

PRAYER POINTS

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS: A PRAYING PEOPLE IMPACTING A LOST WORLD

Ministry to women and children

THE ITU PROJECT OF FINLAND supports women of various ages, who are in crisis pregnancy situations. For example, clients are those who continue a pregnancy under difficult circumstances or women who have gone through an abortion. IMB workers began joining the work in 2011.

The workers encouraged a local church plant to establish a new center for ITU in an area that has the highest teen pregnancy rates in Finland. This center offers a morning café for single mothers and their small children. Mother-child activities are an important part of the work. IMB worker Heidi has had many opportunities to hear their stories and to share the gospel with them.

Post-abortion recovery is another valuable part of the ministry ITU provides for many women affected by abortion. This gives them an opportunity to hear the gospel and begin taking steps to heal and mourn the loss of their child.

There are currently 10 ITU centers operating around the country of Finland using trained volunteers. Pray that many women and children will come to know Jesus through this vital ministry.



Project Baby and Maternity
Clothes Distribution



Agricola Theology Institute

THE AGRICOLA THEOLOGY INSTITUTE (ATI) was founded by international pastor Shawn Rossi and IMB worker Mikko S. to help pastors, church leaders and lay people learn about the Bible and participate in church planting. ATI recently formed a partnership with Finnish Baptist College and Wales Evangelical School of Theology, so that students can further their studies, if they desire to do so.

Students come from about four churches. The hope is that they will become passionate about spreading the Word of God throughout Finland and the world. Most of the students are young men, but a small number of women also attend this church-based program. Various American and European professors have been given an opportunity to partner with ATI to help teach required courses.

Pray that God will call more workers for the harvest to further the gospel in Finland and around the world. For more details about ATI, visit www.ati.fi.

I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6, HCSB).

1 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Intercede that God will sustain Espoon Kotikirkko (Espoo Home Church) to serve obediently in wisdom and in truth. Ask God to multiply the church as they spread the Good News throughout the greater metropolitan area of Helsinki, Finland.

2 EAST AFRICAN UNIVERSITY WORK. Pray for faithful workers to be raised up among students at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. There is a lot of pressure on them to find good jobs that will provide a secure future. Pray that believing students will see the value of investing in the eternal future of others.

3 BAI OF CHINA (BYE). Praise the Lord that for the first time in history, Scripture resources are available in the heart language of the Southern Bai. Pray that God will enable these resources to get into the hands of many people.

4 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Lift up Agricola Theology Institute as pastors, church leaders and lay people are trained in theological studies while

serving in a local church. Ask God to use the Christ-centered books that they publish in Finnish to impact many lives.

5 TURKS OF EUROPE. Continued language learning is a struggle for workers in a dual- or multi-lingual setting. Pray for continued language acquisition and for new ideas and motivation to drive language learning to a higher level in speaking, understanding, reading and writing.

6 ISHELHAYN BERBERS OF NORTHERN AFRICA (ISH-el-haine). Many North African believers struggle to support their families. Timothy,* a young believer, recently started a small business in a market town among his people group. Pray that he will be a light for his people as his business prospers

7 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Ask God to provide all that is needed for the ministries of the ITU Project pregnancy crisis program in Finland. Pray that Christ's love and plan for salvation will be demonstrated and accepted by many women and children.

8 BANGALORE HOSPITAL, KARNATAKA STATE, INDIA. Praise God for the more than 500 individuals who expressed faith in Jesus through

the hospital ministry in 2015. Pray for the follow-up of each of these people by chaplains, local pastors and church planters.

9 SOUTHEAST ASIAN PEOPLES. Developing networks of on-mission professionals is one of the key strategies to reaching urban centers on one Southeast Asian island. Pray for efforts to start workplace Bible studies and marketplace evangelism. Ask for these professional networks to grow.

10 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Intercede that pastors and church leaders in Finland will be faithful to provide their congregations with the Word of God, as they disciple and shepherd their people.

11 DEAF OF COLOMBIA. Recently Charles Thomas* began discipling Juan,* a Deaf man in Colombia. Praise God that Juan has not missed a single meeting and is "soaking in" the Word of God. Pray for Juan as he struggles with past issues in his life. Ask God to help him grow in his faith

12 PA OF COLOMBIA. Pa culture dictates that no one person should be above another. This has become a barrier to raising up Christian leaders who are willing to lead the church. Pray that God will break down this barrier to the advancement of His church among the Pa people.

13 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. A growing number of non-Christians are found among university students in Finland. This pocket of unbelievers has left the Lutheran state church and other church denominations as well. Pray that they will encounter Christ and become active church members.

14 LAST FRONTIER. As work progresses among a Last Frontier people group, new ways to reach out and provide help are

Women and children make *tsultsina*, a traditional food from Eastern Finland



necessary. Remember workers as they work with the local government to develop a necessary service.

15 KARAMOJONG OF UGANDA (*CARE-ah-muh-jong*). A big part of recent growth among the Karamajong has been the leadership of five key men. Pray that these men will keep the church centered on Jesus Christ in the midst of rapid growth. Ask that they will maintain a good character and witness.

16 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. One hindrance to the spread of the gospel in Finland is the high standard of living. Pray that as people become dissatisfied with their worldly desires and money, they will find satisfaction in Christ alone.

17 PEOPLE OF EASTERN HILLS AND SEA CITIES, EAST ASIA. Recently a group member was questioned regarding their worship meeting place and the identity of their members. Now the group can no longer meet there safely on a regular basis. Pray for safe places for groups and churches to meet.

18 CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES. Pray for our brothers and sisters scattered throughout Asia Minor to stand firm in their faith amid social, cultural, political and family pressures to conform to standards and behaviors that are in opposition to biblical teaching.

19 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. In Finland, every fifth person under the age of 30, or about 260,000 individuals, is clinically diagnosed with a mental illness. Pray that churches will have wisdom in reaching the mentally ill with the gospel.

20 TUNISIAN ARABS OF TUNISIA. Praise God that more Tunisians are hearing and responding to the gospel. Pray for protection for these young believers as they study the

Members of a Finnish church plant pray over a family for a baby dedication



Word and meet together. Pray that they will have boldness and wisdom as they share their new faith.

21 BHUTAN. Because they have a strong and ancient scriptural tradition, the concept of truth derived from authoritative Scriptures is a common link between Christians and Bhutanese Buddhists. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict those reading the Bible of its ultimate truth so they can put their trust in God.

22 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. There is a staggering number of single parents in Finland. Pray that churches will discover ways to provide practically and spiritually for single parents. Intercede that the gospel that saves and heals broken families will be proclaimed.

23 SOUTHERN THAI OF THAILAND. Though there are churches in most major cities and large towns, millions of Southern Thai have yet to hear the gospel. Ask God to give workers wisdom to help churches disciple their members and partner with them to share the gospel.

24 DEAF PEOPLES. Pray for Thai Deaf nationals who will be selecting Scripture stories that will be translated into Thai Sign Language. Pray that these stories will provide the foundation for sustained church-planting efforts among the Deaf in Thailand.

25 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Pray that local churches in Finland will see the rising need to plant growing, vibrant churches that actively seek to share the gospel with the lost.

26 AR OF COLOMBIA. The Ar people are very closed to the gospel. Pray that God will send forth laborers who are able to enter the Ar community to learn the language and culture.

27 LAST FRONTIER. Remember workers as they seek to form new partnerships with like-minded believers in order to engage members of a Last Frontier people group who are living in their city. Ask that their times of training will strengthen their relationships and result in fruitful work.

28 EUROPEAN PEOPLES. Ask God to awaken those in leadership in Finland to seek wisdom from the One who is all-wise. Pray that they will humbly seek the Lord so that they can deal effectively with the governmental challenges they are currently facing.

29 TAABWA OF THE EASTERN CONGO (*TAH-ah-bwah*). After decades of conflict, a fragile peace has settled over this region. Pray that workers will quickly gain entrance into villages in order to minister to the needs of the Taabwa and to offer hope in Jesus Christ.

Members of a church plant in Finland



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Pray for European Peoples

For further opportunities to pray for European peoples, please visit europeanpeoplesimb.org/pray.

Sharing the gospel through education and art

TOMMI, MARIA AND THEIR three young children have been serving at Espoon Kotikirkko (Espoo Home Church) since IMB workers and national believers planted the church in 2008 in the metropolitan area of Helsinki, Finland.

Tommi is currently the pastor of the church, even while he is studying Esthetics at the University of Helsinki. He also partners with Maria to make meaningful media and visual wall pieces as a way to express their faith in Christ.

Pray that Tommi and Maria are able to reach those that need to hear and obey the Word of God through both Tommi's studies at the university and their influence with many lost people in the art world. You can find their work by visiting togetherforeverstudio.com.

**Name changed*

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