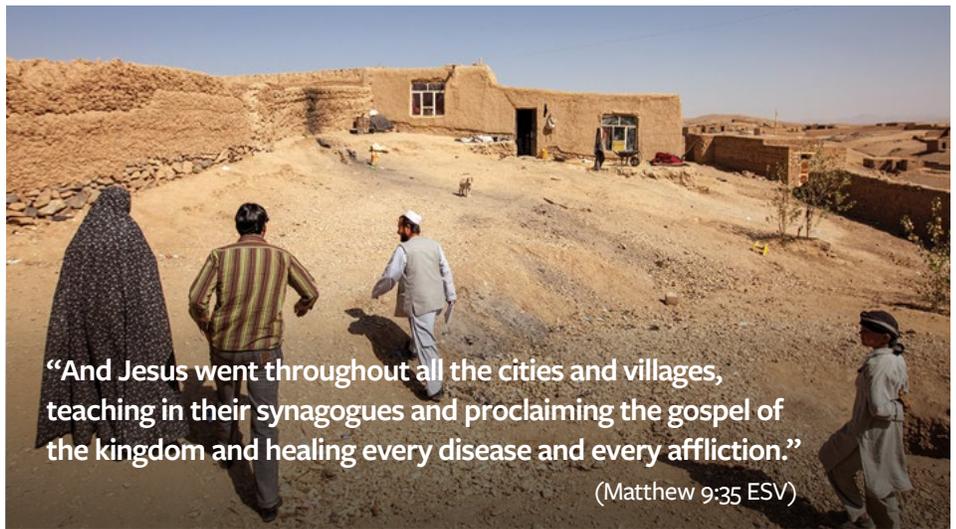
29 MIDDLE EAST. Abuse of women is widespread in the Middle East. Pray that women and children who are hurting will be comforted as they hear the gospel and trust in Jesus. Pray for counselors to go help them. Pray that men will learn and submit to biblical teachings and Jesus' way of love.

30 GLOBAL. Technology has allowed for remote healthcare through telemedicine. Pray for the development of strategies using telemedicine to provide care for those in need and to give gospel access to unreached communities.

31 GLOBAL. God is calling many healthcare students into missions, often when they are in high school or college. Pray for effective ways to nurture and encourage them throughout their years of training, preparing them for service in healthcare missions.

From unengaged to engaged: Healthcare missions among a UUPG

In a predominantly Muslim area, workers invested in training local women about health strategies and faith-sharing tools. The women who received this training then gathered other women and taught them about women's health, the sanctity of life, breast cancer detection, and the gospel. One of the women who was trained focused on reaching an unengaged, unreached people group (UUPG). She leveraged her business to offer them small trainings. One woman who attended her trainings was from the UUPG, and she invited others. In time, several women of this UUPG believed and were baptized. They met together for worship and discipleship. They also prayed for their unbelieving husbands. During COVID-19, the men began to attend some gatherings. Some of the men believed, and eight were baptized. Today, there are at least two churches among this people group, who are no longer unengaged! Pray for believers in these churches to tell their stories, and that these two churches will reproduce.



“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.”

(Matthew 9:35 ESV)

From death to life: A man finds Jesus in a medical clinic

A man walked into a clinic with chest pain then suddenly collapsed onto the floor. Medical workers gave him CPR, and he regained consciousness, and his vital signs stabilized. While waiting for the ambulance that would take the man to a hospital, a medical worker asked him, “How are you doing?” The man began to sob and said that he would come back after treatment at the hospital and believe in Jesus. “Why wait?” the worker said. Immediately, the man asked Jesus to take away his sin, and he gave his life to God. The worker asked when the man first became interested in God's story, and he pointed to the floor where he had collapsed. He said that he had never been interested before, but when he collapsed, he heard God call his name three times. He said God was warning him. Since then, the man has recovered and is excited about his new faith in Jesus, who saved his life and his soul on the same day. Pray for this new believer to abide in Jesus and grow in faith. Pray that this man's faith will grow steadily and that he will have many opportunities to tell his story.

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The stats are drawn from Fast Facts and all numbers come from the Annual Statistical Report on 2020 Data.

*Names changed

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