



NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”</p> <p>Mark 5:18-20 (NIV)</p>		<p>1 Klementina Shahini, executive director of Lezha Academic Center, Albania, is in the US for medical appointments and meeting with LAC supporters. Pray that she will stay healthy and effectively share God’s work and miracles in Albania.</p>	<p>2 Join Michael Hershey, serving with Immerse International in Millersville, Pa., in praying for God’s timing and provision of a new assistant director for the International House on Immerse’s campus.</p>	<p>3 Lift up several workers on the business for transformation team in Central Asia who are in language study. Ask God for growth in learning, and also for opportunities to build friendships through their studies.</p>	<p>4 Pray for the work of the VMissions board as they meet today and tomorrow to guide and shape the vision of VMissions as God leads their discernment.</p>	<p>5 Join Shawn and Laura Green, serving in Termoli, Italy, in praying for Harold, a young man from the church’s Bethel program contacts, who is attending church with them.</p>
<p>6 Join Hannah Shultz, serving in music and discipleship ministry in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying for discipleship mentors for each child from Esperanza de Vida who were baptized to guide them to a deeper relationship with Jesus.</p>	<p>7 Pray for Lee Martin, serving with his wife Peg with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in West Virginia, who is in chemotherapy treatment for lymphoma. Ask God for health and healing.</p>	<p>8 Ask God to provide adequate meeting spaces for two childrens’ clubs and for community groups that Diomedes Franco, a church planter serving in La Vega, Dominican Republic, leads with his wife Victoria.</p>	<p>9 Pray for the interns serving on the VMissions business for transformation team in Central Asia, for language learning and for healthy team dynamics as they represent Jesus in that gospel-unreached context.</p>	<p>10 A short-term prayer and visioning team from VMissions and Eastern Mennonite Missions is visiting Thailand beginning today. Pray for the Lord’s leading to a clear sense of direction for future ministry.</p>	<p>11 In Albania and in many other places, many young people leave the country trying to find happiness and hope in other places. Pray for those who leave and for those who stay behind to trust in God every step of the way.</p>	<p>12 Pray for Mark and Sarah Schoenhals, serving in Det Udom, Thailand, as they serve with a network of house churches called Life Enrichment Church and proclaim the gospel in new communities.</p>
<p>13 As a cohort of youth participates in SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) in Harrisonburg, Va., pray that their experience will translate into their relationships at school, home, and church as they live out their faith.</p>	<p>14 Pray for the Lord’s encouragement and refreshment of Raleigh and Opal (names changed) and their family, serving in North Africa. Ask God to open doors for gospel conversations and for a strong support network.</p>	<p>15 Join Juan José and Ceci Lagos in praying for gospel fruit among the neighbors of Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo, Winston-Salem, N.C. Pray for God to remove barriers to church attendance and involvement.</p>	<p>16 Pray for Norma Teles, director of the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania, and the other preschool teachers as they instruct and share the gospel with the children and families of the Roma community.</p>	<p>17 Pray for Mosaic of Grace church planters and co-pastors Mike and Risha Metzler as they lead and serve together in ministry in Harrisonburg, Va. Join them in asking God for growth and effective outreach in the neighborhood.</p>	<p>18 Pray with Andressa Coutinho, serving in Shkodër, Albania, in asking that God will grant her opportunities to share the gospel with others, and that the message will find good soil in their hearts.</p>	<p>19 As Anne (name changed) celebrates her birthday today in South Asia, pray for her ministry of gospel witness among Muslim-background women in particular to flourish.</p>
<p>20 Lift up church planters Armando and Veronica Sanchez, Waynesboro, Va., in prayer as they minister to families. Pray that God will move people towards baptism and lives of committed faith.</p>	<p>21 In Italy and in Albania, mission workers use the American Thanksgiving holiday to gather neighbors together and proclaim the gospel message over the meal. Ask God to bless these efforts with fruit.</p>	<p>22 Pray for the Horst family, serving in Nam Yuen, Thailand, who recently shared miraculous examples of restoration and reconciliation in their ministry. May this be used to proclaim God’s love and power.</p>	<p>23 Lift up the tranSend interns serving in college ministry roles in the Shenandoah Valley in prayer: Joyel Allen at Mary Baldwin University, and Rachel Janney, Olivia Kasidiaris, and Jhustin Thompson on the campus of James Madison University.</p>	<p>24 Pray for the church planting ministry of Tyler and Kendra Yoder at Garden City Church in Richmond, Va. Ask God to expand their outreach in the community and for the fruits of transformation in people’s lives.</p>	<p>25 Praise God for the impact of the The Soil and The Seed Project, a series of music and scripture recordings by Seth and Theresa Crissman as a faith formation tool. Pray for the Crissmans as they serve in the Shenandoah Valley.</p>	<p>26 Lift up Nathan Carr in prayer as he serves those in recovery from substance abuse and men being released from jail in the Shenandoah Valley. He mentors and connects men with Christian communities that support them.</p>
<p>27 As Mary Hess celebrates her birthday today in Milot, Albania, pray for many open doors in that community for witness to the good news as she serves with her husband Dan.</p>	<p>28 Pray for Alfonso Alvarado, church planter and pastor of Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah, Lacey Spring, Va., who ministers to many persons who then move away for family and economic reasons. Ask God for peace among these challenges.</p>	<p>29 Lift up the millions of refugees moving and settling in new places around the world. May the global body of Christ make them feel welcomed where they go and share the love of Jesus in word and deed.</p>	<p>30 Next month, Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed), serving with House of Hope in a slum community in Indonesia, travel to the US for a six-month home assignment. Pray for the students, their families, and the teachers in their absence.</p>	<p>This month’s prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p>  <p>Everence®</p>		

Call to Prayer

Growing up in church, my husband Austin had tried hard to apply himself to his youth pastor's advice: "Try praying for at least two minutes a day." Austin struggled to get past thirty seconds; he just wasn't sure what to say!

But after graduating from high school, he joined the YES program (Youth Evangelism Service) with Eastern Mennonite Missions and completed three months of intensive discipleship training in Harrisburg, PA, and then nine months of outreach in India and Nepal. I asked him how his time in YES shaped his prayer life, and his response was that it didn't just shape it: "it made it." While in India, the YES team worked alongside a local church in which the women gathered daily for four hours to pray. Austin thought that it was some kind of strange gathering with people "going crazy in prayer." But it turned out to be normal.

"They just talked about things and then they prayed for them, and they asked us about our families and they prayed for them. It's not this weird thing that you have to do in a certain way, it's really just having normal conversation with God. That was really powerful to understand."

Austin also reflected on the understanding of spiritual warfare that he observed in these prayers, saying, "Spiritual warfare informed their prayer life and even drove it in some cases." During my own time serving with VMissions in Thailand with the Life Enrichment Church (LEC), I learned to pray with new eyes for the spiritual realm as well. Being part of a prayer gathering where spiritual warfare was the focus felt like gearing up for a battle. Often times in the Western world, we just ignore the spiritual realm, but there's a lot of victory that can come when you invite God's Spirit to be at work in those spiritual realities.

One of the biggest shifts that came from my time in Thailand was value of corporate prayer. LEC gathered monthly for prayer meetings and more often in smaller groups as well. It was powerful in bringing unity of purpose and understanding of how God was moving. It was also powerful in breaking through physical and spiritual strongholds. Before living in Thailand, I would have said that prayer was a personal practice. But now I believe that praying together is an integral piece of being church together. There's something significant that happens in corporate prayer.

—SARAH SHOWALTER

Answers to Prayer

- Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin shared that last month they met two times with Songkran and Lot, a local ministry couple in Thailand, for deliverance prayer. "This in itself feels like such a victory and such progress, since in the entire previous year we had met only three times. We feel like already God is doing significant work that will impact generations," they wrote.
- Anita Rahma (name changed) wrote a book which is being released on November 15 called *Beyond Our Walls: Finding Jesus in the Slums of Jakarta*. Praise God for this release after a long journey to write and publish these important takeaways from her long service in that context alongside her husband Yosiah and sons Josh and Jeremy.
- After over two years of envisioning, discerning, piloting, reviewing, partnering, and praying, SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) is a fully launched non-profit program directed by VMissions worker Ken Wettig. The program seeks to raise up diverse cohorts among the next generation of serving leaders in the way of Jesus through outdoor adventures, community service, and "crucial conversations." "We seek to do this by coming alongside both Christian families and the local church to create formative experiences that both support and challenge youth in developing the kind of character and leadership that we see in the person of Jesus," Ken writes.

Ways to Pray

- **Praise and worship of God should be the starting point for prayer.** When we worship, we align our soul, mind and spirit with God, bringing our focus to the Lord rather than our own tiredness or worries.
- **Applying the truth of God is a simple yet powerful form of prayer.** This means claiming the promises that God has already given, aligning our prayers with the word of God, reminding God of his word and promises.
- **Prayer sometimes requires persistence.** Jesus also encouraged his disciples to keep praying without giving up in the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18.
- **When we pray we should have an expectation that God will respond.** Our faith may waver, but that expectation is an act of faith. As our prayers come from a burning desire to see God move and answer, we will see God begin to reveal himself.
- **Prayer needs to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.** God begins to reveal what is happening and how we should be praying through impressions, dreams, visions, and words of knowledge. The Holy Spirit labors through us, giving us a burden of something God wants to do on earth.
- **Corporate prayer provides community for believers who are seeking the Lord.** When we come together to pray we can feel supported, knowing that others are joining with us. Praying in community also helps us better hear from God as our brothers and sisters around us share what they are hearing through the Holy Spirit.