



GLOBAL PRAYER

OCTOBER 8, 2017

Release of Christians Imprisoned for Praying



After praying for a mentally ill woman, four Nepali Christians were sentenced in December 2016 to five years in prison for alleged "violence and witchcraft." Thankfully, their sentences were recently overturned and they have all been released. **Lali Pun, Binkali Budha, Ruplal Pariyar and his wife Ganga**, were initially found guilty at the District Court in Salyan -- a district in western Nepal -- even though the woman had testified in court that their prayer had ultimately resulted in her healing. A fifth Christian, Rupa Thapa, was found not guilty. The five had been imprisoned since July 2016 for "witchcraft, forceful imprisonment and violence," despite the presentation of an additional testimony from the healed woman's husband confirming their innocence. Along with being interrogated for these charges, the believers were further questioned at each court hearing to determine if they had made any attempts to convert their alleged victim -- an issue that was not listed on the charge sheet. The mentally ill woman, Seti, had been sent by her father-in-law, a former Christian, to a local church for prayer with concerns that she was "possessed by demons." Witnesses reported that Seti left the church before the conclusion of the prayer service, and was later found shouting and inflicting harm to herself in a nearby forest. More than a month later, a local businessman gave an account of the incident to the local media. On the basis of that media report, a complaint was filed against the five Christians, who were then arrested and subsequently sentenced under Nepal's new constitution which outlaws proselytism. Local church leaders announced at the time that they believed the five had been targeted because they were minority Christians.

Churches Banned for Worshipping Freely



During the summer months of 2017, courts have banned various religious communities from conducting any activities -- including meeting for worship -- for three months. On August 18th, a court fined and banned New Life Protestant Church in Oskemen because its church members sang religious songs at a summer camp. According to Eldar Meirbayev of the Regional Religious Affairs Department, the church should have obtained written permission but had not; therefore, a record of an offence was drawn up. The ban has not yet come into force as the church is appealing to the East Kazakhstan Regional Court. On July 10th, a court in Almaty Region fined a local pastor, Marat Tlegenov, and five foreign visitors for illegal "missionary activity" after the group held an outdoor baptismal service two days earlier. All were fined and one of the foreigners was ordered to be deported. The court also banned the believers from conducting unspecified activities for three months. Presently, religious communities are only banned permanently if the state proves or claims that they are "extremist" or "terrorist," or if they commit a second "offence" against the restrictive Religion Law. However, Kazakhstan -- in defiance of its international human rights commitments -- bans all exercise of freedom of religion or belief without state permission. This means that religious communities which either do not apply, or are unable to gain state registration, are in effect banned and risk punishment if they continue to meet for worship.

Triumph in the Face of Tragedy



One Sunday morning in 2014, **Sarah Ambetsa's** husband was killed as he was sharing the teaching message at the Joy in Jesus Church located within the city of Mombasa. Attackers had entered the church that morning and began shooting at the worshippers, killing the pastor and six others. After the shooting, the church ceased meeting together which left Sarah feeling isolated and alone, and with no way to support herself and her two young sons. However, with assistance from VOM, Sarah was able to move to a new town where she has established a textile fabric business. One of VOM's in-country ministry partners recently visited Sarah and her children, providing us the following update: "The prayers and support Sarah received through VOM have really helped her to recover from the loss of her husband. She has managed well while taking care of the boys (now nine and four years of age), and also operating her small business."

PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES

Mike and Renee Delorenzo – AIM (working in Atlanta)

Jonathan, Jodi, Jessica, Joshua, Joseph & Josiah Thar – Taiwan

The Sterns – Argentina via International Teams

C&MA: Carolyn Thorson – Gabon; The Wendels – Latin America; Westergrens – Spain; Cheryl P – Germany; Brian W – Malaysia; The Iversons – Taiwan; Dee Krueger – Guinea; M M – Israel; T & K – Bosnia; Livingstons – Ivory Coast

Muhotas in Kenya, Abba's House

The Churo School

The Gideons

OTHER MISSIONARY FRIENDS OF CANAAN

Beryl J. Pierce, Major, Salvation Army (Kinzi Wass Pierce's mother-in-law) – Zambia; **Christon & Kinzie Pierce** – Salvation Army – Logansport; **Kirk & Janis Reynolds**, Navigators (Kowalski) – Chicago Regional Ethnic Ministry; **Steve, Heather, Austin & Evan Webb** (Leonard & Linda Webb's son) – Thailand; **Jeff & April Davies** – Captivated Praise; **Vincent Mekubo** pastor & teacher of orphans in the Kissi-Kingoris area.



Kandi Lay - Cambodia



We are into the third week of classes and everyone is adjusting to the new schedule and pace of life. I still find myself tired by the end of the day, but loving the school, the students and what I am doing there. God is good!

One important part of school life is involvement in a ministry group. This is a place for students to begin to use what they are learning – building relationships, being a witness for Jesus and teaching others about Him. Three of the students and two teachers (myself included) have begun to go twice a week to a poor community which has sprung up along the railroad tracks. Heather Williams (the other teacher leading the group) has been building relationships in that community for many years and it's a good place for the students (and teachers) to sow the seeds of the gospel.

We have begun to build relationships with children and adults there and have had the opportunity to tell a few simple stories from the Bible. Pray that God would lead us to those whose hearts he is preparing to receive His Word. Pray that we would find ways to show God's love and care to those we meet. Pray that God would build His Kingdom in this railroad track community.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- PRAY for the transition to the city of Phnom Penh. It will be quite a change from life in the countryside of Poipet.
- PRAY for the start-up of the Urban Ministry Training Center in September 2017. Pray that the team works well together and models Christ-like living for the students. Pray for the right students for this first year. Pray for funds to build the residence building.
- PRAY that the UMTC and the students who come out of it make an impact on the Kingdom of God in the cities of Cambodia.

CANAAN COMMUNITY CHURCH PRAYER CONCERNS OCT 8, 2017

SPOTLIGHT FAMILIES FOR WEEK OF OCTOBER 8 – OCTOBER 14, 2017

Pray for one another.....

✠ Donna Draper ✠ Josh, Jen, Allie, Jace and Jaxson Flater ✠ Kim, Chandler & Nick Hyten

PRAISES

Praise God Joel Dlugos was not hospitalized and he and Kay are doing well! Kay turns 93 tomorrow!

COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST

Pray for the victims and families of the Las Vegas shooting. **Rick Miller** is having surgery to remove a tumor in his bladder on Tuesday morning. Pathology will take 7-10 days. **Jaxson Flater** broke his elbow. **Laura Andrews** does not have thyroid cancer! She will start radiation on her foot soon. **Pray** for God's guidance in hiring another ministerial person. **Pray** for families in crisis. **Health concerns: Kathy Thompson; Bea Jones' brother, Dale; Larry Nesbitt's dad; Becky Brush** (Sharon Black's sister); **Bob Mitchem; Rich Roth; Jim & Marianne Ash; Sue Neier; Kay Dlugos; Pam Miller;** Miller's granddaughter, **Natalie; Rita Bedwell's husband, Bill & step-daughter, Crystal;** Wass' daughter-in-law, **Vickie,** (Crohn's & ulcers); **Pastor Buddy Goss,** New Winchester Baptist, (diabetes, kidney & heart problems), his wife, **Phyllis. Dealing with pain: Vicki Kendall; Ann Nesbitt; Debbie Arney; Bob Mitchem; Sharon Doty; Mike Black; Rich Roth; Kay Dlugos; Claudia Wooden; Donna Draper; Ron Kowalski & Jamie Clark.**

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Adria Stephens – (Beard's grandtr)	Mitchell Stephens, Adria's husband – stateside
Rob Skillern—back in Kuwait	Christopher Barger (Ron's grandson) –Iraq
Robbie Skillern—stateside	Andrew Schwarz – airborne/ranger school (Gruner)
Carlos Kline, USMC (Raley's grandson) Afghanistan	Todd (friend of Mike Anderson)
Daniel Wass, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana	Jared Holtane – Iraq
Brad Royer – Marine Boot Camp	James Myers – Jordan (Audrey Birtchman's great grandson)

KEEPING OUR PARTNER CHURCHES IN PRAYER

Regional C&MA Church Fellowship Cluster

Hope Church (CMA, North Indy)
Fall Creek Community Church (CMA Fishers)
Cityview Christian Center (Inner City)
Christ Fellowship of Indianapolis (South Indy)
Current Church (Franklin)
International Churches
Vincent Mekubo of Kissi-Kingoris --
An Independent church that cares for orphans

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Ashley Arney	Jaclyn Davidson
Haley Purcell	Virginia Muhota
Olivia Benner (Roth)	Anna Simms
Claire Simms	Rachel Simms
Abby Schubert	Katie Schubert

FRIENDS AND FAMILY CANCER CONCERNS

Claudia Wooden	Sue Neier (breast, bladder)
Tracy Morehead (Rick Miller's sister)	Judy McEachern, Kathy Thompson's sister
Cheryl Roth (Rich's sister-in-law)	Bob Srstka (Brenda Anderson's uncle)
Bob Stern (missionary) leukemia	Avery (6) (Marilee Skillern's gr grandtr)
Tammy Richman (Bonnie Gibbs)	Jerry Morris (Eric Young)
Sarah Dvorak (Jaclyn Davidson)	Mel Medin (Anderson)
Kathryn Spiars	Dawn (Cindy Ware's stepdaughter)
Joe Shepherd (HL resident)	Paulita Ream
Larry Dalton & Morgan Myers Audrey B	Gary (Donna Draper)
Heidi, Linda, Joe, Aliza, Laura, April (Kowalski)	Heather (Pastor Kevin's sister)
Carolyn Ditto	Kelly (Collins) Thompson (Zac's mom)
Lucille (Kitzie)	Leanne (Mitchem's daughter)
Kay Dlugos	Sue (Roth's daughter)
Jeff (Marilee's brother)	Dale McCloud (Bea Jones' brother)
Carla (Sandra Runner)	Marylu Miller (Robertson)
Kenny (Flater)	Ron Gilmore (Josh Sparks step-father)
Alvin (Brenda D's brother)	Florence Dockey (Nicki Vance's grandmother)