



DECEMBER 2024

“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

PRAYER POINTS

HEALTHCARE MISSIONS

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.

GOD USED HEALTHCARE WORKER TO HELP MAN IN DISTRESS AND BROUGHT SIX SOUTH ASIANS TO FAITH

Jay, a community healthcare worker, was walking past a home when he heard a loud cry, “I don’t want this life. God just take me—I can’t bear this pain!”

As Jay entered the home to investigate, he was told that the man, Rohit, had cancer and was in excruciating pain, even with treatments. Jay told Rohit’s wife that God had put it on his heart to pray for Rohit. Rohit screamed throughout the prayer, but a couple minutes later the man looked as if he were asleep. Rohit woke up and asked what happened because he no longer felt pain. Jay immediately praised God and shared what God had just done.

Jay checked Rohit’s blood pressure and returned every day to assess him. After a few days, Jay shared the gospel of hope and life in Christ. After hearing this message, Rohit repented and believed. He said he will praise God for whatever time he had left to live.



A community health worker in South Asia checking a neighbor’s vital signs. IMB Photo.

Rohit’s wife began meeting with Jay’s wife to talk about the Bible. Rohit’s wife also repented and believed. The couple was baptized together. Rohit was leery about being open with his testimony, but he brought Jay to a trusted friend to share with him. His friend was a Hindu, but after hearing the gospel, he and three others believed and were baptized. This friend has been so excited that he started going out with Jay to learn how to share his new faith.

Pray for this new South Asian community of believers and for God to keep working through Jay, his wife, and others to disciple them.

GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION STORY

Last year we prayed for healthcare workers providing physical and spiritual care. Lola went to a clinic where workers served her, prayed for her, and invited her to a local church outreach. She loved it and even started attending the church and a Bible study each week. In June 2024, Lola surrendered her life to Christ. Thank you for joining in the work by praying!

1 ASIA-PACIFIC RIM. Nursing students in a program in Southeast Asia are being trained to use their healthcare skills to share the gospel cross-culturally. Leaders from other countries are inquiring about sending their students to be nurses for Jesus. Ask God to use and grow this program.

2 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. Workers who are seasoned in preach and heal strategies are entering a family season that yields more free time. Pray that they invest this season wisely into community health and development projects while seeking to share gospel and disciple new believers in the area.

3 AMERICAS. "I work with university students. Sometimes we come across students working through depression or anxiety. Some have had past self-harm or suicidal thoughts. Pray for wisdom about how we can point them to Christ and give them the resources they need." – A healthcare worker.

4 GLOBAL. Pray for healthcare providers in the United States with a heart to reach the lost. Ask God to connect them to mission work with IMB teams on the field. Pray that teams will leverage these skills to advance the gospel among the unreached in creative and effective ways.

5 SOUTH ASIA. Pray for a nurse practitioner in South Asia to develop effective partnerships so that they can share the gospel through medical outreaches in rural areas. Pray over efforts to recruit two medical doctors to join in the work, teaching and mentoring in these endeavors.

6 CENTRAL ASIA. In one of the most underserved areas of Central Asia, a free clinic was opened to provide healthcare for women and children. Patients receive treatment, health education, and medication. Pray that healthcare workers will have opportunities to share the gospel.

7 EUROPE. Pray for mental health ministries across Europe. Some, like a counseling center that's being developed in Germany, train local Christians in basic counseling. Other ministries focus on working with refugees in Italy or trauma-healing groups across Europe.

8 SUB SAHARAN AFRICA. Pray for a group of families in East Africa who have children with special needs. In a weekly support group, they receive therapy, food, and a sense of belonging. They also hear Bible stories and pray together. Pray they will trust in Jesus and place their hope in Him.

9 GLOBAL. Pray for healthcare students in the United States being called by God to be a part of His great work to reach the lost. Ask that they will find good mentors as they discern their calling. Pray that they will gain a clear vision of how to use their skills in missions.

10 ASIA PACIFIC RIM. Pray for local churches following up with 72 new believers after a poverty aid and health education project. These new believers are living in some of the most remote, impoverished, and frigid regions of the Asia-Pacific Rim. They need discipleship and fellowship.

11 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. A Muslim region in northern Africa is experiencing a surge of stigmatized diseases such as hepatitis, HIV, and

tuberculosis. Pray for a team as they implement a screening project to identify patients. Pray that many will hear the gospel through this project and believe.

12 AMERICAS. "There is a high suicide rate among teens in three Indigenous people groups with whom we work. There are both spiritual and emotional factors involved. Please pray for wisdom to know how to best navigate health strategies in a very complex animistic context like this." – A healthcare worker

13 GLOBAL. Pray for IMB teams using creative new health strategies. From telemedicine to fitness and wellness to nutrition counseling and speech pathology, the Lord is matching skills to needs through His people with a passion to see the lost reached with the gospel.

14 SOUTH ASIA. As young nursing students learn professional skills, some are being trained to become cross-cultural workers. Pray that from this group, some will respond to God's call to join missionary teams while working as nurses. Pray for opportunities to work in places of need.

15 CENTRAL ASIA. A Christian halfway house provides discipleship, accountability in sobriety, and skills development during a six-month period after drug rehab. Pray that the Lord will help these men follow Him and be strong leaders and witnesses in their families and communities.

16 ASIA PACIFIC RIM. Pray for IMB missionaries in Asia who are also physicians, using their unique gifts in hospitals. Ask that God would encourage them and open doors for a new ministry with busy, isolated medical students who rarely have time to connect with Christians or a church.

17 EUROPE. Pray for teams in Europe using hiking, frisbee, jiu-jitsu, football, soccer, baseball, and other sports as well as fitness ministries to reach the lost. While many Europeans are hard to engage in deep conversations, sports provide opportunities to break down walls.

18 SUB SAHARAN AFRICA. In the West African desert, a team of healthcare volunteers held a mobile clinic to reach the "Hidden People." Unable to be accessed in their villages due to security, this clinic allowed them to come in and be seen. Ask that they will come to know the Prince of Peace.

19 GLOBAL. It's not just clinics anymore! Pray for the variety of health strategies IMB teams are using to reach the lost. Clinical medicine, community health, mental health, medical education, and more give healthcare workers access and opportunity to share the gospel.

20 ASIA PACIFIC RIM. Pray for the effective use of trauma-healing groups, centers, and multimedia tools for all ages in both rural and urban settings. Pray that these efforts will help build trust and open doors for evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and leadership training with partner churches.

21 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. A Muslim region in northern Africa is experiencing a surge of stigmatized diseases such as hepatitis, HIV, and tuberculosis. Pray for a team as they implement a screening project to identify patients. Pray that many will hear the gospel through this project and believe.

22 AMERICAS. "I have a vision for a recurring 'Fiesta de Esperanza' (Hope Fest) in an underserved area of our city. I'd like to offer body movement courses, basic health checks, and food distribution. Pray that the Father will provide for this in His way and timing." – A missionary in the Americas

23 GLOBAL. From physicians in Africa and Asia to community health trainers in Central Asia and the Middle East, the Lord is opening doors through health strategies! Pray that His people will fill these jobs around the world.

24 SOUTH ASIA. Pray that the Bangalore Baptist Hospital remains true to its vision of healing and wholeness in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Pray for more of the staff to know and share the path to spiritual wholeness in Him as they treat their patients' physical and emotional needs.

25 CENTRAL ASIA. Projects across Central Asia provide health services to those with little access to healthcare. Pray that these projects will have minimal opposition and be allowed to provide for medical needs and for the world's greatest need—lostness.

26 EUROPE. Pray for a medical ministry caring for needs across Romania and surrounding countries as healthcare workers act as Jesus' hands and feet to their community, including Ukrainian refugees. Pray that they will meet both physical and spiritual needs in this area.

27 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Water projects in Nigeria have allowed several unreached people groups to hear the gospel from local believers. Many have learned of the living water and have repented and believed in Christ! Pray that God's Word will continue to spread as streams in the desert.

28 GLOBAL. Pray for Journeyman who work in healthcare. Every year many nurses, therapists, and other healthcare workers complete their Journeyman term. Ask the Lord to guide them in their next steps of following Him and using their skills for building His kingdom.

29 ASIA PACIFIC RIM. Pray for the health and perseverance of young Filipino women serving among Muslims in the rugged Pacific Islands. Ask God to equip them to meet the many physical and spiritual needs of those around them and for opportunities to help similar communities.

30 NORTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. In an area where people are displaced by conflict, a First Aid teaching project opens hearts to mental health resources and the gospel. Please ask that God will use this open door to heal hearts and souls, that many come will to faith, and groups will form.

31 GLOBAL. Pray for IMB field medical coordinators. Their burden is great, tasked with the responsibility of keeping IMB field personnel healthy. Ask the Lord to call out more people to fill these roles. Pray for the coordinators to have wisdom and compassion as they provide care.

HEALTHCARE OPENS DOORS FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL IN RESTRICTED AREAS

By a healthcare worker

In the Middle East and northern Africa, evangelism is highly restricted and requires great creativity. A woman came to a clinic, and at the end of her visit, I explained to her how much God loved her and passed on a poem about God's love. She came back a couple of weeks later

for a return visit. I asked the Lord what to share with her, but I didn't hear anything. Was I too busy? Were my ears not listening to His Spirit? Am I just a terrible evangelist? Maybe, but as I sat in silence, the woman asked me for a copy of God's Word. His answer came through her, not me. What she needed wasn't a clever response from me, but rather His timeless, unchanging, powerful Word. I am grateful for the doors that healing opens for sharing the gospel. I am also grateful that His work doesn't depend on me or my ability, but on His faithfulness and His power working in the hearts of people He places in our paths.

MISSIONARIES SHARE GOD'S LOVE AND HOPE WITH GRIEVING MOTHER

By a missionary in Peru

A national partner and I were able to sit at the bedside of a dying patient. Eliza and her mother Maribel had been faithfully coming to our church in Peru. Eliza and Maribel were at church one Sunday, but on Wednesday we received the news that there was nothing else the doctors could do for Eliza, and she was in palliative care. Maribel was distraught. A national partner and I went directly to

Eliza's bedside in the palliative care section of the hospital. We prayed with her, shared the gospel again, and sang in worship together. We sat with Maribel, who was all alone while she waited for the ambulance that would take her daughter home. Three days later, Eliza passed away in her own bed. Since then, her family has messaged church leaders several times to express their appreciation for what we did. Healthcare missions allow us to support people in times of great need. As we address physical needs, we also have the privilege of ministering spiritually, pointing to the Savior who cares deeply and promises that one day, mourning, crying, and pain "shall be no more" (Revelation 21:4).

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MEDADVANCE
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Some names may have been changed for security reasons. BI 14M 10/24 P7701-12

**REACHING
THE NATIONS,
TOGETHER.**