

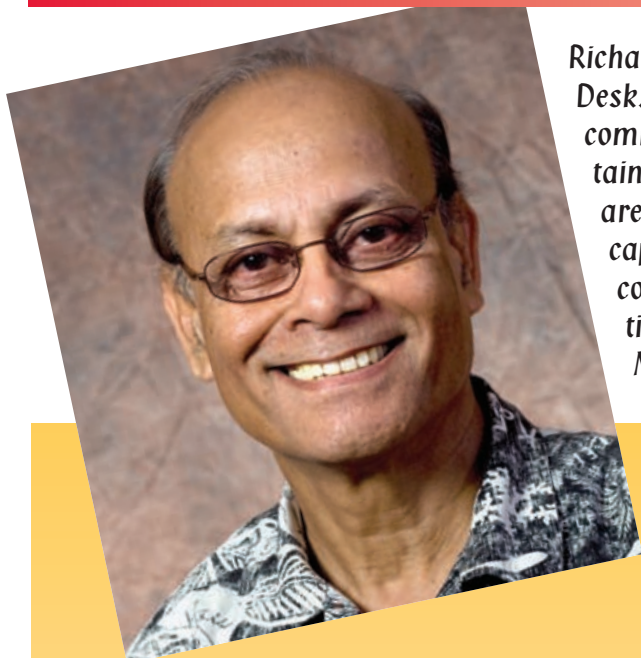
# Missionary Prayer Page

GLOBAL MISSION/EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



PRAY FOR

## Richard Sarker

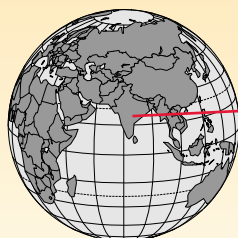


Richard serves as the regional representative for the Asia-Pacific Desk. His work will emphasize building relationships with local communities and churches, working with them to develop sustainable projects that improve people's lives, particularly in the areas of health and basic education. Another goal is to build capacity within the churches for leadership roles within their communities. Richard will also be involved in helping during times of natural disasters and coordinating the ELCA Global Mission response.

BIRTH DATE	January 26
ANNIVERSARY	January 19
COUNTRY OF SERVICE	Asia-Pacific Region

### Prayer Concerns

- † Pray for wisdom and courage so that I can be faithful to God's mission and my call.
- † Pray that I may be patient as I face circumstances which could be hard to deal with, particularly those involving government departments in host countries.
- † Pray for my family who will stay in the United States to continue their work.
- † Pray for the leaders of the churches and communities of my host countries so that God may open their hearts to work together to do what God has called us to do.
- † Pray for a smooth transition to my new role.
- † Pray that I can be a humble, servant leader, working with the people who are oppressed and neglected.
- † Pray for my safety and good health while traveling to and within the region.



Asia-Pacific

(see letter from Richard on the back side of this page)

As a sponsor of Richard, you are asked to remember him with your prayers and your financial support. Gifts of any size are welcome. Please send support gifts to:

ELCA Office for Global Mission Support  
Missionary Sponsorship  
PO Box 71764  
Chicago IL 60694-1764

Make check payable to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
On the memo line of your check write: ELCA Missionary Sponsorship

Dear Friends,

I am being sent to the Asia-Pacific region by ELCA Global Mission to work as the regional representative for the health, education, and sustainable development programs. In September 2008 I will be deployed in Chennai (Madras), India. I will travel extensively around the region to visit different churches and communities to build relationships with them. My primary focus will be to identify the needs of the people and find ways to mitigate sufferings through sustainable programs.

I was born and raised in Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world. As a child I struggled financially to finish my elementary, high school, and college education. Both my parents worked very hard to make ends meet. I grew up as “one of the poor” in a poverty stricken country, so my understanding and empathy for the poor goes beyond mere theory.

I believe that all that we have—our talents, wealth, good health, and happiness—comes from God. Knowing Christ as my Savior, I have experienced that He has always been gracious and merciful even though we may not be worthy of it. Christ taught us to love our neighbor and serve them as He Himself came to this world to serve and not to be served. Christ's teaching is a big motivator for me to go serve His people no matter where they are.

I have spent a considerable amount of time working with the poor and helping them improve their lives through the United Nations World Food Program and the Mennonite Central Committee. It was always fulfilling for me to work with the socially excluded, refugees, and victims of natural disasters and a joy to know that I was able to make a significant difference in so many people's lives.

Also, it was important for me to give a good life to my children. My wife and I moved to the United States as first generation immigrants eighteen years ago to fulfill our dreams. It was a long and difficult journey, and we are grateful to God for His grace. He faithfully walked with us on our long journey and blessed us to fulfill our dreams, which have become a reality today. Both of our sons are doing very well and so are we. There could be no better time for me to go and work for the people who are in need.

I have traveled extensively to many countries and regions and have learned to appreciate different cultures and traditions. Moving to the United States has also exposed me to different cultures and values. Living in the U.S. has taught me how fortunate and blessed we are in this country. We have so much to enjoy and even waste when millions of people around the world go to bed hungry every single day. While I appreciate the abundance, I also realize that we have so much to share with our “neighbors” and with those who are suffering in this world. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors, and love one another as He loved us. God has walked with me, never leaving me alone when I was in despair, and I can respond to God's grace by working with people who are suffering from hunger, poverty, malnutrition, oppression, and injustice.

I ask for prayers from everyone so that I can be faithful to fulfill God's mission in this world. I pray that God will walk with me in my new journey and guide me to fulfill my dreams.

**MY PRAYER: DEAR LORD, “HERE I AM, SEND ME”**

Richard