

October 14, 2020

Southern Cross Project (SCP), East Asian Peoples - "Dear Friends, these are challenging days," a worker wrote. "When the dark clouds continually hang over our heads, we soon realize how little power we really have and that our true victory only comes after we stop relying on ourselves to accomplish the work and say, 'Lord, this is your work, and I have given you my life. Please strengthen us to be your message bearers.' Please join us in asking Father to fulfill the vision in Revelations 7:9-12 in this generation -- the vision of the great multitude gathered to honor the Lord our God. Ask Him to give us wisdom, perseverance, and strength so the 1.4 billion East Asian people can hear the gospel of Jesus Christ."

South Asian Peoples - Students in one area of South Asia remain at home, doing their schoolwork online, as all the schools are shuttered. This is a problem for some students, as they don't have internet access or devices to use. Many students struggle with the lack of social interaction and in-person guidance. Students with special needs especially suffer. Please pray for perseverance for these students, asking that they will not lose hope. Pray that they will find unfailing hope in the person of Jesus Christ. "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" ([Jeremiah 29:11 NIV](#)).

Saudi Arabs of Saudi Arabia - (SAU-dee) - Foreign residents make up over 30% of Saudi Arabia's population. That's over 10 million who mostly come from other Arab countries, Asia, and Africa. Many foreigners take jobs in Saudi Arabia because they can find more work opportunities and higher wages there than in their home countries. For foreigners who are followers of Jesus, spiritual life can be difficult in Saudi Arabia. Since most traditional churches are banned, it can be difficult to find other believers to worship with. Foreign believers face great risks for sharing their faith with others. Their job loss or deportation can have a major financial impact on their families, and they may face harsher penalties than others if arrested. But foreign believers have the potential to powerfully impact lostness in Saudi Arabia. Those from Arab countries already speak the language and share similar cultures. And foreigners who work in Saudi homes have the potential to impact entire Saudi families as they live with them and interact daily. Pray that foreign believers in Saudi Arabia will find fellowship and continue to grow spiritually. Ask that God will give them a vision to reach out to Saudis and wisdom in knowing how to do so. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help them overcome fear, give them boldness, and protect them.

Rumelian Turks of the Balkans - (ru-ME-lee-an) - Tom* accepted Christ as his Savior last December. This year has had many ups and downs, as he was cut off from believing friends and church family. Pray for his continued growth, for his encouragement, and for his witness to unbelieving family members. (*name changed)

Chittagong Muslims of Bangladesh - (chit-TAH-gong) - Although believers are able to do all the steps involved in evangelism such as presenting the gospel, discipling new believers, planting churches, developing leaders, etc., no one is gifted in them all. Therefore, the believers in Chittagong are in the process of focusing on a very specific area where they will work together, each using their specific gift to accomplish all the necessary steps. Please pray for this plan and for them to have unity. Also pray for hearts to be ready to receive the gospel and grow in faith.

Peoples of the Northern Mountains of Laos - As has the rest of the world, the northern mountains of Laos have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Many towns in this area are dependent on tourism, whether those are Western visitors or travelers coming down from China or over from Thailand. Now that borders are almost entirely closed, hotels, guesthouses, restaurants, and handicraft shops are being heavily impacted and even closed due to the lack of visitors. That, combined with some late rains, has made for a difficult time for both townspeople and farmers. Pray for those whose normal source of income has been reduced or removed due to the virus. Pray that they will find alternative ways to support themselves and that local tourism will boost the economy somewhat. Pray that the Word of God will spread abroad and that ways will be granted for believers to access the most distant people groups in safe and sustainable ways.

Muslims of China - Fall is in the air. Cooler nights offset warmer days, and leaves turn colors. People enjoy seasonal chestnuts and sweet potatoes, and fall events are starting, such as Mid-Autumn Festival and Chinese National Day. As these events bring people together, local brothers and sisters desire that lost people know the good news and the one true Lord. "I met a new friend from a neighboring province," one believer said. "She is Muslim. How do I relate to her? How do I begin meaningful conversations? I want to share the good news, but I'm not sure where to begin." These questions are not uncommon. Ask God for meaningful encounters and conversations between believers and the lost. Ask that brothers and sisters have courage to talk with people whom they meet and that the Father will give them His words to say. Pray that cultural barriers will be broken and that new friends will hear the truth about and receive the one true Lord.

Mbunda of Western Zambia - (m-BOON-duh) - The old, familiar hymn says: "To God be the glory, great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He gave us His Son . . ." The Upper Zambezi Team writes: "We are giving all the glory to God for the great things He has done, as Pastor Damonik* now has completely restored vision! You prayed for more than a year for God to do this for this Mbunda pastor, and He has! Missionary Mark Wint was able to visit with Pastor Damonik in person in August and witnessed firsthand his ability to see clearly and read his Bible easily. Praise God for His hand in Pastor Damonik's life. What a testimony of God's mercy! 'Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change' ([James 1:17 ESV](#))." (*name changed)

Gene & Marilyn Ahrens – JAAR
David & Rhonda Knox – Nepal

North American Mission Board – Church Planter – Watermark Church – Worthington, OH
– Rick and Wendy Young – Pray for Watermark Church as we engage in the community with the gospel, build the launch team and serve the city of Columbus, Ohio.