



MISSIONS FOCUS

From bulletin: August 28, 2022

Our Missionaries, their health and ministries affected by Covid-19

Silver Lining Mission Update & Monthly Church Around the World

From today's bulletin / Missions Report from Missions Team

Silver Lining Missions

We welcome Chris Yeung from Silver Lining Missions (Asia) for an update of their ministries in Vietnam, Dahua, Nanning and Yangoon. Due to Covid, many of their physical therapy in-person became virtual. Gradually, needed training is provided both online and in person. Silver Lining has distributed emergency supplies to those families who need the most help.

Fundraising Dinner, September 11, 5:30 PM

Information about their ministry, <https://www.silverliningmissions.org/>

The Church Around the World Newsletter, September 2022

This month's significant news for Christians includes the following quick reads: Prayer for the persecuted, Prayer for Couple in Laos forced to leave their village after trusting Jesus, Prayer for Syrian brothers who suffered significant loss from ISIS and from neighbors who learned of their belief in Christ, prayer for audio Bibles to grow refugees in Burkin Faso and a pastor's faithful sharing of Good News despite having to leave his city and a Bible College in Bethlehem, Israel training Middle Eastern Christians. Copies of this month's newsletter can be in the Ministry Center and immediately following this update.

Thank you for reading about and praying for our missionaries, countries and people locally and globally!

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**significant
news for
christians**

Some news that's encouraging—some disturbing. Read with discernment. Watch and pray.

**THE Church Around
the WORLD** September
2022



**Bethlehem Bible College:
Training Middle Eastern
Christians**

Burkina Faso: Displaced Pastor Reaches Refugees for Christ (p. 3)

Syria: Replanting What ISIS Destroyed (p. 4)

Laos: Couple Forced from Village After Trusting Jesus (p. 4)

Bethlehem Bible College: Training Middle Eastern Christians (1)

“I am not lucky; I am blessed.” That’s how Miriam describes God’s leading her to the online education program of Bethlehem Bible College. The mission of Bethlehem Bible College is to grow the church in the Middle East by training Christians to spread the gospel, plant churches, and minister to their local congregations.

“It was not a coincidence that I found the college’s website. . . . It was an arrangement from God. From the first moment I communicated with the college’s administrators, there was an extraordinary welcome,” Miriam said. “It satisfies me that I am studying the word of God in a deeper way. . . . Teachers are available all the time to ask and communicate with us on any point. It is indeed a great blessing.”

In 2021, there were 101 students enrolled in the online program, representing 28 different countries. The Bible is the foundation for the curriculum, which was created by professors of theology at Bethlehem Bible College in collaboration with the Middle East Association for Theological Education (MEATE). Courses cover biblical studies, church history, comparative religion, Christian life, and ministry. By the end of the program, students have grown in their faith and

been equipped with tools to teach, preach, evangelize, and disciple. New courses are also in development in hopes of expanding to offer a full BA program. These new classes would cover biblical geography, Christian care and counseling, Christian worship, the art of preaching, and an introduction to the Eastern church.

Since the online program began in 2016, the college has been encouraged by tremendous growth in the total number of participating students and the number of nationalities represented from around the globe.

“We see this as a success in spreading the news about the online program, as well as the effect of the program in reaching those in the Arab world with the gospel of Christ,” said a Bethlehem Bible College representative. “We are receiving positive feedback from our students about how the program is reviving and strengthening their personal spiritual growth and energizing their ministry.”

The flexibility of the program allows many of the students who are working as pastors or ministry leaders to find a balance between their work and education. But the flexibility offered can also lead some students into a “join-postpone” cycle. Students struggling with finding time for their studies, paying tuition, meeting academic requirements, or even enduring persecution may need to take

PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED

Recommended Scripture:

Genesis 16:1–18:15 | Matthew 6:1-24 | Psalm 7:1-17 | Proverbs 2:1-5

When members of our persecuted Christian family flee for their lives, it’s often at a moment’s notice. A mad dash into darkness or a slow trudge across the border means taking only what can be carried. But something never left behind is a treasure carried in the heart: a life-giving, hope-sustaining faith in Jesus Christ.

Lord, fix the eyes of my persecuted family members not on what they’ve lost but on you. Fill them with your eternal hope, and connect them with those who can provide help. If I can provide help, tell me what to do. I’m listening. Amen.

More prayer prompts are available in *The One Year Pray for the Persecuted Bible*.



The Voice of the Martyrs vom.org



THE Church Around the WORLD

fewer courses, which means it takes longer for them to complete the program. While some of these circumstances don't have a long-term solution, the college does offer as much financial assistance as it can to support students in need.

"Most of our students study only because of scholarships. Many do not pay at all for the courses, mostly because they are refugees with critical financial situations or very impoverished students in war-torn countries," the representative said.

Despite the ongoing challenges, Bethlehem Bible College continues to see God working. You can hear the hope in the voice of students like Moussa, a 45-year-old Syrian man with a Muslim background. He attended his first church meeting in Germany after moving from Malaysia and heard God speaking to him for the first time in his life.

"There I learned true, deep things about the living Jesus, who, through the next few years, proved to me in a personal way that he was real and seeking me," Moussa said. "I was baptized at a spiritual conference where I met [Bethlehem Bible College president] Rev. Dr. Jack Sara. That was my first link to Bethlehem Bible College, and I decided to deepen my biblical studies. So I joined the online diploma of biblical studies. . . . They have a wonderful teaching system based on sound biblical truth. The training follows a coherent, intellectual, academic, and spiritual program that allows us to grow. Finally, I can say I'm blessed by joining this program to know

Christ more and to have a second family."

Financial support for this project was provided to Bethlehem Bible College as a Tyndale House Foundation grantee. Tyndale House Foundation is a grantmaking organization that partners with Christian ministries around the world. To learn more, visit tyndale.foundation.



Burkin Faso: Displaced Pastor Reaches Refugees for Christ (2)

Pastor Pierre led a church in northern Burkina Faso until 2019 when jihadists attacked his village. When the attackers entered his village and began shooting,

Pastor Pierre was warned that “the terrorists are coming to kill you; you have to leave.” The pastor and all of his church members fled to a nearby city, where he found a home and currently provides shelter for 16 others. VOM has provided Pastor Pierre with living assistance as well as an audio Bible, which he uses to preach and teach among other refugees in his city. “The people don’t have anything to do, so they want to listen to the Bible,” he said. “Many are giving their lives to Christ.”

Pray for more audio Bibles to reach new believers so they can continue to grow in their walk with Christ. Praise God for Pastor Pierre’s obedience to share the gospel, and pray that many more will receive Christ through his faithful witness.



Syria: Replanting What ISIS Destroyed (3)

Aaron and Khalil Hassan are two brothers who fled to Lebanon after the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) chased them from their apricot farm in 2013. While in Lebanon, the brothers heard the gospel and placed their faith in Christ. When they returned to Syria, they found their farms pillaged; ISIS had chopped down all the apricot trees and used them for firewood. Moreover, their farmland borrowed water

from wells on neighboring properties, and when those neighbors discovered Aaron and Khalil’s newfound faith in Christ, the neighbors cut off the brothers’ access to the water supply. VOM is helping the brothers rebuild their farm, replanting 600 apricot trees and creating an irrigation system to replace their lost water supply.

Pray that Aaron and Khalil will be a faithful witness for Christ to their neighbors. Pray that they will bear fruit as they farm for the glory of God.

Laos: Couple Forced from Village After Trusting Jesus (4)

After visits to hospitals and a witchdoctor failed to heal Phan from his ongoing illness, his wife, Yun, decided to bring him to her Christian relatives. When Phan and Yun heard the gospel and Phan soon experienced healing, the couple decided to put their trust in Jesus Christ. When they returned home, Phan’s parents, whom they lived with, learned of their new faith. They told Phan that his family couldn’t live with them unless they renounced their Christian faith. Phan and Yun stood firm in their faith, and Phan’s parents chased them away. The couple and their two young children are starting their lives over in a new district. They are living with Yun’s relatives but have nothing of their own.

Pray that Phan and Yun will continue to grow in their faith despite their current circumstances. Pray that God would provide for their every need and that they will be able to share the gospel with Phan’s family.