



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>For [Christ] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.</p> <p>Ephesians 2:14-16 (NRSV)</p>			<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p> <p><b>Evonne S. Showalter</b></p>			<p>1</p> <p>A number of VM Missions staff just returned from the Missio Nexus Leaders Conference in Orlando. Pray that the input from these sessions will bless and enhance the ministries of VM Missions.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Pray for protection, wisdom, and spiritual growth for each of the seven children from Esperanza de Vida church, Harrisonburg, Va.: Joshua, Jared, David, Dianeli, Digneli, Heidy and Meredith, who were all recently baptized.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ask God for provision in new transportation for Diomedes Franco, a church planter serving in La Vega, Dominican Republic. There is a great need in the ministry for a car because the car they had was irreparably damaged.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>As prison chaplain Jason Wagner celebrates his birthday today in the Shenandoah Valley, ask God to transform many inmates through faith in Jesus at the Augusta Correctional Center in Craigsville, Va., where he works.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Many workers are serving on ministry teams locally and around the world. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring passion for God's kingdom to each person on these teams, and for unity of purpose.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin, serving in Nam Yuen, Thailand, ask for prayer for new believers hearing and responding to the gospel for the first time. Pray for God to call, minister, and bring transformation to their lives.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pray for the physical health of the VM Missions board, staff, and workers as they minister in their contexts. Ask God to grant and protect good health and allow full focus on their ministries.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Lift up the renovation plans for the new Mission Training Center on the VM Missions property. May God powerfully use the center for prayer, learning, and community-building.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Join Norma Teles, director of the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania, in praying that this school year there will be open doors for the gospel leading to changed lives in the Roma community, the people group she serves.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pray for Lee and Peg Martin as they serve with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in West Virginia. Lee began chemotherapy treatment for lymphoma last month. Ask God for healing and guidance through these trials.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lift up the business for transformation ministry team in Central Asia in prayer for unity and perseverance. Pray for Jay and Em, David and Marta, Paulo and Ana, and Kate. (all pseudonyms)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Join Ken Wettig, director of SLAQ in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying that youth will have a powerful encounter with God and commit themselves to the way of Jesus through SLAQ's adventure experiences.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Lift up the ministry of Rafael and Solange Tartari and their children, serving in Shkodër, Albania. Through their ministry, God has powerfully opened doors for the gospel to impact their neighbors.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lift up the new VM Missions workers in prayer who have recently been appointed. Ask the Lord for provision and guidance as they are in the early stages of their assignments.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Lift up The Soil and The Seed Project that Seth and Theresa Crissman work with in the Shenandoah Valley. Praise God for their new release of music and family liturgical resources entitled Ordinary Time (Part 2).</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Church planters Armando and Veronica Sanchez, Waynesboro, Va., ask for prayer for God to create and restore healthy families and marriages at Iglesia Shalom and in their community.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Lift up the Michael and Ruthy Hershey family, serving with Immerse International in Millersville, Pa. Michael continues as Director of Operations. Ruthy recently started her second year of nursing school and is finding healthy rhythms.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pray for Life Enrichment Church in Thailand, which is finding new energy for evangelism in nearby unreached areas. Pray that they will follow the Spirit's leading to those who are eager for the gospel.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Next week, a Border Perspective E3 team travels to the US/Mexico border to gain more understanding about issues of US-bound migration and God's heart for justice. Pray for safety in travel and new insights.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Today through Sunday, a group of Latino church members from the Shenandoah Valley is volunteering at SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in West Virginia. Pray for mutual blessing between these guests and local folks.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Beginning today, Mosaic of Grace Church is gathering for its second annual retreat at Highland Retreat. Pray that participants will encounter God, deepen community and receive healing and hope through this time together.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Pray for the Lord's empowerment of disciples who make disciples, and churches that plant churches, as VM Missions focuses on global church planting in the U.S. and around the world.</p>
<p>23</p> <p>(23) As Shawn Green celebrates his birthday today in Termoli, Italy, praise God for the way he and his wife Laura have responded to God's call to serve in Italy for the past eight years.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Ask the Lord to bless and expand the ministry of David and Rebekka Stutzman and their three children in Mannheim, Germany, as they seek to build faith communities through networking and outreach.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pray that the Lord will guide Yosiah and Anita* (names changed) and their team in Southeast Asia, as they face into many intractable problems and hardships personally and among their neighbors.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>As Em (name changed) celebrates her birthday today in Central Asia, pray that she will find many opportunities for deep connections with people who are open to the good news of Jesus.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pray for developing leaders in the church in Milot, Albania, where Dan and Mary Hess serve. Ask the Lord to guide many to embrace the deep love that Jesus has for them.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Join Nathan Carr, serving men who have been released from jail in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying for a Spirit-led and successful fundraiser meal today and that his Ministry Support Team meets their goal.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pray for the ways that God will open doors and multiply the gospel through Muslim-background believers in South Asia. Pray for a worker family sharing the gospel and making connections between believers.</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>					

# Call to Prayer

When I moved with my family to South Asia in 2009, our hearts were flooded with compassion for the millions of people in that area who had never had the chance to hear about God's intense and never-ending love for them. We knew that there were some local Christians in that area, but the majority of them felt a huge barrier between themselves and their Muslim neighbors. Very few of them were putting energy into sharing the gospel with them.

Our heart and intention in going was to do as Jesus did when he "became flesh and blood and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). We started out by living with a Muslim host family, asking God how he saw these gracious hosts, as well as what he was doing and wanted to do in that whole area. As we listened, he blew open our little ideas with great dreams of his own.

We learned to speak their language, and we learned ways of sharing that built bridges to their hearts rather than bouncing off of walls that Satan has already built. We prayed a lot and obeyed as God showed us what to do and say. We knew that the Holy Spirit has ways of piercing through those walls and reaching into peoples' hearts.

After many years of living among them, God began to open up opportunities to share in churches about reaching out to Muslims. We knew that the way to begin was through prayer. When we have stereotypes, prejudices or misbeliefs about others, the first changes that God needs to do are within us. (Once God spoke to me about not being prejudiced. I was a bit taken aback, because I didn't think that I was. Then I looked up the definition and I had to admit that there were times indeed when I had a "preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.")

Since God has plenty of wisdom and experience, among all kinds of people, first I need to get his perspective. This change in the way that we think allows the soil of our minds and hearts to receive the seeds of God's love. The more we pray, the more love grows, and love must be what compels us to move towards others.

—RUTHY HERSHEY

# Answers to Prayer

- The Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin family are enjoying the green of rainy season at their home in Nam Yuen, Thailand. The last month has been one of keen concentration: challenges, emotions, invitations to faith, and answers to prayer. Praise God that their house church network is fully launched back into pre-pandemic levels of activity. "Pray for us to have wisdom to discern where to put our energy and to serve God, not the opinions of other people. Also pray with us for God to move in the lives of two new believers in the village of Mu Baan Nam Yuen, and for God to bring the full impact of God's kingdom," they write.
- Join Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed), serving in Southeast Asia, in praising the Lord for a boys group that Yosiah works with. They have started studying Old Testament stories together. "It has been very encouraging for Yosiah to see the young men's excitement and interest in learning these stories. Yosiah says they are asking great questions. Pray for this group, that they would continue to grow and learn together. Pray that God would be glorified in the lives of these young men," Anita writes.
- Mosaic of Grace (Harrisonburg, Va.) church planters and co-pastors Mike and Risha Metzler are praising God that there are two youth who are currently exploring baptism. "One of them is a high school student who did not grow up in the church. She has tasted God's goodness through friendships with youth at Mosaic, mentoring by several ladies and by the Mosaic family walking with her through a recent move. Thank you for joining us in praying for the life of Mosaic of Grace Church to bear fruit in God's Kingdom," they write.

# Ways to Pray

**When praying for mission workers, pray for:**

- A growing relationship with God
- Time and energy to nurture that relationship
- Deep awareness of God's love
- Availability of spiritual mentors

## 2. Emotional needs

- Growing sense of God's presence
- Loving relationships
- Healthy self-image
- Ability to adapt to another culture

## 3. Physical needs

- Health and strength
- Adequate living conditions
- Safety in danger

## 4. Family relationships

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

## 5. Team relationships

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

## 6. 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

## 7. Country of service

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