

Prayer This Week

Our focus this week is: God's World

A. God, I pray this week for Your world:

1. Where there is conflict & war: _____.

2. Where there is disaster & need: _____.

3. Where there is poverty: _____.

B. God, I pray this week for your Church in the world:

1. Where there is revival & growth: _____.

2. Where there is oppression & suffering: _____.

3. Where there is ambivalence & laziness _____.

C. The Cry of my heart this morning for Your church today is:

_____.

D. Praying for one another:

Healing & Strength: Pat Robson, Constance McEwan, Bernie Smith, Bill Dyck, Rachel Dunkerley-Underwood, Pastor John Teibe, Mary Richmond, Dennis Ripley, Jack Clarke, Ina Jean Gietz, Ken Swanson

Special Request: Pray that the Lord brings us the students that He would have study at CILC this summer. And also pray for the students as they test so we will get an accurate level for placing.

For confidential or urgent prayer requests, call Erna (prayer chain) at 403-284-3737

Nation we are in prayer for this week

India – Asia



Geography

Area: 3,166,000 sq km
 A further 121,000 sq km of Kashmir, a contested area,

Religion

	Pop %	Ann Gr
Christians	71,011,000	5.84
Evangelicals	26,290,283	2.2
Hinduism	902,711,323	74.33

is administered by Pakistan and China. Geographically and politically, India dominates South Asia and the Indian Ocean. There are 28 Union States and 7 Union Territories.

Population: 1,214,464,312 **Annual Growth:** 1.44% **Capital:** Delhi

Challenge for Prayer

Training Christian workers is an important need that is immediately urgent and essential in the long term. The life and health of the Church depend on the proper development of pastors, teachers, evangelists and missionaries. In churches, poor discipling and lack of teaching and modelling of biblical life and leadership are problems. India's strong philosophical tradition and religious, cultural and ethnic diversity make adequate training crucial, but most workers are sent out with very little specific preparation for their ministry context. There are over 100,000 full-time workers in India; about half are pastoring local churches. There is, on average, one trained pastor for every six congregations. Pray for:

a) Degree-level seminaries, which now number over 100; praise God for the multiplication of these! There are three accrediting agencies – Senate of Serampore College, Asia Theological Association and Indian Institute of Missiology. Many of these seminaries are theologically evangelical. The number of seminary graduates opting for missionary service, however, is decreasing. Pray for an increasing stream of well-trained, spiritually passionate workers with a burden for effective ministry in their nation.

b) Bible schools number over 1,000 and are doubling in number every 10 years. Evangelical institutions are full. Bible schools are moving from merely teaching theology to giving practical skills for ministry, particularly for church planting.

c) Training centres for indigenous workers play a significant role. Set up largely for church planters, these number over 100 (FMPB, IEM, OM, ICRM, GEMS, Missions India, Seva Bharat, Operation Agape, others). GFA has set up 55 such centres, with 7,000 currently receiving training.

d) New, creative ways for multiplying leaders must be developed. The need is greater than what residential institutions can produce, and 90% of pastors lack access to adequate theological training. Also, residential institutions must move beyond a Western maintenance model that has minimal impact on the non-Christian majority. Thankfully, there is a growing stream of non-formal education that is looking at how to address this challenge.

e) Training Christians – those outside of the traditional roles of pastor, evangelist and missionary – to be effective witnesses and ministers is essential. The Indian Church must learn to have a greater impact in the workplace, especially in the newer areas of IT, business and such.

f) The house/cell church movement is rapidly spreading in many parts of the country, with estimates of up to 100,000 such gatherings. These movements are proving culturally appropriate, affordable, biblically authentic and very effective.

g) The South Asia Bible Commentary will be a boon to potentially hundreds of thousands of pastors, lay leaders and students.