

# MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”</p> <p>John 13:34-35 (NIV)</p>		<p>1 Andressa Coutinho, a tranSend intern serving in Shkodër, Albania, is celebrating her birthday today. Lift up her language learning efforts and ministry of serving the church alongside Rafael and Solange Tartari.</p>	<p>2 Lee and Peg Martin, serving with SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People) in West Virginia, welcome prayers for needed summer staff. They anticipate hosting volunteer groups most weeks in summer as well as some spring groups.</p>	<p>3 Join Dan and Mary Hess, serving in Milot, Albania, in praying for the English class they started. There are 20 children coming, and their prayer is that they would also desire to come to the children's Bible program each week.</p>	<p>4 Join Juan José Lagos, church planter with Iglesia Renuevo in Winston-Salem, NC, in praying for their move to a new church space this month, for the beginning of worship there and discernment in purchasing items for the nursery and classrooms.</p>	<p>5 Pray for the Lord's leading as the Life Enrichment Church in Thailand is beginning a Cattle Fund this month to help improve economic opportunities for people with limited resources and to build relationships in the community.</p>
<p>6 As all members of Christ's body are disciples, ask the Lord to guide each one with the right words and actions to model the love of Jesus and invite others to faith in Jesus, and to teach and guide them in the way of Christ.</p>	<p>7 Join college ministry workers in praying for college students on spring break as they participate in service trips or are finding rest with friends and family.</p>	<p>8 Pray for Alfonso Alvarado, church planter and pastor of Iglesia Monte Moriah, as his MST meets with persons from the closed Crossroads Mennonite Church, Timberville, Va., to plant a new Hispanic church there according to God's will.</p>	<p>9 Join Armando and Veronica Sanchez, church planters and pastors of Iglesia Shalom in Waynesboro, Va., in praying for people who are willing and able to help in the church's ministry to children.</p>	<p>10 It has been said that the goal of a mission worker is to leave the job. Lift up local leaders near and far that are being disciplined and trained to share the gospel and multiply communities of faith with humility and integrity.</p>	<p>11 Pray for Bethany Tobin's stamina in homeschooling her three kids in Nam Yuen, Thailand, and as their friendships are currently very limited due to difficulties with COVID restrictions and online school.</p>	<p>12 Lift up the ministry of tranSend intern DJ Mitchell as he works with those in recovery from addiction in Harrisonburg, Va. He leads a weekly Recovery Bible Study and is walking with a number of people seeking to change.</p>
<p>13 Lift up Afghan refugees settling around the world, including in Italy where Shawn and Laura Green serve. Pray that a family the Greens connect with will feel welcome and continue to be open to the gospel.</p>	<p>14 Pray for the Mennonite church in Iquitos, Peru, to be a model of God's love and care for the community. Lift up Elena Buckwalter de Satalaya and her husband Freddy as they minister healing and hope to children and families.</p>	<p>15 Each Tuesday, VMissions college ministry partner Eastside College holds spaces of prayer, study and fellowship for students. Pray for these spaces to be times of spiritual growth and nourishment.</p>	<p>16 Pray that the students who attend Lezha Academic Center in Albania and their families will experience the transformational power of Jesus Christ. Lift up the staff who enable success of the school.</p>	<p>17 Pray for and consider joining the upcoming Wayfarers E3 Collective to post-Christian Germany and France, May 22 to June 1. The experience is led by David Stutzman, who serves in Mannheim. Learn more at <a href="http://vmmissions.org/wayfarers">vmmissions.org/wayfarers</a></p>	<p>18 Join Rafael and Solange Tartari in praying that the projects their church in Albania has developed in the community, especially with women and children, will bear fruit and that many persons will decide to follow Jesus.</p>	<p>19 Lift up tranSend intern Nathan Carr as he has experienced amazing growth during this time of service. Ask God to continue leading Nathan in spirit and truth as he is a living testament to God's transformative power.</p>
<p>20 Tyler and Kendra Yoder, church planters with Garden City Church in Richmond, Va, are attending a marriage and ministry retreat in Puerto Rico from March 21-25. Pray for a rich time of learning and blessing.</p>	<p>21 Lift up Ruthy Hershey as she celebrates her birthday tomorrow and ask God to bless this next year of ministry. She serves with her husband Michael at Immerse International, an intensive language and discipleship center in Millersville, Pa.</p>	<p>22 Pray for Mike Metzler, church planter with Mosaic of Grace Church in Harrisonburg, Va., as he celebrates his birthday today. Ask the Lord to guide the ministry of Mosaic to be salt and light in their neighborhood.</p>	<p>23 Pray for the Schoenhals and Horst families serving in northeastern Thailand as they work to discern future steps and a team vision on a team retreat today through March 25. Ask the Lord to guide them in this process.</p>	<p>24 Lift up churches who will come together in partnership to reach out to those incarcerated or getting out of jail and needing community. Pray for God to impart strategies for reaching many broken people behind bars.</p>	<p>25 Pray for developing leaders in the church in Milot, Albania, and that the believers will grow deeper in their walk with the Lord. Pray that others will come to understand the deep love that Jesus has for them.</p>	<p>26 Join Diomedes Franco, church planter in La Vega, Dominican Republic, in asking God to bring a person or couple who loves and knows how to minister to young people. Also pray that God will fill the people he is discipling with passion.</p>
<p>27 A family serving in South Asia is on home assignment in the US. Pray that God will use their time well to share mission stories with churches, and for God's leading to cultivate important connections and support networks.</p>	<p>28 Join Iglesia Monte Moriah and church planter Alfonso Alvarado in praying for the health of Paula Arias and Raimundo Rodriguez. Ask the Lord to heal this dear sister and brother in miraculous ways as a testament to God's power and love.</p>	<p>29 A family serving in Central Asia is excited that their new team is growing. Pray for this international team as they learn to know each other and serve together with a heart for the people of this region.</p>	<p>30 Lift up Tyler Yoder as he celebrates his birthday today. Pray for open doors and people of peace in their neighborhood in Richmond, Va., to respond to the invitation of walking and growing in faith.</p>	<p>31 As they bear witness to Jesus in Shkodër, Albania, lift up Rafael and Solange Tartari as they minister and lead disciples into a daily life of prayer and engaging the word of God.</p>	<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p> <p><b>Park View</b> FEDERAL CREDIT UNION</p> <p>Neighbors Serving Neighbors®</p>	

# Call to Prayer

Prayer is about practice. Here are a few family-friendly prayer ideas that we have used to develop our family prayer life:

## Pray using a map

Wall or floor maps are great, the bigger the better! Prayers can be written on sticky notes and placed on or around the map. Alternately, toys or objects can also be placed on the map as prompts for prayer.

## Draw pictures

Use a poster board and allow every child to add their picture/prayer. Pictures make it easy to go back and review things for which you have been praying.

## Use starter prayers

Use a short phrase that is the beginning of a prayer, i.e. “Lord, I bless \_\_\_ with ...” Let the kids fill in the rest.

## Set times to only praise/bless

Such specific parameters can help children to understand that prayer is more than asking. Blessing prayers also underscore the issue of our authority in Jesus as we pray.

## Gather and distribute prayer requests

Choose a means of gathering requests. Write them out, mix them up and pass them out. Every individual or cluster then prays for the request they have received. Additionally, if prayers pertained to a particular person, short follow up notes of encouragement can be sent.

## Research and pray

Have children do some research on a specific social reality or people, and pray out of what has been learned.

## Act out prayers

Physical acts can help us to focus, and can bring a prophetic dimension to our praying. Examples: pour out perfume or water, construct or break things (with Legos), do actions with your body, walk to certain places...

## Sing and dance

Prayer and physical expressions of worship are intimately linked. Emphasize freedom of voice and movement.

Adapted from: *Children Can You Hear Me: How to Hear and See God* by Brad Jersak and *Eyes that See and Ears that Hear* by Jennifer Toledo

—RUTHY HERSHEY

# Answers to Prayer

- Lee and Peg Martin, serving with SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People) in West Virginia, are thankful to the Lord for being able to help. They write, “We’re grateful for several volunteer groups this winter that enabled us to finish a large job for a woman named Annette. **For the first time in years she has a roof that doesn’t leak, solid floors, a fully functional bathroom, a kitchen sink and cabinets, and hot water.**”
- Hannah Shultz praises God that she and VMissions workers Ken Wettig and Risha Metzler, along with Ebenezer Murengezi, met to discern how the vision for an ecumenical multicultural youth group might take form. “We sought God’s heart and God has faithfully been guiding,” she wrote. **“We asked for unity among a diverse group of youth and leaders. God is unifying.** Youth from Enciende Una Luz and Mosaic of Grace are now meeting monthly as of the end of last Fall.”
- In the last few years in northeastern Thailand, the Life Enrichment Church engaged in a restructuring process, which culminated in naming and empowering new leaders. During the Christmas weekend, it was very significant that the leaders were publicly recognized and blessed in a meaningful commissioning service. In Thailand, leaders tend to hold tightly to power and rarely empower or invest in others, so this public display was an all the more **poignant sign of God at work transforming the culture of leadership.** Pray with workers Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin, and Mark and Sarah Schoenhals, for these new leaders to continue to mature in wisdom and faith and to also develop and empower others.

# Ways to Pray

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word...”

Colossians 4:2,3

## Pray for healthy relationships:

### Family relationships:

- Healthy give-and-take
- Dealing with family concerns far away
- Finding “family” where they are

### Team relationships:

- Ability to work in harmony
- Courage to be honest
- A sense of appreciation for others

### Effective ministry:

- Grace to live and communicate the gospel
- Eagerness to learn from another culture
- Fluency with other languages
- Open doors that lead to changed lives

### Country of service:

- A stable political situation
- A good relationship with government
- Patience to deal with bureaucracy
- A vibrant church