

# CALL TO PRAYER

JUNE 2021



## BUCKETS FILLED WITH LIVING WATER

Despite the shame that accompanies divorce in the country where we serve, it's surprisingly common. After a divorce, the woman is entitled to take back all the items she brought to her former husband's family to create a home.

We have a coworker whose sister was divorced over a year ago but has been unable to collect her belongings. One day we were traveling for ministry in the vicinity of the village where she had lived, and he asked if we could drop by to pick up her things.

He had called to notify the family and was assured the items would be ready. But we arrived at an empty house. Meanwhile, curious villagers gathered, and others began showing up at the nearby canal with their buckets. *If only they could fill their buckets with Living Water, then they wouldn't have to come to the canal to get the latest gossip*, I thought.

Three hours later, when we left empty-handed, I concealed my extreme frustration. That I had driven 60 kilometers out of my way over a horrible road and wanted to get home after three days of travel had no bearing on anyone.

As we drove away, a coworker sitting next to me, a young believer, said, "We need to bless them and pray for them."

I'm glad someone was sensitive to the Spirit's voice. In a culture where holding a grudge and being offended is almost a virtue, he wanted to bless and forgive these stubborn, obstinate people.

This young man leads a gathering of about 20 from his minority people group who've filled their buckets with Living Water. It's the result of much intercession. Praying for open hearts, minds, ears, and eyes is the foundation of our work here.

The Church is built when those who go and those who send do so with an intentional, passionate emphasis on worship and intercession. Obstinate, hard-hearted people need that kind of mercy—and people praying for them and blessing them.

Ask the Father to bless and the Spirit to work so the people we serve can know the Son—and that many more will fill their buckets with His Living Water.

| adapted from a report by an Alliance worker serving in a creative-access location

## PRAY FOR SOUTH ASIA

Asia has faced very challenging days due to a resurgence of COVID-19. In one of its largest countries, a number of Alliance family members have been ill or have died from the virus. In another country, sections of the capital city have been declared "red zones" where no one can enter

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or leave—at times even to buy food. In a third country, internal political conflicts have added incredible challenges to an already stretching situation.

Many have lost their livelihoods as factories have been shuttered and day laborers no longer have an income. Even in the best of times before COVID, the marginalized struggled to survive day by day. Church members have used their savings for medical bills, and some are being evicted from their homes because they can't pay rent. Many pastors have not received their salary due to churches being unable to meet and congregants becoming unemployed.

Amid this turmoil, the Alliance family overseas is reaching out to both church members and local communities in desperate need. Alliance international workers and their national partners have also been delivering food to those isolated in red zones.

Pray for the coronavirus to be brought under control and for God's provision for the urgent financial needs during this crisis. Intercede for the families of Alliance pastors, leaders, and evangelists who are infected by the virus and unable to afford proper treatment either due to lack of finances or inaccessibility to proper medical facilities. Pray that amid these tragic situations, the love of Jesus will shine more brightly than ever through the care demonstrated by His people.



## BELIEVING PRAYER

“Prayer is the most sacred occupation a person could engage in.” —A. W. Tozer

People may, and often do, pray without faith (though this is not true prayer), but it is unthinkable that they should have faith and not pray. The biblical formula is “the prayer of faith.” Prayer and faith are here bound together, and what God hath joined together, let no one put asunder. Faith is only genuine as it eventuates into prayer.

What profit is there in prayer? Much in every way. Whatever God can do, faith can do; and whatever faith can do, prayer can do when it is offered in faith. An invitation to prayer is, therefore, an invitation to omnipotence, for prayer engages the omnipotent God and brings Him into our human affairs. Nothing is impossible to the person who prays in faith, just as nothing is impossible with God. This generation has yet to prove all that prayer can do for believing men and women.

According to the Bible, we have because we ask, or we have not because we ask not. It does not take much wisdom to discover our next move. Is it not to pray, and pray again and again till the answer comes? God waits to be invited to display His power on behalf of His people. The world situation is such that nothing less than God can straighten it out. Let us not fail the world and disappoint God by failing to pray.

| adapted from *The Set of the Sail* by A. W. Tozer

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