

Mission Focus: *Asia*

Let's focus on the Asian countries that border the Pacific Ocean. It's a vast area with many millions of lost people. This week, we want to pray for one of our missionaries there, who we'll call **Stella**. She says the big cities of Asia are a major missions challenge. But what about the millions who live in isolated towns and villages, places you can't even find on Google Maps? Stella says one key may be the Lunar New Year, a big holiday all over Asia. It's a time when many people travel back home to visit family. Stella tells of her friend, Yi. Her friend's father is atheist, her mother is Buddhist and her grandparents worship ancestors. Yi is the only Christian in her family.

What if on the next Lunar New Year, Christians all over Asia went back home prepared to witness about Jesus? What if they took Bibles and tracts and were prepared with a testimony about their new faith? Stella dreams of the day when Lunar New Year fireworks will be to celebrate new Christians, baptisms and churches freshly planted.

Stella is just one of the many missionaries Elon supports through the Cooperative Program. Let's pray for her now. And let's pray that her vision — a vision of millions of Asians coming to faith in Christ — can happen.

Church of the Week

Piney Ridge Methodist Church
Pamplin, VA

Shut-in of the Month

Nancy Dickerson
418 Mountain View Rd
Pamplin, VA 23958

Prayer Concerns from Congregation

Government Leaders

- For Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy, as he works to build the fracture made during his election as House Speaker.
- For Senator Murray as she presides over the upper chamber as President Pro Tempore.
- For the president and his aides as they prepare for his upcoming trip to Mexico City and the U.S. southern border.

Church Leadership

Barry Letterman Deacon & Safety Team Leader, Finance Committee Member.

January 8, 2023

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Acts 20:17-27

For nearly three years, Paul has served in Ephesus, establishing the church and developing leaders. Now, in Acts 20, Paul is saying goodbye to the church he has served. What Paul does for us in this long farewell is provide a picture of what he has done while there—he provides habits of a healthy Christian and gives us a glimpse of his future.

He looks back at what made him effective in his ministry.

1. Balanced perspective of self (vs. 17-19)
2. Sensitivity of heart (v. 18)
3. Perseverance of spirit (v. 19)
4. Steadfast in ministry (vs. 20-21, 27)

He looks at what the future holds for him in his Christian service.

1. Uncertain path (vs. 22-24)
2. Moving forward with no regret (vs. 25-26)

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