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How Prayer Fuels Mission



Praying for Transformation

Petitioning God for heart change

Last year launched a new era of persecution for the Russian Church. Anti-terrorist laws went into effect ... hammering down on our frontline workers' freedom to evangelize outside of churches in this spiritually dark nation.

Today, believers who speak of Jesus are breaking the law and at risk for imprisonment or deportation at a moment's notice.

In response to this change in spiritual climate, East-West's Russian Field Leader visited our missionaries and national partners living in country. During his stay, these local workers were called in to meet with Russian officials.

It wasn't wise for the field leader to attend the meeting, but he stayed in close proximity ... listening and praying for the group's interactions in the room next door.

He struggled being left out of the conversation until he heard one of the local believers take a bold step of faith.

Despite the new evangelism restrictions, the national partner shared the gospel with the government official. The field leader understood the risk that both were taking in discussing faith and fervently prayed for both the gospel sharer and hearer.

It wasn't wise for the field leader to attend the meeting, but he stayed in close proximity, listening and praying for the group's interactions in the room next door.

And God faithfully responded to the field leader's petitions. The Holy Spirit transformed the heart of the official ... drawing him to believe in Christ despite his former allegiance to the Russian government.

PRAY LIKE JESUS

*A guide to prayer with Kurt Nelson,
CEO of East-West Ministries*

In Luke 11, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, and His response gives all believers an instruction manual on how to approach our Father in prayer.

He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.’”
—LUKE 11:2

Hallowed is a word used to describe God’s holiness and reverence for His Name. By praying for the Father’s Name to be hallowed, we are asking for His holy Name to be glorified in every place and above all else in this world.

By praying for His Kingdom to come, we are praying for the Name of Jesus Christ to spread further and faster so He can make His glorious return.

“Give us each day our daily bread.”—LUKE 11:3

One of my dear friends likes to say that Christianity is a daily faith ... daily we abide, daily we trust, and daily we ask God to provide our needs. By praying for our daily bread, Jesus is teaching us to pray for our basic needs today—nothing more and nothing less.

“Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive



everyone who sins against us.”—LUKE 11:4A

Jesus calls us to seek repentance and forgiveness. Christ’s life, death, and resurrection wholly justify all who place their trust in Him ... but daily repentance is required as an ongoing effort for the believer.

“And lead us not into temptation.”—LUKE 11:4B

Lastly, we are taught to pray to be protected from temptation to the sins that taint our relationship with the Father. We rely fully on His sovereign guidance to direct our paths so we may stand against the schemes of the one who seeks to destroy us.

This life is a battle against the kingdom of darkness, and prayer is a powerful weapon against the schemes of our enemy. **Will you follow Jesus’ model for prayer as you walk with Him today?**

PRAY WITH US

We believe prayer fuels God’s global rescue mission. That’s why **we are asking the Lord to provide 5,000 people who will daily pray for East-West’s ministry** in the spiritually darkest areas of the world.

To join this movement of prayer, visit www.eastwest.org/pray or select **“Become a Prayer Partner”** and mail us the enclosed response device.

Equipping Expands in Southeast Asia

“Find out where God is at work and join Him there.” –HENRY BLACKABY

Through prayer, God revealed He was at work in Southeast Asian believers who wanted to obey the Great Commission, but were missing the tools to do so. After an initial visit in 2014, East-West launched an equipping strategy that's led to training 58,006 local leaders who have sparked the start of 1,646 new churches. Below are the types of equipping we are implementing in Southeast Asia.



FOUR FIELDS TRAINING

Over the course of three days, believers in Southeast Asia are trained in evangelism, discipleship, and initial church planting. This training is designed to filter for local believers who are faithful to obey Christ's command to make disciples.



FOLLOW-UP TRAINING

After the completion of Four Fields Training, those who implement their new ministry skills to advance the church in Southeast Asia continue to refine and grow their tools in the following months with the guidance of East-West missionaries.



TIMOTHY TRAINING

Emerging church leaders undergo monthly "Timothy Trainings" with the goal of gaining insight on key theological topics and growing in obedience to the Great Commission ... ultimately building and strengthening believers in their leadership roles.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY TRAINING

Many leaders God has identified in Southeast Asia are women. And through this facet of equipping, we are teaching women to use acts of kindness, giving, hospitality and more as modeled by the women in Scripture to join God in building His Kingdom.

Through diligent prayer, the Lord continues to lead our teams to spiritually dark areas where He is already at work. It is our desire to keep this process of prayer at the heart of our ministry as we join God in His global rescue mission.

President's Perspective

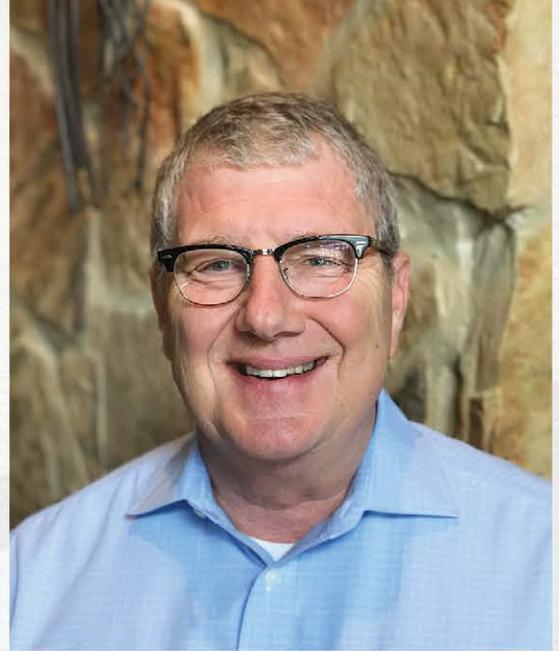
Igniting a Worldwide Revival

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” –1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

In 1806, five men gathered to pray for a revival in New England that would impact the world. A thunderstorm interrupted their prayer and drove them to find refuge near a haystack. That night and the events that followed are now known as the Haystack Revival, which was the catalyst for a gospel movement throughout the world.

This is one of my favorite stories of revival and I think it speaks volumes to what is needed today—continual, passionate, united prayer for the global spread of the gospel.

I hope you’ve seen through the stories, scriptures, and updates in this newsletter that, as Oswald Chambers said, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work.” When we invest in prayer, God hears our requests and revives



the hearts of people living in the world’s spiritually darkest places for His glory.

Thank you for faithfully praying and partnering with us to expand the good news of Jesus Christ in unreached and restricted access communities! We are grateful for you.

Sincerely,

Mario Zandstra
President

All East-West print materials are printed for free by a generous ministry partner.

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