

*“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

# PRAYERPOINTS

## HEALTHCARE MISSIONS

*The missionary’s task includes entry, evangelism, discipling new believers, training leaders, and forming healthy churches. Caring for the needs of people is an integral part of each of these. Healthcare missions gives access to the unreached, allows for intimate conversations, meets needs, makes disciples, and empowers the church.*

## HEALTHCARE MISSIONS MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC RIM

In one predominantly Muslim Southeast Asian country, cultural and religious barriers make it challenging for elderly people to receive the care and support they need, especially when they face conditions such as dementia or suffer from strokes. Caring for them is considered a burden to the community.

In some areas, people believe that if someone reaches an old age, that means they have made a deal with a dark spirit to live a long life. If an older person cries out with hallucinations, it is thought to be the dark spirit leaving the body and searching for another. In other instances, aging people are told by their families that they smell like dust and should begin preparing for the grave.

Healthcare mission workers are seeking to reach the elderly in these communities. They organized an event to address stigmas of aging and to advocate for healthier caregiving practices. They partnered with several organizations and professionals in the community to provide physical and mental health screenings. Also at the



*An elderly Filipino woman. IMB Photo.*

event, participants painted a mural, made crafts, sang karaoke, enjoyed refreshments, and participated in light exercise – all examples of ways to enjoy life at any age. Caregivers received information and heard testimonies from other caregivers about the important work they are doing by caring for their loved ones.

This collaborative event strengthened relationships with the community while serving local families. Most importantly, it began to communicate that caring for the elderly comes from a love for God, who visited us when we were sick, tired, and vulnerable, making all the difference in our lives.

## ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

Last year we asked you to pray with us for a nursing program in South Asia that offers not only medical training, but also training on sharing the gospel cross-culturally. This year, interest in the program has grown. Many nursing students want to participate and use their skills to reach the lost. Thank you for praying!

**1 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** Counseling and caring for mental health needs are helping healthcare workers in northern Africa and the Middle East build relationships and share the love of Christ. Pray for the challenges of cross-cultural counseling as workers must grasp the local language and culture.

**2 SOUTH ASIA.** Healthcare workers are starting a mental health awareness program in 2024 in a South Asian megacity. Pray that they will encounter people with open hearts to walk through this program with them. Pray that the homes that host this program will host Bible studies one day.

**3 EUROPE.** An IMB team is partnering with a seminary in Germany to create a biblical counseling center. Through this center, missionaries and people in the community will be able to access biblical counselling. It will also serve as a resource center for counselling professionals.

**4 AMERICAS.** Pray for water filtration ministries, which give entry and legitimacy to access indigenous communities in the Americas. Pray for local pastors who are involved in these ministries as they seek to care for their church's physical need for clean water and spiritual needs.

**5 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM.** Please pray for Derlyn, a 19-year-old with a fungal rash in rural Philippines. An IMB nurse has helped Derlyn get medical attention and is sharing with her about the Lord. Pray for her salvation and that she will soon be a disciple maker herself.

**6 CENTRAL ASIA.** A believer recently died in a tragic accident. Please pray for those who labored beside her in sharing the gospel in Central Asia. Ask for healing as they grieve together and for wisdom as they determine how to proceed with projects.

**7 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Trauma is common in Sub-Saharan Africa. Whether the trauma is from political conflict, natural disaster, or personal experiences, Africans need the hope of the gospel. Pray for trauma healing groups that use Scripture as the start to healing and having hope.

**8 GLOBAL.** Many hospitals exist among the lost because Southern Baptists have helped start them. Pray for the Baptist mission hospitals that are now under local leadership. Ask the Lord to give these leaders wisdom and boldness to continue the missionary task.

**9 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** Pray for healthcare workers who are trying to access a country that is hostile to the gospel. Ask God for special favor with the officials so these healthcare workers can get their paperwork approved, enter the country, and minister to physical and spiritual needs.

**10 SOUTH ASIA.** Please pray for the new collaboration between two medical ministries in North India. They are hoping to host 12 medical camps in new areas where unreached people groups live. Pray for the logistics of the camps and for fruitful follow-ups after the camps.

**11 EUROPE.** An IMB team is leading a fitness ministry at a church in Iceland. Please pray for more coaches to join the team, for the church's involvement in the ministry, and for the people this ministry is reaching, such as Ukrainian refugees.

**12 AMERICAS.** Pray for medical shelters that healthcare workers run in Bogota, Colombia for villagers who come to the city for medical help. Workers share the gospel, Bible stories, and prayer with hurting people while also addressing their physical needs.

**13 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** New Hope trauma healing program has been meeting the needs of many in northern Africa and the Middle East. Many have come to faith in Jesus through this ministry. Pray that these believers will be discipled and develop a firm foundation in their new hope in Christ.

**14 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM.** Many Christians from the Asia-Pacific Rim are going to the mission field. They want training in basic healthcare skills to help them reach the lost. Pray for training opportunities for these Christians and for open doors and hearts as they meet spiritual and physical needs.

**15 CENTRAL ASIA.** A team in a large Central Asian city is seeking to start a medical project to reach a UUPG in a rural area that does not normally allow foreigners. Please ask for favor with the local government and the right teammates to help with this project.



**16 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Pray for young Christian healthcare workers in places like Zambia and across the continent to catch a vision for reaching the lost. Pray that they will be bold witnesses and that the gospel will transform their workplaces.

**17 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** War is wreaking havoc and creating many new opportunities to minister to refugees and spur on local believers to reach their neighbors. Ask the Lord to give perseverance as these healthcare workers take on heavy burdens of the hurting people all around them.

**18 SOUTH ASIA.** Pray for "Sanctity of Life" training for community healthcare workers who are reaching out to a large unreached people group. Pray for faithfulness and much spiritual fruit as these workers engage and share with the lost.

**19 EUROPE.** Pray for trauma healing groups across Europe, seeking to bring hope and healing in the midst of darkness and pain. Pray for doors to be opened and for people to hear the gospel and experience the heart of Christ in their pain.

**20 AMERICAS.** A food distribution ministry project in Lima, Peru allowed for IMB teams to share the gospel with many people. Please pray for good follow up with this project. Pray that the 50 people who professed faith during this distribution will be disciplined.

**21 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM.** In Northern Thailand, the gospel is being shared through community fitness. This are coming to workout not only their

bodies, but also their minds and their spirits. Pray for new believers gathering as a church in the gym.

**22 CENTRAL ASIA.** A large area of Central Asia was recently devastated by a natural disaster. Please pray for groups of local believers as they minister to their families, friends, and neighbors through trauma healing groups.

**23 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Pray for new healthcare workers in West Africa who are finishing language study and are preparing to go to the hospitals where they will be serving. Ask the Lord to help them transition well and contribute to their local teams in Christ-exalting ways.

**24 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.** New healthcare workers are needed throughout northern Africa and the Middle East. Ask the Father to send veterinarians, physical therapists, counselors, and other specialized workers to strategic places to share the gospel.

**25 SOUTH ASIA.** Pray for more laborers for a hospital that is reaching out to the Bengali Sheik Muslims. The hospital needs more healthcare providers to continue the vital work of reaching the lost in this dark place.

**26 EUROPE.** Pray for healthcare workers and volunteers as they go into Ukraine to provide care through a mobile clinic. Lift up those who are working with special needs children.

**27 AMERICAS.** A local believer who partners with an IMB team lost her child to a neurological disease. Thank God for her boldness in sharing her new faith with her

family and health workers. Pray for her as she grieves. Ask that her hope in the face of her son's death be contagious.

**28 ASIAN PACIFIC RIM.** Eyes2See is a ministry that provides eye exams and glasses to people in rural Thailand. Every patient hears the gospel. Praise God that a small group has formed out of this work. Pray for the new believers who are gathering for support and encouragement.

**29 CENTRAL ASIA.** Please pray for a team that provides home health services to Central Asian refugees in the Middle East. Ask that patients will have ears to hear the gospel as it is shared with them. Pray that God use this project to meet physical and spiritual needs.

**30 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.** Pray for a team in Sub-Saharan Africa that is working to be able to broadcast New Hope trauma healing lessons into an area that is surrounded by terrorist activity.

**31 DEAF.** The Deaf have limited access to health information and few caregivers who can communicate with them. This makes the Deaf particularly vulnerable. Pray that the Lord will raise up workers to address the special health needs of the Deaf around the world.



*Healthcare workers minister to people in Pangani, Kenya. IMB Photo.*

## MUSLIMS HEAR THE GOSPEL AT A MEDICAL CAMP IN KENYA

Kilele Gear doesn't just sell bags and accessories. The business employs local pastors in Kenya to make leather goods, providing the pastors with steady income. The shop also provides a meeting space for a church that one of the employees pastors.

An IMB team partnered with Kilele Gear to offer a medical camp in Pangani, a Muslim slum in Nairobi, Kenya, where the shop is located.



*Healthcare workers minister to people in Pangani, Kenya. IMB Photo.*

"We saw hundreds of patients," said a healthcare worker on the IMB team.

The workers treated illnesses, cared for injuries, and gave general checkups. More importantly, every patient at the medical camp heard the gospel and had an opportunity to respond. As people waited to be seen by a doctor, local pastors of nearby churches engaged them in conversation. Believers also work in the pharmacy side of the clinic. So after patients see the doctor, they hear the gospel again while getting their medicine.

After the clinic, 20 people said they wanted to follow Jesus! The church that meets in Kilele's building doubled in size.

"Our goal is to always have our healthcare strategies connected to a broader church planting strategy," the healthcare worker said. "Sharing the gospel and seeing people come to faith, then being able to get these new believers into a church where they can be discipled effectively is our primary purpose for doing such camps."

Pray that the Lord will continue to open doors for these medical camps where healthcare workers can preach the gospel and heal the sick for His glory. Ask God to bless Kilele Gear and use this business to open doors for the gospel to spread in Pangani.



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**REACHING  
THE NATIONS,  
TOGETHER.**