

# CALL TO PRAYER

FEBRUARY 2024



## EMPOWERED TO DO GOOD

Our team spends much of our energies doing good for those in need. In recent weeks, we distributed food and clothing to over 300 widows in our city. We have ministered to displaced people and opened a center where their children can learn to read and write. We also helped a little boy receive much-needed surgery. Our team has provided scholarships to Deaf children and partnered with the school for the Deaf. Many would say these are people who deserve our help.

But we also work at the prison and detention center, providing food, clothing, soap, and fun things like cookies. We help people from religions hostile to Christianity who won't even greet us. We have paid school fees for a student who showed no sense of gratitude and caused us much grief. As we minister in such situations, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the needs or even lose sight of why God has us here. We must remind ourselves that He did not intend for us to judge who deserves our help. He wants us to know Him more and to see those facing difficulties through His eyes.

During a visit to a hospital where we have a prayer ministry, we entered a room where a young boy had just died of dengue fever. The mother and aunt were in the first stages of grief. A member of our team led them to a bench and asked if she could help make phone calls. I put money into the mom's hands, knowing there would be many expenses. She looked at me and said, "But you don't know me—why would you help?" Before I could answer, my teammate said, "The Lord Jesus sent us to you today."

Thank you for sending us, supporting us, and resourcing us to bring the good news to those who need the lasting help that comes from knowing Jesus. Pray that our efforts will bring Him glory and have eternal impact for His Kingdom. Pray that we will not become overwhelmed but lean on Him to empower us and to give us wisdom as we determine how best to use the resources He provides through His people.

| By Esther, an Alliance international worker serving with aXcess in West Africa

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## POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE STRIKES JAPAN

The shrill emergency alert went off on my phone at 4:11 p.m. on New Year's Day, warning of an impending earthquake. A few seconds later, I felt the ground moving for quite a while. I turned on the news to learn that the quake had struck the Ishikawa area on the western side of Japan, about 180 miles northwest of us in the Tokyo area. All Alliance international workers are safe and accounted for.

At this writing, over 210 people are confirmed dead. Tens of thousands are in shelters, and many are still without electricity or running water. Four-meter tsunami waves hit along the coast, but the effective warning system helped people evacuate quickly. Many roads are damaged, making it difficult to get to hard-hit areas. Over 1,400 homes have been destroyed or severely damaged. A large fire in one city destroyed much of the town center. Over 30 percent of the people living in this area are 65 and older, and many are struggling.

We are grateful for the prayers of God's people. Pray for all those affected by this disaster, including those who are grieving the deaths of loved ones or who lost homes or businesses. Intercede for Christian relief workers who are being encouraged to work through local churches. Pray for God's help during the long road ahead to rebuild this part of Japan.

| by Don Schaeffer, an Alliance international worker serving with aXcess in Japan

## GOOD NEWS FOR MEXICO

Praise God for providing enough funds to install the roof on our new church building! Thanks to the prayers and generosity of Alliance people, we can proceed with the next phase of construction on the Woodlands campus of Breath of Life church, located in the "Circle of Silence" of Guadalajara, Mexico. It is an area where only 2 percent of people have heard the gospel. We were excited to begin the new year by signing the contract with the roofing company and getting the work underway.

And there's more! During the Christmas season, over 216 people from the community attended our interactive Nativity presentation, where they heard the biblical story of Christ's birth and a clear presentation of the gospel. Praise God—61 people prayed to say "YES" to Jesus and asked to speak with a pastor. We followed this event in January with the distribution of gift boxes. While we rejoice for these answered prayers, Breath of Life's Solares campus still needs a permanent location. The congregation has been meeting in a restaurant, but the owners are selling the business. Despite months of searching for a rental, we have been turned down at every turn by all owners who are unwilling to rent to an evangelical church.

Thank you for faithfully interceding for Alliance ministries like ours. Together, we will continue to build a strong, vibrant community that reflects God's love and goodness in the Circle of Silence.

| by Bob and Cheryl, Alliance international workers serving with aXcess in Mexico

Thank you for praying for Alliance workers and for the people with whom they share the gospel. To receive the *Call to Prayer* and weekly prayer requests via email, subscribe at [cmalliance.org/pray](http://cmalliance.org/pray). Alliance ministries are supported by gifts to the Great Commission Fund and CAMA.