

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for...

- *all those to whom God has given life, intending that the bounty of the earth be shared equitably.*
- *those who know only hunger, illness and fatigue, that our hearts may be open to God's shalom, that sharing by all may mean scarcity for none.*
- *children, and their families, who fled their homeland and have found refuge in another country, where they attend school and live out their childhood. May they be welcomed always and in all places as God's children.*
- *those affected by conflict, who have lost homes, family members, livelihood, and community – that they may still have hope, and that they will feel God's presence in each other and in those who give them comfort.*
- *the strength and solidarity of North American conferences, regions, and churches that are allied with Southern Asia partners.*
- *church leaders in Southern Asia who build bridges among Christians locally and around the world, and between Christians and their neighbors of other faiths. Pray that they may be sustained by God's love and have a vision of peace so that they might strengthen their congregations in the face of poverty, conflict, disease, and exploitation. May they be blessed with deep faith and wisdom.*

Southern Asia

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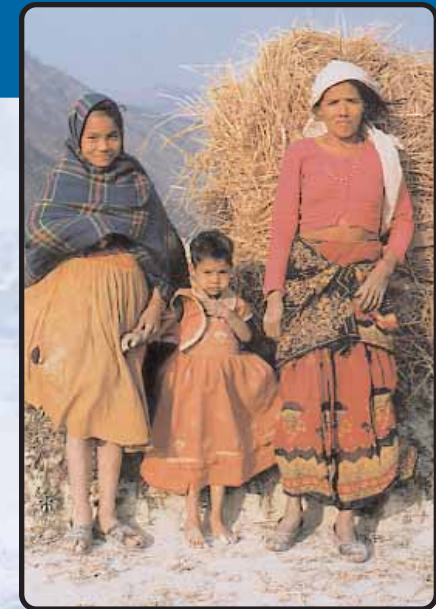


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GLOBAL MINISTRIES

A common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ

VISION/MISSION PRIORITIES

God intends for all people to experience peace and the fullness of life. We are called to be partners with Southern Asians and North Americans. Together we can learn, organize, and act to bring peace to all people.

Absolute poverty in Southern Asia keeps people hungry, tired, and ill, so that they cannot even imagine better lives. They rarely have any resources to organize for change.

Fighting poverty is at the heart of Global Ministries' partnerships in Southern Asia.



"I came that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness."

JOHN 10:10



HIV/AIDS

Half of all new HIV infections worldwide were reported in Southern Asia. Thailand and Cambodia have the highest percentages of people living with HIV. India and Indonesia have the fastest growing rates of new HIV infections in Southern Asia.

One example...

Our partner, the Church of Christ in Thailand, develops support for three groups of people who are affected by HIV:

- the person with HIV who eventually loses the ability to work and suffers a very extended illness because of a lack of drugs;
- children who depend on that person; and
- aging people whose only social security is their family.

Armed Conflict

Armed conflicts in Myanmar (Burma), Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka have caused hundreds of thousands of people in each country to leave their homes. More than 2.5 million people in Afghanistan also have fled their homes. In the struggles to control economic resources and political power, people

use their religion to justify violence, or blame religious differences for violence toward them. God's shalom is not reserved for any one faith or group of believers!

Our partner, the Burma Border Consortium provides:

- shelter, food, and medical care to people whose villages have been destroyed in Myanmar, and who come to Thailand seeking safety.

One example...

Through the Church World Service, we provide:

- relief to Afghans who are destitute and displaced because of war and drought; and
- health care for Afghan women who are denied medical treatment by the government.

Economic Justice

Hundreds of thousands of children and women are being kidnapped and sold to work in bondage far from home. The sex industry is an exploitative business; sweatshops force children to work; and in shoe factories people are fired if they take a sick day. God's shalom does not exist where one person gains pleasure or profit at the expense of another person.

Social work programs in Laos and Vietnam train social workers and provide services to people who have experienced bondage and violence.

Two examples...

Community development projects through the United Mission to Nepal work with farmers to produce food in ways that sustain local resources and do not degrade the environment.

The Protestant Church of Timor Lorosa'e (East Timor) channels funds to local businesses. This money for development goes to local people who are working to improve their lives, so that their economy will not be based on exploitation by international companies.