



Christmas Prayer Service

--Sending gifts to the nations--

25th December 2016

Immanuel: God with us

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. **In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**” John 1:1-5

[...] an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because **what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.** She will give birth to a son, and **you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.**” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel**” (which means, **God with us**). – Matthew 1:20-23

Immanuel: God with us

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "***Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.***" Luke 2:8-11

[...] when the set time had fully come, **God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."** " -Galatians 4:4b-6

Introduction

- * Why are we praying for the nations as our Christmas service?
- * What does Christ's birth mean for the world, the church and ourselves?

Introduction

* **Interactive Individual Prayer**

There are 10 countries stations around the room.

You will have 15 mins to walk around the room and reflect on different countries.

* **Interactive Group Prayer**

You will be asked to choose a 1st country to pray for in a group. You will have 7 mins to pray for the 1st country.

Then, you will be asked to choose a 2nd country to pray for in a group. You will have 7 mins to pray for the 2nd country.

If you are not sure what to pray about in the group, some reflection questions will be available on the screen to guide your thoughts

Possible Reflection Questions for Group Prayer

- * 1. When you prayed or read about these countries individually was there something that God has placed on your heart that you want to share with the group?
- * 2. Do you have any questions about these countries or have you felt convicted about anything personally by praying for these countries?
- * 3. What country was the most challenging for you to pray for and why?



Armenia

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:6
(Isaiah's prophesy in the 8th Century BC)

Pray for:

- * Prosperity for the country
- * God's kingdom to come
- * Churches to grow
- * Peace with neighbouring countries and no war
- * No corruption in government
- * Leaders with fear of God



Australia

If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever--the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. -John 14:15-17
(Jesus' words to his disciples at the Last Supper, before his crucifixion)

Pray for repentance for:

- * Our rejection of God and faith as relevant and necessary in our daily lives
- * Our shameful and secretive treatment of refugees – our own self-interest
- * Our promotion of sinful actions to be acceptable as the norm



Cambodia

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. - Isaiah 9:7

Pray for:

- * More people to believe in the Lord. New Life Fellowship Cambodia is aiming to plant 400 more churches in the next 4 years. Prayer for this outreach throughout the country.
- * More believers to be added to the government, so that they will stand up for righteousness for this nation.
- * The people in the government to remove corrupt people.
- * Favor from the government towards the churches.



Japan

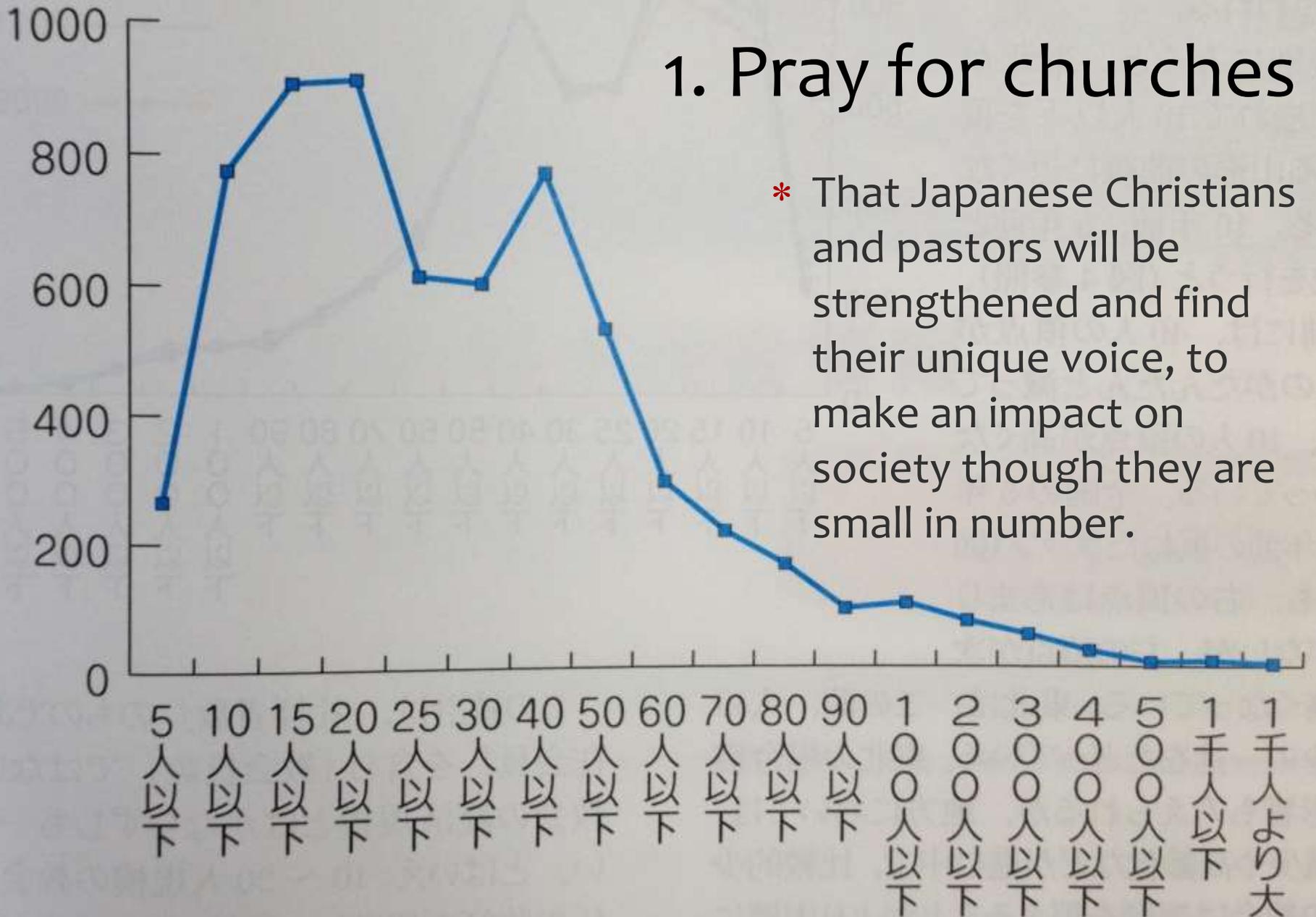
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

- Luke 1:76-79

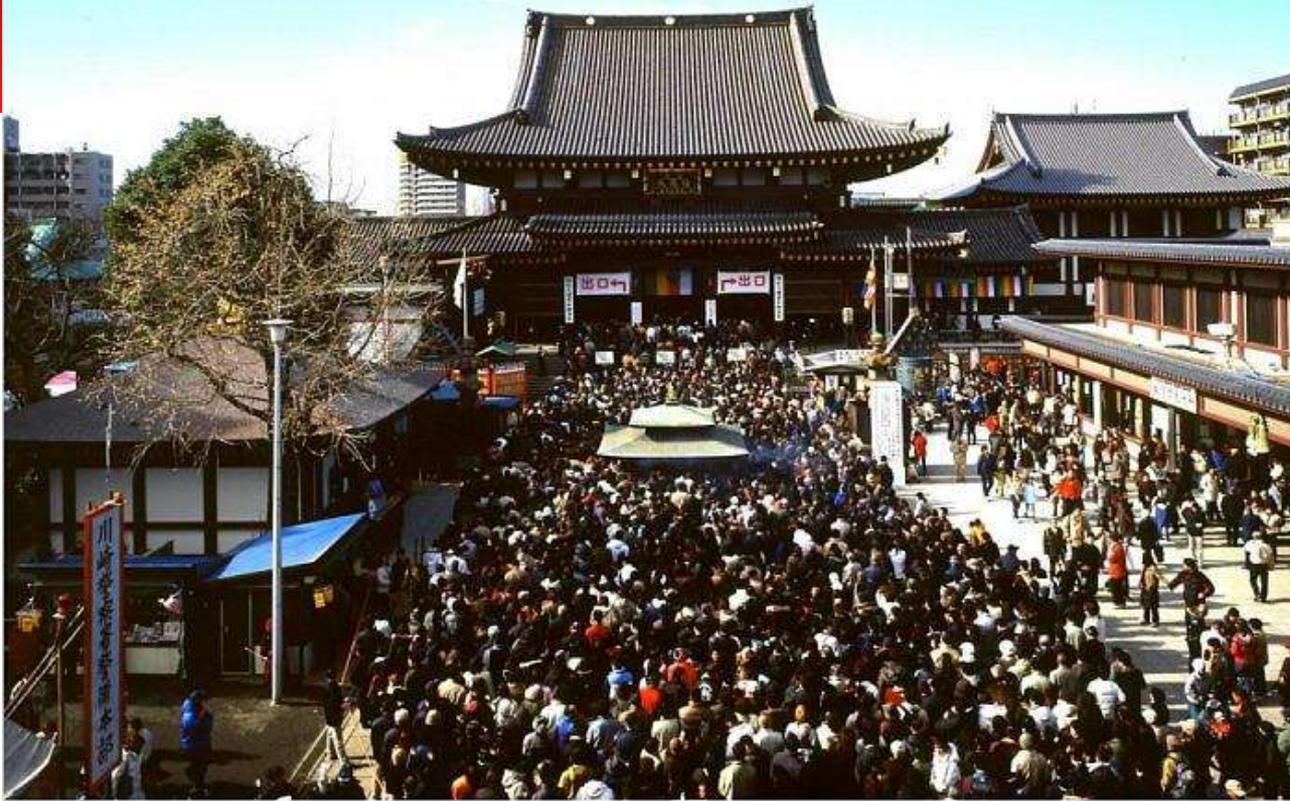
(Zechariah's prophecy, when he was filled with the Holy Spirit after his son 'John the Baptist' was born)

1. Pray for churches

* That Japanese Christians and pastors will be strengthened and find their unique voice, to make an impact on society though they are small in number.



2. Pray for spiritual conditions



- * Many people visit Shinto shrines in New Year's time by tradition
- * Buddhism has become more popular in new ways: preaching cafés, calling monks to preside over funeral services via the internet, etc.

Japan

1. Pray for churches

- * That Japanese Christians and pastors will be strengthened and find their unique voice, to make an impact on society though they are small in number.

2. Pray for spiritual conditions

- * That the gospel will shine in the lives of believers, and many more others will be added into the kingdom, in spite of spiritual darkness.

3. Pray for government leaders

- * Pray that they can lead the country in godly way.



Myanmar

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. - John 14:27
(Jesus' words to his disciples at the Last Supper, before his crucifixion)

Pray for:

- * Chaos and conflict to stop and God to bring healing
- * Truth to shine brightly
- * Believers to take seriously their role as examples, intercessors and disciple-makers
- * The church in Myanmar as believers reach out to their communities around Christmas and New Year, for hearts to be open to receive the Good News
- * The church to find favor with government authorities



Norway

[...] "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" ²⁹"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'³¹The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." - Mark 12:28-30

(Jesus teaching during his time of ministry)

- * As Norway is blessed, let it be a blessing to other nations
- * Let the people of Norway be willing to extend love to the many refugees



Singapore

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. – Luke 1:50-52

(Excerpt of Mary's response, after Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit and blessed her when they met during their pregnancies)

- * Pray for New Life Christian Church to be effective in mentoring "Next Generation Leaders" (those below 40 years old) to take on the leadership of the church over the next 3 years.
- * Singaporean society is dealing with materialism and consumerism, LGBT issues, post-modern philosophy, the topic of abortion and many other cultural concerns. Pray for Christians to live in a righteous and loving way to reflect Jesus and his attitude, in order to reach individuals they know who need support to experience God's grace and power in their lives.



Sri Lanka

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. –Luke 2:30-32

(Simeon's prayer after he was inspired by the Spirit to come to the temple and saw the baby Jesus whom Mary and Joseph had brought)

Pray that:

- * God would raise up a righteous, God fearing government that would serve her people instead of themselves.
- * Sri Lanka would rise up as a nation from her past, towards Jesus in revival fire. Currently, about 70% of the population are Buddhist, 11% Hindu, 7% Moslem, 10% Catholic, less than 3% Protestant. May God release His Revival in this nation!

Sri Lanka



- * Pray for New Life church and Pastor Lawrence in Sri Lanka:
 1. For Christ be lifted up in our personal & family life for Ivy (Lawrence's wife), Esther, Tim (their children) & me (Lawrence)!
 2. For God to confirm His strategy, platform & provision for outreach to this nation
 3. For God to bring and add those who will carry worship, prayer & ministry to the community with the love of Christ!



United States of America

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. -John 16:33
(Jesus' words to his disciples at the Last Supper, before his crucifixion)

Pray for:

- * Peaceful transition
- * Revival
- * That Christians would seek to be peacemakers and bridge builders



Vietnam

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. –Isaiah 9:1-2

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” –Luke 10:2

(Jesus teaching during his time of ministry)

Pray for:

1. New Life Fellowship Vietnam

- * To have more people to be involved in ministry teams
- * For more men to become godly men

2. New Life Vietnam’s SOZOTalk Outreach program

- * A few regular comers to Sozotalk have visited church services in the last few weeks; pray that the Lord will add them in

Prayer for the World

People in the congregation have asked for these things to be lifted up in prayer:

- * Combating human trafficking, ending slavery
- * Christians around the world suffering because of religious or political persecution (even persecution in their own families)
- * Those suffering because of war, famine, poverty and hardship
- * Those suffering from loneliness and alienation
- * Those who are refugees or internally displaced in their own countries
- * Peace for the world
- * Wisdom for political leaders!

Let's read some scripture together

Prayer for the World

He [Jesus] went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, ***“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”***

–Luke 4:16-21

Prayer for the World

- * Jesus came to dwell with us and he said that God's kingdom has come. How does Jesus' fulfillment of that prophecy connect to the big issues listed as prayer points?
- * What could our role be in coming alongside God's plan?

Time for reflection and prayer

Prayer for Friends, Families and Neighbors

Let us pray for ourselves and specific individuals we know in our lives (family/friends/neighbors) for:

- * Healing
- * Openness
- * Personal Encounter with God
- * Growth

Let us lift up to the Lord other issues that are on our hearts

Immanuel: Our Hope that is to come

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. – Isaiah 11:1-9



***“Glory to God in the highest
heaven, and on earth peace to
those on whom his favor rests.”***

Luke 2:14