

## **The Likelihood of Risk: Road Accidents/Vehicle Costs**

This subject seems likely to touch every mission worker in any developing country. It is noticeable that there are constant requests for prayer regarding vehicles or safety on the roads. What then are the issues that seem to arise regularly?

### **Purchase and maintenance**

Starting with the purchase of a vehicle: can you in any way guarantee that it is in good running order, unless you purchase a brand new vehicle? With the right contacts you may be able to, but you can easily end up with one that runs but is not in good order.

### **Accidents: your fault or not**

- Fast, reckless driving on any road surface with a poorly maintained vehicle is dangerous enough. That risk increases when driving through crowded market places, and lethal accidents are not unknown.
- Consider also that you may have to use tuc-tucs or unlicensed taxis, many driven by inexperienced drivers who park anywhere, seem to do anything they please to get new customers, and think nothing of breaking the rules regarding the number of passengers.

### **Vehicle costs**

- Firstly, maintenance should be a priority. Ensure that you get a qualified mechanic. Many mission workers' vehicles are old and battered from driving on unpaved road surfaces. Consider also the question of the availability and cost of spare parts.
- The legal requirements, such as adequate insurance, registration and testing, can also be expensive.

### **Impact on daily living**

The implications of having a vehicle immobilised can be severe. Not only will it impact shopping, visits and general running around; sometimes life itself can be at risk. In the event of urgent medical need, or civil or government unrest requiring immediate evacuation, you need your vehicle to be in good running order. There is also the obvious effect on any ministry. Finally, let's not forget the stress caused by being a passenger in a tuc-tuc, or in an unlicensed vehicle driven by a young, aspiring Formula One Grand Prix racer!