

# Mission & Outreach

We encourage you this week to pray for **Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Asia**

## Geography

**Area:** 796,095 sq km  
796,095 sq km, which includes 83,700 sq km of UN-divided Kashmir controlled by Pakistan. Arid mountains in the north and west. Desert in the east and southeast. Vast irrigation schemes in the fertile Indus River valley.

**Population:** 184,753,300

**Annual Growth:** 2.19%

**Capital:** Islamabad

**Urbanites:** 37%



### Largest Religion: Muslim

	Religion	Pop %	Ann Gr
<b>Christians</b>	4,526,456	2.45	1.8
<b>Evangelicals</b>	1,140,589	0.6	3.3
<b>Muslim</b>	176,993,661	95.80	

**Peoples:** 463 (97% unreached)

**Official language:** English is the official government language, Urdu is the national language and becoming widely understood by most Pakistanis

**Languages:** 77

## Challenge for Prayer

Fundamentalist Islam, driven by the Taliban, is upheld by a minority, but impacts the whole nation. It has escalated violence against religious minorities (including Shi'a Muslims), shattered social cohesion and divided the country. It also disables economic development and keeps millions in poverty through the disruption it causes and the values it endorses. Of particular note for prayer:

- The violence and war conducted by insurgents, especially in the scenic northwestern Swat Valley, emptied hundreds of villages, towns and schools, cost thousands of lives and disrupted the lives of millions. The militants' success gave them temporary control over the region and forced concessions by the government, which has largely wrested control back.
- An atmosphere of intimidation and fear pervades the lives of Christians and other minorities. Although sharing the gospel is legal, few Christians try to do so with Muslims due to fear of violent repercussions. Christians' prevailing negative attitudes towards Muslims must also be overcome.
- Pray that religious freedom might be maintained, both in law and in practice. Pray that those seeking to abuse Pakistan's laws to foment terror and hate might themselves be subject to justice. Pray that Christians might always be prepared to share about Jesus, and to repay prejudice with forgiveness and violence with love.

Please see <http://www.operationworld.org> for more.

## VERSE FOR THE WEEK (NKJV)

**Hebrews 4: 12** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## Today's Service

<b>Worship:</b> David Yeh	<b>Communion:</b> DY	<b>Translators:</b> Sunny/Joy Z
<b>Greeters:</b> Joanne Yin/Simon/Maree/Jack		<b>Reader:</b> Richard F/Ivy
<b>SS Little Lambs:</b>	School Holiday	School Holiday
<b>Kids for Christ:</b>		
<b>Bible Explorers:</b>		



**Knowing Jesus More and Making Him Known**

Weekly Bulletin  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Apr 2018**



**Worship Service**

9 am & 11 am

**“Mistakes We Make When Reading the Bible”**

**Preacher: Ps. Abri Brancken**

**Scripture: Hebrews 4: 12**

**Pre-Service Prayer at 8:30 am in lounge, 10:30am in Pastor Abri's office— all welcome**

**Prayer Meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 7 pm  
13 May & 27 May**

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## WELCOME TO MAIRANGI BAY COMMUNITY CHURCH (MBCC)

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please go to the Welcome Corner after the service. We have a small gift for you & will gladly answer your questions about our church. MBCC is an intentionally multi-cultural church and welcomes and celebrates all languages & cultures. 我们是一个多元文化的教会, 欢迎中国朋友参加. どの国の方も大歓迎します。

If you would like to hear a Chinese or Japanese translation, please ask for a headset  
如果您需要听中文翻译可以向服事人员要一个耳机

### A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

#### A LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD

When we read the Bible, we want to know what an author intended us to see, understand and experience in his writing. The writers of the Bible had an intention when they wrote. Nothing will ever change that. The aim of our Bible reading, therefore, is not just the response of the mind, but also of the heart. God gave us the Bible not just to inform our minds, but also to transform our hearts — our affections. God's word is honoured not just by being understood rightly, but also by being felt rightly and acted upon rightly. God is the main character of the Bible and He wants to be the main character in our lives.

As we read and study His Word, our vision of Him becomes clearer and we can begin to walk more faithfully in His Truth. Take time to really read God's Word, for it contains the very words of life. Love it, study it, and never allow the world to steal from you your personal devotion times with the Lord.

God bless you

Pastor **Abri Brancken**



Want to get to know more about us?  
Please visit our website [www.mairangichurch.org.nz](http://www.mairangichurch.org.nz)  
You'll find our weekly bulletin there; learn more about our Life Groups and ministries; watch our sermons and much more.

## NEWS & EVENTS

### Daily Prayer Walk

Our Church is looking for members who will support a daily prayer walk around its boundaries. We would ask for **two people each day** to commit to this need; i.e. choosing a time to connect together to pray for the protection of the church with all its facets.....buildings, people inside, the staff, activities for the day and more as God leads. The manse and our two pastors and families should be included in this. **Mondays to Saturdays** inclusive.

If you feel God's call to do so please hand your names in to **Ann** at the office or to **Elizabeth Busse** and you will be given more information.

### Some Important Dates in May

Please make these two dates down for the **church monthly prayer** meeting in May: Sunday, **13 May & 27 May**, 7.00 pm @MBCC.

**Japanese** Friday Evening Worship Service – 7.00 pm, **11 May**

**Chinese** Friday Evening Worship Service – 7.30 pm, **25 May**

**Welcome New Comers – Sunday, 27 May**

### Crossroad Japanese Youth Group

Starting from **4 Jun**, every **Thu**, **6.00** pm. Welcome Japanese speaking young people and bring your friends. Contact Joji & Chihiro for more details.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Church Office:** 09 478-6314, Email: [office@mairangichurch.org.nz](mailto:office@mairangichurch.org.nz)
- **Leading Pastor, Abri Brancken:** 027 2104730, Email: [abri@mairangichurch.org.nz](mailto:abri@mairangichurch.org.nz)
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- **Chinese Pastoral Worker, Wendy Liu:** 021 02654800, Email: [wendy@mairangichurch.org.nz](mailto:wendy@mairangichurch.org.nz)
- **Japanese Ministry Leaders, Joji & Chihiro Kami,** 0278048702 [joji@mairangichurch.org.nz](mailto:joji@mairangichurch.org.nz)
- **Church Administrator, Ann Yao :** 021 2322009, Email: [ann@mairangichurch.org.nz](mailto:ann@mairangichurch.org.nz)
- **Children's Ministry Leader, Maria Zhao:** 021 1072918, Email: [z MARIA39@gmail.com](mailto:z MARIA39@gmail.com)

### PRAYER "and pray for one another"

James 5:16b. Please visit the Prayer Wall. Leave prayers, answers to prayer or testimonies. Remember to pray for these today and throughout the week.

### GIVE THANKS FOR

- Sunday School children led by **Kuniko** and **Mike** Thomson doing a wonderful gardening job for our church.

### PRAY FOR

- People may be awakened and see the Lord's vision through the testimonies from missionaries all over the world.
- All the courses and events will be happened in the church this year, i.e. **Marriage Course, Alpha Course, Pre-baptism Course**, etc., to help people to know the Lord better and deeper, hear the calling from the Lord and serve Him with great joy and blessings.
- **The renovation downstairs (phase 1)** is just about complete. Please continue to pray for this project as well as for the finances of the project.
- **People who are in needs**, visa, job, future, fiancé, health, etc.

### 'SHIOKARI PASS'

A story of love and sacrifice based on a true story from the book '*Shiokari Pass*' written by the famous Japanese author Ayako Miura.  
7.00 pm, 11 May @ MBCC  
Please invite your Japanese friends come and watch this touching movie (in Japanese without subtitles).

### Service Roster for next Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 9 & 11 am

Worship	Musicians	Sound	Communion	Reader	Greeters	Offering Count	Translators	Flower	Tea
Abri	Nancy	George/Ivy/LD/Jacky	Warren	David Kim/Julie	Gloria/Sheldon/Michael/Emily P	Kevin/Julie	Ann/Richard	Julie	Hong Li/Laura/Helen S/Emily L