

October 21, 2020

Thais of Bangkok, Thailand - (ties) - In August, you were asked to pray for Heem,* a Muslim from southern Thailand who's been working as a guard at a university in Bangkok for seven years. Some Baptist representatives met him while prayerwalking the campus and handing out masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. "He began to ask us questions about Jesus after learning that we were Christians. For weeks now, he's been reading through the Bible, and the Father is working in his heart. During our most recent time together, we talked about how much he loves to study history. This led to our talking about how the Bible is historical. He's been taught his whole life that Jesus didn't actually die on the cross and, thus, didn't rise from the dead. That night, as we read about the death and resurrection of Lazarus, Heem was taken aback. He sat there, pondering the things we'd read. I asked him if he believed that it was possible that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. He responded, 'Well, if it's the Word of God, then it must be true.' I told him, 'This passage says that whoever believes in Jesus, though he were dead, yet shall he live.' I asked him if he believed that. He responded again, 'It's the Word of God, so it must be true.' Please continue to pray for the Lord to work in Heem's heart and show him that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (*name changed)

Tajiks of Tajikistan - (TAH-jeeks) - Prior to 2017, October 1 would mark the onset of scheduled power outages in Tajikistan. From that date until March 21, electricity in villages and towns throughout the country would be rationed for significant hours of the day and all through the night. Due to a shortfall of rain and snow last winter, citizens of Tajikistan have been warned that conserving power outages will occur in the near future. Without electricity for televisions or the internet, the pace of life will slow down even more, and long hours will be spent huddled around a table in the warm room of the home. Pray that gospel conversations will happen throughout homes in Tajikistan. Ask that the Spirit will move in mighty ways, that families and friends will gather around Scripture, and that house churches will form in these communities. Pray that the gospel light will illuminate the darkness!

Peoples of West Bengal, India - (beng-AHL) - The most important festival for Bengali Hindus is Durga Puja. This year, the event occurs in late October. Durga is seen by Hindus as a powerful goddess, and Bengalis celebrate her defeat of the buffalo demon. The celebration starts as people begin to call the goddess from her home in the mountains. The streets are lined with temporary bamboo homes in which a clay idol of the goddess is placed. Several days later, the goddess is unveiled in her temporary homes, and pilgrims flock to bring her homage. They journey through the streets to see the elaborate homes built for her. It is a happy time in the city. The festival ends with the celebration of her defeat of the demon, and then Durga is ushered out of the city and is bid farewell as the clay idol is dumped in a body of water. Pray for Bengali Hindus to hear the good news of Jesus. Pray that the Spirit will convict their hearts and that the Father will draw them to Himself. Ask for many to turn from the worship of spirits to the worship of Yahweh and to trust in the One who defeated sin and the grave. Pray that the streets will one day be filled with worship of Him.

People of Northern Portugal - A little over a year ago, a new church plant began in the suburbs of Porto, a city in Portugal. The church plant's core group is a small, committed, and mission-minded group. COVID and months of quarantine was a challenge, but they continued to meet online, study, dream, and seek God's plan for their community. They were encouraged to see a few new people begin to join online. It was also encouraging that the core group grew in maturity and passion. As the community began to reopen after their COVID lockdown, the Lord impressed upon the group a need to reconnect with the community, even with the social distancing regulations. Prayerwalking seemed like a natural place to start. Please pray as they begin a monthly prayerwalking focus in different areas around the community, that they will find people of peace, that they will have boldness to share the gospel, and that they will find receptive hearts.

Libyan Arabs of Libya and Northern Africa - (LIH-bee-un) - Tarhuna, Libya is a small inland town 40 miles southeast of the capital. Tarhuna is home to a group that has been actively pursuing control of Libya. Life goes on as normal for the 200,000 Libyan Arabs who live there, despite the fact conflict is near and could strike at a moment's notice. Pray for Libyan Arabs of Tarhuna. Ask God to use the uncertainty of war to draw the hearts of Libyan Arabs to Jesus. Ask that authorities will hear and believe the gospel. Pray that in their belief, they will use their influence to share the gospel with their families, neighbors, and coworkers. Ask that the Holy Spirit will move and do miraculous things in Libyan Arabs' hearts.

Last Frontier - "God has only children, not grandchildren." This saying teaches that faith in God can't be passed from one generation to the next through bloodlines like a family heritage. Each person of every generation must have their own faith in God through Jesus Christ. Each person must understand and believe the gospel for themselves. This is significantly harder in areas where Christianity and faith-based activities were once allowed but are now illegal. In these circumstances, Christian influences naturally wane over time. Pray for an unreached people group that once had a strong Christian heritage many years ago. Today, due to oppression by authorities, most of the people have never heard the gospel. Please ask for God's protection for the few Christians who remain. Pray they can help lead a new generation of their people group to faith in God.

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

North American Mission Board – Church Planter – Burnaby Born Again – Burnaby, BC – Rafael and Sarah – Pray for our leadership team as we train those who can disciple new believers. Pray as we transition into a space that allows us to continue to grow and reach our community.