# CALL TO PRAYER

**FEBRUARY 2025** 







## THE JESUS PEOPLE

After his release from a Thai prison eight vears ago, Chhen arrived in Cambodia, along with hundreds of other illegal immigrants who were returned to the border in truckloads. "The officials just dumped us there to find our way home," Chhen recalls. With no money or food and no way to contact his family, Chhen was desperate. His hometown of Anlong Veng was over 120 miles away.

Alliance international worker Syna Lao, along with members of an Alliance church in Poipet, was there that day to help the immigrants resettle. The believers set up tents along the border and prepared hundreds of care packages for the migrants. Chhen received food, clothing, and bus fare for the trip home. When the believers told him the love of Jesus compelled them to help him, Chhen was amazed. Upon arriving home, he told his family, "I must find the Jesus people."

As the years passed, Chhen struggled to find work. He wandered from town to town, looking for any job available and asking if anyone knew about the Jesus people. Last year, Chhen reconnected with some old acquaintances who were

members of an Alliance church in another town. Through them, Chhen was hired as a construction worker at the Anlong Veng Ministry Center. He accepted Jesus as his Savior in November 2024.

Syna, who now serves in Anlong Veng with her husband, Soeuth, reflects, "We had no idea what the outcome would be when God led us to the border that day." Late last year, Soeuth met Chhen while visiting a group of new believers in his home. After a harrowing motorbike ride on a dusty road surrounded by minefields, Soeuth, along with his fellow church leaders, were warmly welcomed into Chhen's wooden home, built on stilts. "You came all this way to visit me! I am so blessed to have you here!"

After Chhen shared his story, the believers asked about his favorite Scripture passage. Immediately, he quoted Matthew 25:35–40. "That passage describes me! I was hungry and desperate to find my way home, and the Jesus people gave me food and sent me home. As long as I live, I will never forget their kindness." Pray for Chhen, who is eager to share his faith with others.

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#### **SURPRISED BY THE SPIRIT**

Rayma was pumping herself up for the fight that awaited her. After over a year of following God's Son, she was ready to share her journey with her family. She was tired of hiding it from them and of their slightly veiled criticisms that she was no longer faithfully keeping the rules of their country's majority religion. Rayma was going to tell her family about her choice to follow Jesus—and let the chips fall where they may.

Her heart pounding, she opened the door to the family home. As she entered the living room, her jaw dropped. Her whole family was sitting together, reading the Bible! Their religious leader had encouraged them to read all the holy books, and they now turned to Rayma, asking her all their questions. "We know you have read these books before," they said. "Could you help us understand them better?"

Rayma was stunned by how the Spirit had miraculously prepared her family before she even arrived and given her the opportunity to share her faith in a way that strengthened her family relationships instead of severing them. Pray for protection over her as she shares the truth and that her whole family will embrace the Savior.

by an Alliance international worker couple serving with aXcess in the Mideast /Central Asia Region

# WHEN NEED BECOMES OPPORTUNITY

Amid ongoing, violent conflict—along with extreme deprivation and hard-ship—God is moving in Ukraine. What He is doing here is incredible, and He's doing it through the Alliance national church network. Amazingly, 30 percent of those who attend these churches are non-Christians. With 10–15 million people displaced because of the war, 2–3 million families have also been separated due to the military draft. The violence is on the level of World War II.

The overwhelming needs have become an extraordinary opportunity to share Christ's love. When Kathy, who attends one of our churches, saw all the soldiers showing up in her city, hungry and often sleeping outside, she gathered some church women, and the group started cooking large quantities of traditional Ukrainian food for the soldiers. Kathy also provided other items they greatly needed, such as new socks, personal care products, and medicines. She had use of a modest, old house, which she set up as a refuge where the soldiers could rest from battle. The women now cook and bake for the soldiers twice weekly and often take the food right into the battle areas. The soldiers praise God for this care and ask, "Why do you do this?" The women reply, "God has cared for us during this war, and we are passing on His care to others." Pray that many will embrace Christ as Savior.

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