

## Reflection for the Week: 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

### The Journey to Jerusalem

Jesus has 'set his face towards Jerusalem'. This week, we prepare to journey with Jesus to the Holy City where he will be greeted enthusiastically. The journey is full of expectations and excitement for his disciples. But, for Jesus, it has very different connotations. By going to Jerusalem, Jesus is being actively provocative. He is metaphorically putting his head in the lion's mouth. Jesus chooses to lay down his life for us. In the power of God, Jesus has the power to lay down his life and take it up again. No-one takes Jesus' life from him. As we enter into the events of Passiontide it is good to remember this. Jesus chooses to die for us that we might have life in his name.

I was reminded of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem in this story from *The Bible Society*. *The Bible Society* sends me some literature each month which includes stories from Christians around the world.

This month I read the story of Wang, a 37 year-old pastor who ministers to ten different villages in China's mountainous Yunnan province. He is responsible for all the pastoral care and the spiritual development of his flock, and for building the physical church. Travelling among the villages, Wang can encounter muddy roads and landslides, rain, fog and dangerously strong winds. He is frequently away from home for four or five consecutive days – preaching, teaching, praying for the sick and strengthening the disheartened. Poverty and illness are everywhere.

Wang is a grateful, cheerful man. He regularly prays: **'Lord, you were crucified for me and whatever the difficulty I face, I will not retreat.'**

**To reflect:** In our difficulties, can we pray the prayer of Pastor Wang?