



South Asia

South Asia Partnership • Praise and Prayer Newsletter



May 4th, 2019

Dear South Asia Partners,
FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE:

Our District Assemblies ended in Bangladesh Northwest with a very beautiful gathering of delegates and joint ordination services from two districts. Dr. Eugenio Duarte ordained 18 candidates with 3 ladies among them. It reminded me of the words Dr. Jim Diehl spoke a few years ago in Moscow when he told us that the only way to perpetuate the Church of the Nazarene and the doctrine of Holiness was to ordain as many elders as possible. We are in a race against time in the South Asia Field. With 8 districts containing more than 4400 organized churches and 1615 CTMs, we only have 316 ordained Elders! Fortunately, the number of licensed and lay pastors is growing with more than 1000. If we are going to achieve our Wildly Important Goal (WIG) to reach 1,000,000 people for Christ in South Asia for the year 2023; we need to train at least 10,000 pastors in the next five years. This is a huge prayer request we have for our precious partners that are committed to support our journey towards this wildly important goal. Please pray; pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into His harvest field in South Asia; Matthew 9:38.

REASONS FOR PRAISING OUR GOD AND LORD JESUS CHRIST!

- We had five very blessed District Assemblies in Bangladesh with ordination ceremonies in three districts. The Church of the Nazarene continues growing in Bangladesh thanks to diverse ministries such as Jesus Film, NCM and other ministries that together are used by the Lord of the Harvest to bring the people to church. This year the 5 districts in Bangladesh continued adding new members to the church. To Him be the Glory!
- We also received a good report from the Pakistan District during their district Assembly.
- The South Asia Mission Team continues to be engaged in helping churches to mature and to become stronger in Evangelism and Discipleship as part of our 2023 Wildly Important Goal (WIG). This coming May, the Field leaders will gather for a week of meetings and vision casting. The focus of the meeting will be on discipleship. We are expecting at least 30-35 field leaders to be there as well as leaders from the Global Ministry Center and the Regional Office.
- The Evangelism and Discipleship Movement with NYI in South Asia is engaged with training young leaders to become discipleship catalysts in the field. Young leaders in each district are working together with District Superintendents and pastors to encourage, train, and deploy committed church members to share the Gospel and to become disciple makers. NYI Leaders from the field will be also attending the SALT meeting in May.
- We Praise God because 15 students were finally accepted to be enrolled in the M.Div.

classes with the UBS in Bangalore India. Classes will be given in the center in Dhaka. Students enrolled in the M.Div will eventually become part of a team of trainers we are working to have serving in Bangladesh. We are also working with other districts in coordination with the South Asia Nazarene Bible College to develop teams of trainers in other countries in the field. We also continue supporting a family studying their M.Div. in Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary. We want to thank all the partners from USA and Canada for their generosity providing the funds for this plan.

- God continues providing resources to continue with the church building project in Pakistan. We praise the Lord for His support of the Pakistan DS's goal of 20 new Worship Halls.
- An important effort is also being done by our Bangladesh Education Coordinator to establish a residential pastoral education program in Bangladesh. This will allow students to be trained in facilities that already exist in their country that have been built with resources from Nazarenes and partners from around the world. We must increase the pastoral training of thousands of students the Lord is and will be calling for ministry. We are also thankful for all the partners from around the world for their generosity providing the funds for this plan.
- We continue to give thanks to our God because of the ministry that Child Development Centers (CDC) are doing reaching thousands of children through different holistic ministries and their parents through Self-Help groups. Today, we have more than 3400 sponsored children and under special assistance through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) and other partner organizations. Local churches are also working to develop local resources to support more than 10,000 children. The impact of the ministry in the lives of thousands of children is reflected in many testimonies from children which are fully involved in the life of local churches as well as becoming volunteers in the CDCs.
- This year we reach our 26th anniversary since the Nazarene church started in South Asia. Our church leadership continues to mature, and we see a growing commitment and loyalty to our Lord Jesus and His precious church. We also see a new generation of Nazarenes coming through strong children and youth ministries with the expectation that they will wholeheartedly embrace the mission of the church. We thank and praise God for the strong Nazarene leaders that continue building the church in South Asia.
- Here are some praises coming from our Creative Access Area Church Planters: In the month of March we completed a trip towards Eastern region where sister Kizang (*name changed for security reasons*) lives. It took 16 hours drive to reach sister Kizang's place and was difficult due to bad road conditions. We can only go twice a year for various reasons, but we praise God for answered prayers and safety. On our trip, we praise God and thank him for:
 - We were able to lead Kizang's grandfather (91 yrs) to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
 - We have preached the gospel to 15 people who have gathered at sister Kizang's place and conduct short fellowship
 - We shared Jesus Film to 3 people.
 - We have shifted to the capital city for our new apartment and we have begun our first Sunday service in March-2019.
 - My wife is expecting our first child.
 - We will soon start our first group in our new apartment in the city with our family.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Our Greatest Prayer need at this time is for the new students enrolled in taking their M.Div. Pray for all the men & women God has called to serve Him as pastors & trainers.

We need at least 10,000 pastors if we are going to grow a strong church in South Asia. We need the support of all those prayer warriors to intercede for the Lord of the Harvest to call Nazarenes in South Asia to be His servants and pastors. Please pray for our education coordinators for the Lord to continue increasing their vision to develop effective education

ministries in each country in South Asia.

We also request prayer for the work NYI is doing in mobilizing the local churches through the field to become more intentional in reaching people in their communities through loving, caring and serving and making disciples. Our Goal of reaching 1,000,000 souls for the Lord in the next five years will only be possible with the commitment from the Nazarenes in South Asia as well as the constant prayer of all of us!

Please pray for our pastors and leaders in South Asia to embrace and practice holiness in their daily lives. During the last three years we have been working hard with our leaders to live and celebrate our doctrine of Holiness in our daily lives as well as to embrace and practice our core values.

Pray for the new Ordained elders we have this year in the four districts. God is raising up new leaders who want to dedicate their lives to full time ministry. Our ordained elders in the field need strength and protection against all kinds of evil.

Prayer is also needed for the health of the church. We are working hard to consolidate and strengthen thousands of churches that are weak and vulnerable for various reasons

We continue requesting your prayers for our Creative Access Area Pioneer Church Planters as they start their first house church in the capital city area where they serve.

Continue praying for our church in Pakistan for the provision of funds to continue with the building project of 20 new worship Halls this year.

We would like to encourage our Prayer partners to intercede about our infrastructure in some of the districts. We have several unfinished buildings that still need support from W&W teams to finish them. Please pray for the Lord to call team to come and help us to finish the buildings and to build others we urgently need for the extension of the church.

We also request prayer for the Vision Trips proposed for this year to four of the South Asian countries. Please pray for the people organizing the trips, the host people as well as the Holy Spirit to invite people to be a part of these amazing opportunities to see first-hand the ministry of the Church in South Asia.

We also request your prayers for this year's South Asia Partnership Meeting. We still do not have a place/time but we hope this will be finalized soon.

We also request prayer for the Stouts as they continue with their visa application process to move to serve to Sri Lanka. May the Lord give them grace with the immigration offices to get their visa quick.

Sri Lanka needs our intense prayer after the terrible terror attack in Easter. Please pray for the families that have lost their beloved. Pray for the Christian population as they are facing constant harassment and violence in the country. Please pray for the Church of the Nazarene, its pastors, leaders and people while they continue with the task of making Christlike Disciples in this beautiful island.

Your prayers are also appreciated for the SALT meeting in May. Due to the situation in Sri Lanka, we have been advised to change the venue of the meeting. We ask God to give us wisdom and patience with all the logistical changes. Some have already purchased their flight tickets and need now to make changes. Pray that their already invested funds can be utilized in this change process.

Prayer Requests from our Creative Access Area Church planters.

- Prayer for new convert, Kizang's grandfather
- Prayer for those people whom we have preached the gospel to
- Pray for sister Kizang to grow in faith
- Pray for us as we have just begun fellowship with myself and wife.
- Pray for new contacts/relationships in the capital city where we just moved
- Please pray for my wife's pregnancy.

AREA FOR PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT:

In January of 2020, there is a very important meeting being planned in Hyderabad, India. This Eurasia Regional Conference will provide the opportunity for South Asia leaders to get together for:

- *Profound preaching*
- *Invigorating workshops*
- *Renewing worship*
- *Revitalizing Fellowship*

The South Asia Goal is to send 150 leaders from 8 different districts! The total cost for each participant is around \$330 plus some additional fees for registration and the covering of other costs.

That is where you can help. We hope to be able to raise funds for 100 participants at \$145 each. This sums up to be a lot of money but if many join in meeting this need, it is easily obtainable. Please consider such a donation to help sponsor a leader's attendance!

Until an online link is setup- you can send gifts for this to Kansas City headquarters and mark it: "leadership conference sponsorship – South Asia Field"

NEWS & UPDATES CAN BE FOUND ON THE SOUTH ASIA WEBSITE:

[Link to SA Website](#)

RECENT PICTURES TO SHARE FROM DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES:





Please share this information with friends and contacts within your local church.
Thank you for your interest and support of the South Asia Field. God is moving and thank you for wanting to be a part of it.



Sri Lanka



Bangladesh



Nepal



Pakistan

