



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Prayer calendar sponsored by: An anonymous sponsor</p>		<p>I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. Through him, God has enriched your church in every way—with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 1:4-5 (NLT)</p>		<p>As we enter this Advent season, pray that the Lord's people will intentionally prepare our hearts for Jesus' birthday celebration and its transformative significance in our daily lives.</p>	<p>As J. celebrates his birthday today in South Asia, ask the Lord for new breakthroughs in the next year as he works in media and relates to Muslims and Muslim-background believers in Jesus.</p>	<p>Today in Thailand, Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin are participating in a discipleship and ministry seminar for relational and emotional healing. Pray for the right people to attend and for freedom and healing.</p>
<p>Lee and Peg Martin, serving with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in West Virginia, are thankful that Lee's chemotherapy treatments are going well. Pray that they will be completed this month.</p>	<p>Pray for the college ministries of tranSend interns serving with Every Nation Campus: Joyel Allen at Mary Baldwin University, and Rachel Janney, Olivia Kasidiaris, and Jhustin Thompson at James Madison University.</p>	<p>Join Nathan Carr, serving in prison ministry in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying for healing for his mother, who is dealing with a major health challenge.</p>	<p>As church planter and pastor Juan José Lagos celebrates his birthday today, pray for his leadership and the outreach efforts of Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo to the neighborhood in Winston-Salem, N.C.</p>	<p>The Harrisonburg, Va.-area Perspectives on the World Christian Movement class begins next month. Ask the Lord to use the class to mobilize persons to serve in mission, sharing new life in Jesus to those near and far.</p>	<p>A vision/prayer team from VMissions, EMM, and the Philippines recently visited Thailand to consider God's calling to further serve the Isaan region. Pray for the Lord's leading in joyful next steps.</p>	<p>Pray for healing for Andressa Coutinho, serving in Shkodër, Albania, who experienced a major health crisis in October and is currently back in her home country of Brazil for further testing and recuperation.</p>
<p>Lift up Kate Miller (name changed), a tranSend intern serving on the business for transformation (B\$T) team in Central Asia. Ask the Lord for encouragement and opportunities to share the love of Jesus in that context.</p>	<p>Pray for a family serving in South Asia who is walking with local believers through very tough times. Pray that they will be filled with God's wisdom and courage in walking with these friends.</p>	<p>In Termoli, Italy, Shawn and Laura Green are leading a new group that meets once a week for a beginner's Bible study. Pray that God will minister to those participating to make decisions to follow Christ.</p>	<p>In Thailand, Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin work with local ministry partners Songkran and Lot. Lot recently had appendicitis and a subsequent appendectomy. Pray for recovery and peace and stability in their health.</p>	<p>Pray for children who are serving around the world with their parents. It's not easy to study and live in a different language and culture. Ask the Lord to pour abundant grace and care into their lives every day.</p>	<p>In each area of ministry, pray for clarity about God's will and for the vision of the assignments and the teams to be in alignment with that will as God's kingdom is made known near and far.</p>	<p>Lift up the early education ministry House of Hope, run by workers Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed) in Southeast Asia, and pray for the 100 children who come to learn every day, and for their families.</p>
<p>Baker Rigg was recently appointed to serve as the part-time chaplain of the Rockingham Harrisonburg Regional Jail. As his begins serving next month, ask the Lord to bring many to faith and transformation in Jesus.</p>	<p>Lift up David and Marta R. (names changed), who serve on the B4T team in Central Asia and are currently in language and culture study. Pray that the right people will teach and encourage them.</p>	<p>Pray for the ministry of Diomedes Franco, church planter in La Vega, Dominican Republic, as they need a shelter for adolescents with children. Also ask God to send more volunteers for the children's clubs.</p>	<p>Join Rafael and Solange Tartari, serving in Shkodër, Albania, in praying that seeds of love and God's word planted will reach and transform whole families.</p>	<p>In North Africa, Raleigh and Opal (names changed) and their family lives the good news of Jesus in a Muslim context. Pray for the Lord's encouragement and for open doors for faith conversations.</p>	<p>As Dan Hess celebrates his birthday today in Milot, Albania, pray that the Lord will use his ministry alongside his wife Mary to open doors for gospel outreach and discipleship.</p>	<p>Because of high food prices and other factors in Albania, six Joshua Center families that Norma Teles related to have left in the last year. Pray for these families and for the seeds of faith in Jesus to grow as they settle elsewhere.</p>
<p>Merry Christmas! "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." - Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)</p>	<p>This time of year brings good opportunities to witness about Jesus to Joshua Center families in Lezhë, Albania, where Norma Teles serves. Pray for this outreach, particularly to children and mothers.</p>	<p>Pray that the Lord will send more workers to the harvest in South Asia, where a VMissions family serves among the largest unreached people group for the gospel in the world.</p>	<p>The church that Shawn and Laura Green serve in Termoli, Italy, is in dire need of finding a new meeting place (they currently rent a restaurant space). Ask God to provide the right place.</p>	<p>Lift up the continuing renovation plans for the new Mission Training Center on the VMissions property in prayer. May God powerfully use the center for prayer, learning, and community-building.</p>	<p>As Lee Martin celebrates his birthday today, pray for many meaningful connections with teams and homeowners as he serves alongside his wife Peg in West Virginia with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People).</p>	<p>As 2023 begins tomorrow, pray for a Spirit-led multiplication of faith communities around the world that share new life in Jesus in the next year.</p>

Call to Prayer

As I interact with the Body of Christ in different places around the world, there are words that I have heard spoken on more than one occasion: “These people are almost impossible to reach... They are just so hard.” Maybe you have had the same thoughts about others whose world and ways seem so unlike your own. These thoughts about people who are different than us can make the barriers between us bigger. But are these thoughts accurate? Is this what God is saying about them?

When we moved our 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. 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

- Norma Teles, serving with the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania, is grateful to God for several families that have come to her for prayer recently. God has blessed them. One of them has a little girl who had been crying often and not eating. Her family took her to a doctor for psychological help, but the situation seemed pretty hopeless. When they went to Norma to ask for prayer, she told them she could pray, but that it would be in the name of Jesus. After she prayed for the child, Norma reports that the girl is now eating and sleeping, and is no longer crying!
- Lee and Peg Martin, serving with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in Kimball, West Virginia, are praising God for two blessings this season: for three fall work groups who greatly blessed homeowners in need, and for Lee’s chemotherapy treatments, which are going very well with manageable side effects. Lee and Peg are hopeful that the treatments will be completed by the end of this month.
- Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin, serving in Nam Yuen, Thailand, are thankful for a new friend. Mui is a teacher and has a six-year-old daughter in first grade. Steve and Bethany’s daughter Tierzah is thrilled to have a friend. Through a local believer’s witness, Mui is attending their Sunday gathering, learning about Christ and exploring baptism. Bethany writes, “She loves art, crafts, exercise and plants! I have a friend with common interests! I have enjoyed getting to know her. Pray for Mui to come to know Jesus Christ, the Living God. We ask that it wouldn’t be about ‘changing religion’ but about inner transformation, and holistic reconciliation.”

Ways to Pray

Pray for boldness.

Mission workers need supernatural boldness to proclaim the gospel, especially in areas where Christians face intense persecution.

You can pray that:

- They will not give in to fear but will remember that God has not given them a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind.
- They will be filled with the Holy Spirit to courageously and boldly preach the gospel not just with words, but in power.

Pray that the Word of God will spread

“Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere” (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

You can pray that:

- Spiritual forces of evil will not hinder the spread of the gospel and that people of peace will be found.
- The Word of God will be received with joy.

Pray for the people they are ministering to.

Through the power of prayer, hearts that are resistant to the gospel can be softened and become fertile soil for the truth to grow and produce fruit (Matthew 13:1-23).

You can pray that:

- Any barriers that would keep people from following Jesus, such as family, fear of persecution, false religions, etc., will be broken down by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Their hearts will be soft, receptive, and open to the gospel.
- God will lead them to a community of believers and that they will become disciples who produce much fruit for God’s glory.