

## South Asia Partnership Prayer and Newsletter May 22nd, 2017



Dear South Asia Partner:

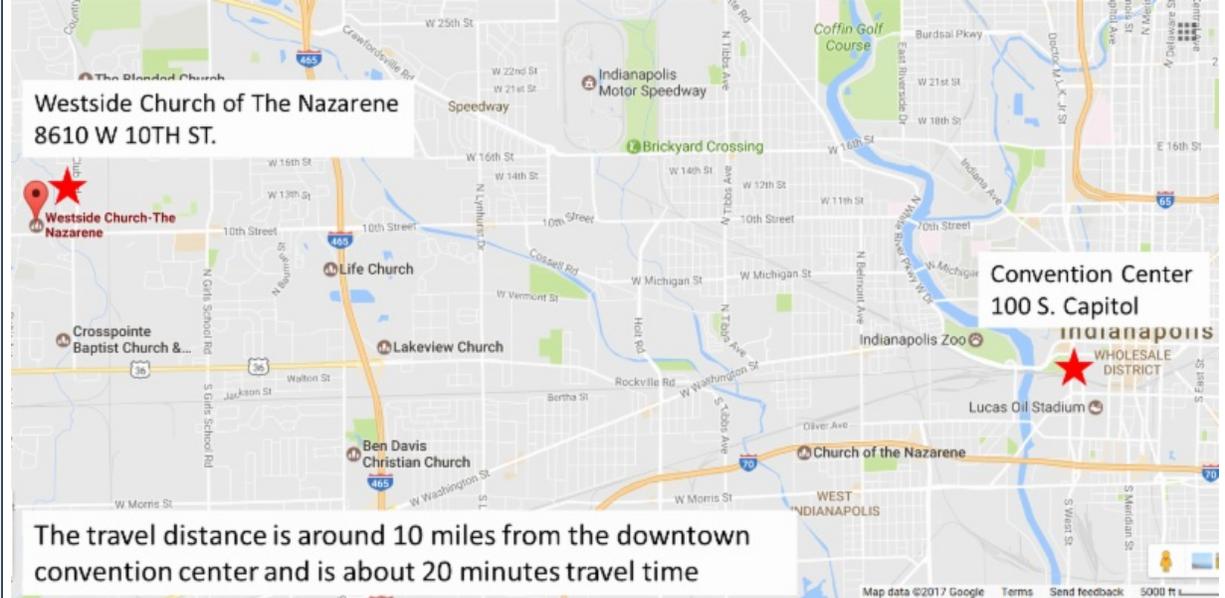
For those of you that are going to be in Indianapolis for General Assembly, we will be having an open house get together at the **Westside Church of the Nazarene from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 25th** *(please note this is a change from the previous communication that was sent in April).*

This will be a great opportunity to get together and meet the South Asia leadership that will be in town and get the latest information about how God is moving in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal. Please RSVP if you plan to attend so we can plan for food. We will have lunch available at any time during this time slot so come as your schedule permits and enjoy some food and fellowship. This is a great chance to meet our devoted leaders and there are some really great things happening that you will want to hear about. There is no charge. Please make an attempt to make it if you are in town. I hope you can make it.

God Bless

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## Information from Trino Jara

South Asia is one of the fastest growing areas in the Church of the Nazarene in the world, but it is also an area of great diversity and demographic and social challenges where Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism converge on a population of billions of people. Our responsibility as field strategy coordinators take us to visit and work with six districts and at least 4,000 churches in Bangladesh; Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. We have many challenges ahead.

**One of our most urgent priorities we have is the education and preparation of leadership and pastors. There is a great need to train our leaders so that their ministries are developed with dedication and excellence.**

For example; In Bangladesh we have more than 3000 churches in three districts but few pastors are enrolled in Bible college or have graduated from pastoral and theological studies. Many of our pastors are overloaded pastoring up to 5 churches! How they do it? We do not know, except that by the grace of God we have Nazarene brothers who proclaim Christian Holiness in marginal communities where the majority of the population is Hindu or Muslim. Many of them risk their lives preaching the word in dangerous circumstances because of the discrimination and religious persecution that Christians suffer in this area.

In Nepal our churches are still working to help rebuild communities destroyed by the April 2015 earthquake; while in Sri Lanka the church works to support communities with community development, hygiene and clean water programs. In Pakistan our brothers worship in very difficult circumstances in houses. We have recently started a fundraising campaign to help build small chapels or worship centers. Something important to note is that in all three countries there is a tremendous ministry of holistic child development focused on children at risk. Currently more than 10,000 children receive support directly and indirectly through this ministry. Families and communities are also impacted as the holistic child development ministry is connected with other ministries like self-help groups monitored by Nazarene Compassion Ministries through which groups of people work together saving and providing small loans between them to begin small business.

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**Alabaster does Make a difference in South Asia!**

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## The Other End of Alabaster -

As a pastor in the Church of the Nazarene I have participated in Alabaster all my life. I had that little box at home and also one in my office. Two times a year we had marched down the aisle to dump the change in the large Alabaster box on the altar. I always hoped it did some good somewhere.

Now, after 38 years in pastoral ministry, we are missionaries in South Asia and guess who has the responsibility of submitting requests for those Alabaster funds? We were in Badulla Sri Lanka and the DS told us the ministry center's roof was not complete and the monsoon rains were coming. There was a real and desperate need for \$6,000 to finish the roof. I collected the information and submitted the request and it was approved almost immediately. The roof is now complete and ready for the rains to come. Praise God for Alabaster! In Nepal the DS asked for funds to complete three churches in three different areas in Nepal. I again collected the information and submitted the need of each church. In less than a day all three projects were approved and those churches will be built.

In discussions with the Pakistan District Superintendent they are planning a building program for various churches and small worship halls. They are requesting that Alabaster be used to help build three of those projects.

Just last week a DS from Bangladesh sat with me and told me of a church that completely collapsed due to recent floods. The congregation was desperate to rebuild. I am now collecting the needed information to submit that request. Our personal testimony is that Alabaster really works exactly how we always thought and hoped it did!

The reality is that each Field gets a limited portion of what is collected two times a year and when the funds are gone we wait until the next Alabaster offering is received and we again get another portion. Please communicate to all who love South Asia that the emptying of those little boxes two times a year does indeed make a big difference.

SA Field Alabaster Coordinator

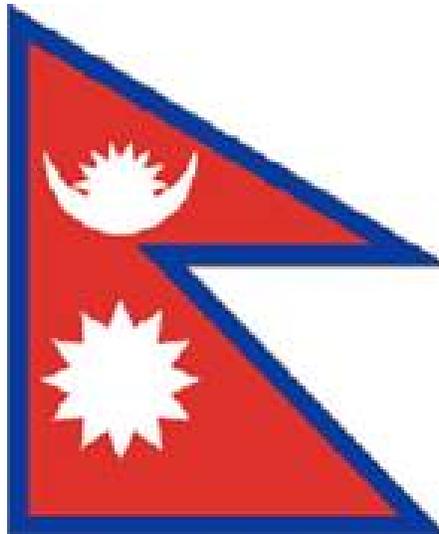
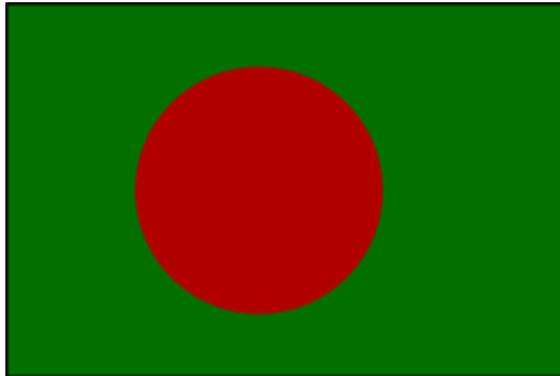
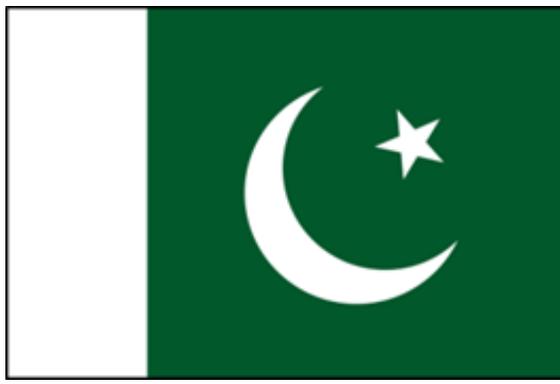
Rev. Bill Grigory

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## Sri Lanka Prayer Requests

- For the past few months there has been a rapid increase in Dengue Fever. It may rise because of we are nearing the monsoon season, as it may lead to increase of the mosquitoes around our homes.
- The H1N1 influenza virus has reared its head again in Sri Lanka, with 400 patients reported from the North alone earlier this month.
- It is still the dry season and there are droughts in many part of the country.
- Pray for all the children and especially our CDC children.
- Pray for one of our staff members who has been sick for few months.
- Pray for our country leaders to show wisdom in decisions and prosperity of economy.





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For information about the South Asia Partnership please visit our website ([www.southasiafield.org/opportunities/partnership.html](http://www.southasiafield.org/opportunities/partnership.html)) or contact South Asia Partnership Coordinator Ted Diehr ([tdiehr@comcast.net](mailto:tdiehr@comcast.net)).

Donations for the South Asia Partnership need to be designated APT1017 and sent to the General Treasurer at the Global Treasury Services, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66200.

The needs in South Asia are numerous yet the eternal impact is tremendous. If there is anything in this prayer letter that prompts your interest in further investment, please contact me for any additional details that you might want.



