

Regional Spotlight: East Asia

Multiply Global Workers are serving in Mongolia, Japan, and certain other areas of East Asia that have a restricted communication protocol due to religious persecution. In this region, we partner with key national leaders in doing Bible translation, evangelism, community development projects, English classes, and discipling and training of new believers for leadership in their context. Our workers are also involved in ventures that allow them to maintain visas for a consistent presence in this region. Political unrest, economic struggles, societal corruption, and a growing disillusionment with Buddhism and other traditional belief systems have created greater openness to the Gospel.



Bob Davis, Regional Team Leader for Southeast & East Asia

Pray

- > For ongoing visa challenges in countries with restricted communication protocol
- > For effective and creative strategies for in-person and online discipleship
- > For God to raise up more national leaders to reach their own communities
- > For majority culture believers to be inspired and equipped to reach minority groups
- > For Regional Team Leader Bob Davis, overseeing outreach, holistic ministry, and church planting in this region

Explore people, projects, and stories at:

- > multiply.net/team/restricted
- > multiply.net/team/japan
- > multiply.net/team/mongolia

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Daily Prayer Guide

— January 2023 —



But as for me, I trust in you, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hands.

~ Psalm 31:14, 15 (NKJV)

Thank you for praying!

Prayer is the foundation of our ministry, which means that you play a vital role in the transformation of lives in mission.

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Our daily prayer requests can also be found on our website:

multiply.net/daily-prayer-guide

To ensure their safety, we are using initials or an alias for long-term workers serving in restricted areas. Also, the names of their contacts in country are routinely changed. Please pray for their protection. Ask the Lord of the harvest to continue to show them favor as he works through them to transform communities among the least reached.

“We continue to invest time each week in the areas of ministry that we feel God has invited us to do in this season of life. Trever helps with the Mission Leadership Training, preparing training materials for pastors and leaders in different global contexts. Joan primarily does prayer ministry and helps prepare a monthly Member Care resource letter for Multiply workers. Please pray that in each of these areas of opportunity we would hear what God has planned and purposed for us and joyfully step into it. At the end of January we hope to return to Matthew Training Centre for a few weeks.”

You will make known to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy, in your right hand there are pleasures forever. ~ Psalm 16:11

“Praise God for the Alpha course we have been running in our church. It is a joy to see people coming together to explore the life of Jesus. Pray for a young man who is seeking Jesus for the first time, coming at the invitation of some people from our church. Pray that he and many others would come to know Jesus personally and receive his grace!”

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ~ John 1:14

shop at the church, needing help with the language and looking for community. Pray also for the many Ukrainian mothers, here alone with little children.”

And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' ~ Matthew 25:40

27 FRIDAY: NATE AND KRISTIN CANADA

“There have been many tragedies of suicide and overdose these past months. Pray for those who are hurting, grieving and struggling. Pray for more opportunities for Kristin to connect with young moms, and for our Wednesday Kids’ Night at the church. We ask for continued prayer for discernment for next steps for Nate regarding work and school.”

Bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. ~ Isaiah 61:3

28 SATURDAY: BOB & CHRIS DAVIS THAILAND

As part of the Global Lead Team, Bob serves as the Regional Team Leader for Southeast and East Asia. Pray for Bob and Chris as they serve at the Changed Life Center in Chiang Rai, working to equip and empower national leaders in Thailand and in neighboring countries.

Be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished. ~ 1 Chronicles 28:20

January 29 - 31

29 SUNDAY: R & M FRANCE

“Pray for the completion of our work on a teaching series for a people group in North Africa, and for a project on the life of Daniel in their native language. Pray for energy to do these and other projects; we certainly have the passion, but need the coverage of prayer!”

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. ~ 2 Chronicles 16:9

January 1-7

1 SUNDAY: MULTIPLY (BRUCE ENNS) GLOBAL

“Please continue to hold us up in prayer as we lean into clarifying our vision, mission, and values in the New Year. Praise God for the overarching value of being a praying community. Multiply will begin the new year with various prayer opportunities in the month of January, including joining our International Community of Mennonite Brethren (ICOMB) in a day of prayer with our global family, on Tuesday, January 10. Would you consider praying with us on that day?”

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. ~ Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

2 MONDAY: JEN SCHMIDT MEXICO

“Please pray for our Matthew Training Center team as we begin another season of HADIME discipleship training on January 15. Pray for the ten students who are coming from Colombia and Mexico, that their lives would be transformed.”

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. ~ 2 Corinthians 3:18

3 TUESDAY: CECIL & TRACY RAMOS THAILAND

“Praise God for our recent Phan Thong church retreat, where we talked about how to empower each individual to be a leader in their context for planting a Jesus community. Pray that our believers would be ready to take their leadership to the next level as we look to multiply disciples and churches in the New Year.”

When the princes in Israel take the lead, when the people willingly offer themselves ~ praise the Lord! ~ Judges 5:2

4 WEDNESDAY: KYLA SINCLAIR-PETERS CANADA

“I would appreciate prayer for planning our winter camps happening in February and March. Pray for wisdom, creativity and faith. We start planning in earnest in January and expect many unreached youth from this diaspora Buddhist group to be hearing the Gospel for the first time at these camps.”

Who is like you, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you. ~ Psalm 89:8

5 THURSDAY: PK

SOUTHEAST ASIA

“Praise God that we have been able to reach another thirteen tribes in a country where new faith comes at a cost. Over 640 people accepted Christ as their Lord and 320 were baptized since they re-opened this country in September. Pray for these believers; in some villages the local authority has torn down their houses and banished them, and some have been beaten and forced to deny their faith. Please pray for them as the Scripture of God has commanded us to do.”

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ~ Romans 12:15

6 FRIDAY: JOHN & JENN JOHNSTONE

CANADA

“Praise God for new connections made where bridges of understanding are being built between the Church and First Nations communities. Pray for us to take the time to rest and listen to the Lord about this next year and pray for our hearts to continue to be softened by the Lord.”

*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
~ John 14:1 (ESV)*

7 SATURDAY: PABLO & MARICELA CHAVEZ

PERU

Pray for this couple as they lean into serving as long-term global workers in Peru. Pray for their first term, as they focus on team life and acculturation. Their hope is to feel and understand the heartbeat of Jesus among local believers, and to be an asset to the Peruvian churches in various areas, including leadership training and offering workshops on marriage and family.

Put your hope in the Lord. Travel steadily along his path. ~ Psalm 37:34a (NLT)

January 8 -14

8 SUNDAY: MAXYM & ANYA OLIFEROVSKI

UKRAINE

“The winter is cold here in Ukraine; with so much of our infrastructure destroyed, the light and heating in our houses are frequently turned off. Even so, Ukrainians are determined to defend our land and freedom, determined to survive. May the Lord help us! Pray for the war to stop!”

We do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. ~ Hebrews 10:39

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. ~ Revelation 4:11

23 MONDAY: LS

CANADA

Pray for this worker as she cares for marginalized individuals and ministers to immigrants from an unreached Buddhist people group in Toronto. Pray for this group to encounter Jesus in ways that would birth a disciple-making movement within their own cultural context.

Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. ~ Psalm 139:12

24 TUESDAY: DAVID & SARAH

SOUTH ASIA

“Please pray for us to model humility and be led in wisdom by God as we affirm and empower emerging leaders to move the MB conference forward in this part of the world. Pray for a healthy and spiritually sound foundation for our brothers and sisters who long for unity among the churches. We are travelling throughout the region with these emerging leaders and providing equipping and retreats for pastors. Please pray for health and safety for us. We plan to return to Canada at the end of March.”

This is a true saying: If a man is eager to be a church leader, he desires an excellent work. ~ 1 Timothy 3:1 (Good News Translation)

25 WEDNESDAY: JOHANN MATTHIES

EUROPE

Pray for Johann in his roles as Multiply’s Regional Team Leader for Europe and Central Asia. Pray for his involvement in helping to coordinate emergency relief efforts in Ukraine and among Ukrainian refugees in Europe.

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ~ 1 Timothy 2:1-2

26 THURSDAY: MARCELA & DAVID

FRANCE

“My prayer for this new year is to incarnate Jesus among all our immigrant friends. They are all so different - Afghani, Ukrainians, North Africans - and yet at the same time they all have the same emotional and spiritual needs. Pray especially for S, a young Afghani that comes almost every day to the coffee

about Jesus and how they can have an abundant life with him. Praise God for the baptisms of Mr. Aono and Ritsuko, an 81-year-old woman who I met about ten years ago.”

*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.
~ 2 Thessalonians 1:11*

20 FRIDAY: DYLAN & MARY

AUSTRIA

“At the end of January we will have some meetings with the Austrian Conference Leadership (MFÖ). One of the things we’ll be talking about is a possible new church plant in Austria. Please pray for wisdom and discernment, and also for clear vision as we move forward. January begins another Alpha program in our church; please pray for our leadership team and for the participants.”

I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me. I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. ~ Psalm 16:7, 8 (NLT)

21 SATURDAY: GEDIMINAS & KRISTINA DAILYDE

LITHUANIA

“Please pray for our family, these last few months have been marked by sickness. Pray for our health, and for healing for Kristina from a recent surgery. Praise God for our Christmas service where we were able to have the entire service in Ukrainian for the refugees, with translation for our congregation into Lithuanian. Pray for us to discern where we need to focus in the New Year, so that we can be effective with our ministry efforts.”

Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. ~ Acts 4:30

January 22 - 28

22 SUNDAY: JEREMY & ADRIENNE PENNER

THAILAND

“We are praising God for the arrival of our son, Caleb, born in December! Pray with us that his birth certificate and passport will come quickly so we can return home to Thailand. We are also praising God for all the people who heard the Gospel last Christmas. Pray for our leaders and churches as they follow up and begin discipleship.”

9 MONDAY: WANCHAI (OZZ) & SARA FAST KUMROD THAILAND

“Pray for our boys, Elijah and Ezekiel, as they navigate learning Thai, Chinese and English. The change from homeschooling to a Christian school has been an adjustment. They now have many friends who are from Buddhist backgrounds, and their influence on our boys is real and unsettling for us at times. We thank God for the teachers, but need wisdom to know how to talk with them about the bullying that Elijah has experienced.”

*Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way.
~ Psalm 44:18*

10 TUESDAY: AURÉLIE HIRSCHLER

BURUNDI

“People in Burundi die of hunger every day. There was no rain after the sowing; insects ate the seeds,, and those that managed to germinate have been burned by the sun. I’ve seen little ones eating mud... it’s bad. Mothers speak of wanting to die, but having children challenges them to keep going. Pray for those who don’t have enough to eat, or even access to water.”

*Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.
~ Isaiah 58:1*

11 WEDNESDAY: EINER & GIRLESA ZULUAGA

PANAMA

“Praise God for an opportunity to begin discipling new believers among the Rama indigenous people, bringing them here to the school in Panama. It has been satisfying to see them grow and understand the faith, freeing them from the religiosity of works, and freeing them from the animism and syncretism that surrounds this indigenous group.”

But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. ~ Acts 26:16 (RSV)

12 THURSDAY: TRAVIS JOST

BURUNDI

“Pray for the community at Karubabi (where the school is located). They had their first ever graduation in December. I am praying that the graduation event will be as a light to this nation, that it will be clear to all who made this possible and that God will receive the glory. Recently there have been accusations about witchcraft and devious behavior. Pray that God will be made known, and that others will want to know more about him.”

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. ~ Romans 15:13 (NLT)

13 FRIDAY: BRAD & CASADI SCHROEDER THAILAND

“We have decided to remain involved at Abundant Life Home in the ministry areas of discipleship, training leaders, caring for orphaned children and caring for women who want to leave the sex trade. As of November 15th we joined the Great Commission Foundation (GCF). Thank you for your many prayers over the years that we have served with Multiply.”

“As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me.” ~ John 9:4

14 SATURDAY: ELEAZAR & SHAILA DIAZ-ORTIZ MEXICO

“Pray that God works in powerful and miraculous ways in the lives of the students who will participate in our HADIME discipleship program. Pray for us as staff, that our lives would be a reflection of God’s love for them! Pray for us as a family, as we take on the new challenge of pastoring the *Campo Real* church, beginning in January. The New Year brings many challenges, but we are super excited to see God work in us and through us!”

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Romans 15:5, 6

January 15-21

15 SUNDAY: JUNJI & HITOMI NUKAGA THAILAND

Please pray for this couple, serving among the Thai and Khmu peoples in the areas of church planting, leadership training and community development. Junji and his wife are based at the Changed Life Center in Thailand, where future leaders are being trained and equipped to reach out to tribal groups.

It is written: “Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.” ~ Romans 15:21

16 MONDAY: SEAN & JUDITH FAST LITHUANIA

“It was a busy semester, with many personal challenges, such as the death of Sean’s brother, Eric. Pray that God will continue to heal and strengthen our family and help us to rest in him. Pray for our student Alpha course, and for our Ukrainian foster son, who is struggling to find motivation and hope at school. Please pray for Sean, as he works on his master’s thesis. Pray that the insights he gains will help us plan for ministry when we return to Southeast Asia, and also help us to serve well while we are here.”

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ~ 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4

17 TUESDAY: SARAH REED AUSTRIA

“Praise God for my residency visa being renewed! Praise God also for new members and new believers in our young adults group; pray for this group to continue to have Jesus at the center of their community. Pray for us as we receive more refugees from both Ukraine and Iran.”

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in... ~ Matthew 25:36-37

18 WEDNESDAY: A & R CENTRAL ASIA

“Praise God for the European summit we had here at the end of October, gathering all of the global workers in Europe and our region together. We had not had a gathering since before the pandemic, so it was great to be all together in our country for a few days. Looking ahead, we are excited for what else the winter will hold!”

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. ~ Deuteronomy 28:12

19 THURSDAY: DORIS GOERTZ JAPAN

“Praise God that we were able to celebrate Christmas together as a church family and that some of my English students came to perform a Christmas song. Pray that in the new year, my students would have a desire to know more

Crisis at Camp

CANADA | By Kyla Sinclair-Peters

This last year's summer camp for youth from an unreached immigrant people group was very different from previous years. God's protection and love were evident in dramatic ways. Our theme was "Reach Out: There is More" with Bible stories of people who desperately cried out to God during a crisis. We didn't expect to be literally crying out to God ourselves, within our first hour of camp!

It happened during the swim test, shortly after everyone arrived at camp. I was in the main office building when suddenly a lifeguard pushed past me, grabbed the AED machine and began running back towards the lake. As I hurried to follow him down to the lake, I heard someone yell, "It's Theo*!" Something had happened to this boy while he was swimming, and the lifeguards had pulled him from the water. He was not breathing and had no pulse. I felt sick.

I watched the lifeguards use the AED machine to shock him - once, twice, three times - then begin CPR compressions while we waited anxiously for an ambulance to arrive. Beside me, a woman who had been a nurse on a cardiac unit was looking at her watch and counting the minutes, then went to her knees on the grass, weeping. I begged Jesus to save

this boy's life, and to do so before irreparable damage was done to his brain.

One of our leaders gathered all the campers and began leading them in prayer for Theo's life. Suddenly, the lifeguards stopped CPR, as Theo's heart stabilized and he began breathing on his own. It was an incredible moment, and we all felt weak with shock and relief.

The emergency medical team arrived shortly after that and were amazed to find that Theo's vitals were strong after having undergone CPR for so long. They took him to the hospital, and later we found out that Theo had a previously undiagnosed heart condition which needed surgery. Not only had Jesus saved Theo's life that day, but discovering this condition was saving his future as well!

We witnessed a miracle that day; even some of the unbelieving youth acknowledged this. What the enemy meant for evil God used for good. However, going forward we've decided to stick to themes like "peace" and "joy" for next year's camp!

*Not his real name

This Piece of Wood

PANAMA | By Nikki White

"Mission starts with friendship." Multiply worker Einer Zuluaga shared this strategy for reaching the Wounaan of Colombia. Although it seemed natural to send believers from among the Wounaan of Panama to bring the Gospel to this same people group in Colombia, they are not, in fact, friends.

"The Panamanian and Colombian Wounaan have been divided for one hundred years," Einer explained. Drug trade and terrorism in the Darién jungle continue to keep these two Wounaan groups apart. "They do not know each other; they do not trust each other."

While the Wounaan of Panama had fifty years of missionaries sharing the Gospel among them, those in Colombia experienced only the opportunism and religious abuse of false teachers. "The Panamanian Wounaan know the Word," Einer said. "They know to resist animism and syncretism. But they have not been able to reach their Colombian brothers. They needed something more than knowledge."

That something turned out to be a piece of wood.

In late 2021, Einer and a team of Wounaan believers from Panama travelled to Colombia to make contact with the Wounaan there. Their strategy involved a focus on artisanal crafts. Wood-carving, they decided, was one

skill that could be easily shared, and within a few short days the two groups were carving together and sharing about their lives.

"We became friends," Einer said, "eating together, drinking coffee, laughing, lamenting." The Colombian Wounaan listened with interest to their visitors' stories of the Great Spirit, or Ewandama, whose son Jesus had been grievously misrepresented to them by religious authorities in the past. The conversation deepened, and the pile of wood shavings grew.

"This piece of wood is nothing," Einer told them, holding it up, "without hands to turn it into a work of art. In the hands of an artist it becomes transcendent. So it is with our lives. Without Christ, life is hopeless." The Colombian Wounaan nodded, familiar with the ways in which the hopelessness of violence, drugs, alcohol and suicide were eroding their community. Einer went on, "When we place ourselves in the hands of Jesus, our lives take a beautiful shape."

By their last day together, Einer and his team were invited to plan a second, longer visit. Come back soon, they were told by their new friends. Bring more stories. Bring more wood.

Daily Prayer Guide

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Multiply GLOBAL	2 Jen Schmidt MEXICO	3 Cecil & Tracy Ramos THAILAND	4 Kyla Sinclair-Peters CANADA	5 PK SOUTHEAST ASIA	6 John & Jenn Johnstone CANADA	7 Pablo & Maricela Chavez PERU
8 Maxym & Anya Oliferovski UKRAINE	9 Wanchai (Ozz) & Sara Fast Kumrod THAILAND	10 Aurélie Hirschler BURUNDI	11 Einer & Girlesa Zuluaga PANAMA	12 Travis Jost BURUNDI	13 Brad & Casadi Schroeder THAILAND	14 Eleazar & Shaila Diaz-Ortiz MEXICO
15 Junji & Hitomi Nukaga THAILAND	16 Sean & Judith Fast LITHUANIA	17 Sarah Reed AUSTRIA	18 A & R CENTRAL ASIA	19 Doris Goertz JAPAN	20 Dylan & Mary AUSTRIA	21 Gediminas & Kristina Dailyde LITHUANIA
22 Jeremy & Adrienne Penner THAILAND	23 LS CANADA	24 David & Sarah SOUTH ASIA	25 Johann Matthies EUROPE	26 Marcela & David FRANCE	27 Nate and Kristin CANADA	28 Bob & Chris Davis THAILAND
29 R & M FRANCE	30 Trevor & Joan Godard LATIN AMERICA	31 Alex & Carla Suderman GERMANY				