Together in Hope
An Advent Action Calendar
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During Advent, we anticipate and prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a time of waiting. Waiting for God’s promise to be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus as Emmanuel, “God with us.” God comes to us in this season to make all things new. We can use this time of waiting and anticipation to take action around issues that are of concern to our global partners, particularly those in Southern Asia.

Global Ministries Southern Asia Initiative invites you to walk together in hope with partners in the Southern Asia region as we discover what it means to live faithfully. You can find the Southern Asia Initiative Bible studies, reflections, worship materials, and giving opportunities on our website, www.globalministries.org/SAInitiative.

1. First Sunday in Advent
   Sunday, December 1
   Give with hope today! Alternative Christmas gifts from Global Ministries are a great way to honor your loved ones while participating in the witness of God’s global mission. This year we are highlighting the Climate Change Resilience project of the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh.

2. Monday, December 2
   Learn about the Southern Asia region by reading the Bible study, Together in Hope written by Rev. Dr. Deenabandhu Manchala, Area Executive for Southern Asia and watching the Southern Asia Initiative introduction video.

3. Tuesday, December 3
   Read the reflection What is the Cause? about the situation of our partner, The Church of Christ in Thailand.

4. Wednesday, December 4
   Learn about human trafficking in the seafood industry in Thailand (shiptoshorights.org or Ghost Fleet documentary) and buy sustainable seafood from responsible fisheries and/or native seafood.

5. Thursday, December 5
   Read the Southern Asia Initiative Bible study, Story of Freedom written by Tom Liddle, mission co-worker in East Timor.

6. Friday, December 6
   In many South Asian communities, subsistence agriculture is the way of life. Try seasonal eating today. Only eat food that is currently in season in your state or that comes from a local farm or vendor. Try a recipe from the cookbook Simply in Season.

7. Saturday, December 7
   Access to health care is a problem across the Southern Asia region. Check with members of your church to see if there is anyone having difficulty accessing health care and if there is a way you can help.

8. Second Sunday in Advent
   Sunday, December 8
   Read and reflect on Isaiah 2: 1-5. Pray for peace.
Monday, December 9

Friday, December 13
Learn more about a different faith by attending a worship service at a non-Christian house of worship. Friday is a holy day for people in the Jewish and Muslim faiths. If there isn’t a non-Christian house of worship near you, try watching a service online.

Wednesday, December 11
Sri Lanka and East Timor are still recovering from decades of war and conflict. We are called to be peacemakers by Jesus. Tell your Congressional representatives that you support a reduction in military spending and more peacebuilding rather than war-making.

Tuesday, December 10
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Human Rights Day
Micro-loans have been a way to help lift people out of poverty in Sri Lanka. How is your community helping people in poverty? Volunteer at a food pantry, shelter, or other local organization addressing poverty today.

Tuesday, December 17
Read the Southern Asia Initiative Bible study, *The Tree of Life* written by Dr. Aruna Gnanadason, member of the Church of South India.

Saturday, December 14
Calculate your carbon footprint. Find ways to reduce or offset your carbon output by emitting less and/or purchasing carbon offsets. Wrap presents in recycled or reusable wrapping paper or gift bags.

Thursday, December 12

Third Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 15

Monday, December 16
Christians are minority communities in most countries in Southern Asia. Yet, they live out their faith in their daily lives despite marginalization and repression. How do you live out your faith in your daily life?
International Migrants Day  
Wednesday, December 18

Are there migrant workers in your community? Seasonal workers in the agricultural sector are common across the US. Connect with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers if there isn’t a local support group for agricultural workers in your area.

Thursday, December 19

Evaluate the tea and coffee you serve at work, church, and home. Is it fair trade? Is it ethically sourced? Is there an affordable option you could switch to if not? The UCC and Disciples have partnerships with Equal Exchange for fair trade food.

Friday, December 20

Read the December advocacy Contexto on caste-based discrimination in South Asia.

Saturday, December 21

Read the Southern Asia Initiative Bible study, A Call for Being a Compassionate and Hospitable Community written by Suryaningsi Mila, lecturer of The Theological Seminary of the Christian Church of Sumba in Indonesia.

Monday, December 23

Help combat modern slavery by joining us in a boycott of Wendy's. Wendy's took its tomato purchases from Florida to Mexico, rather than support the Fair Food Program. Agricultural workers in Mexico (and around the world) continue to confront wage theft, sexual harassment, child labor, and even slavery without access to protections.

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

Read and reflect on Psalm 98. Pray for love.

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

How can we love one another as God loves us? Choose one of the practices from this Advent that is meaningful to you and commit to adopting it in the coming year.

For more information

www.globalministries.org/SAInitiative