



FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p>  <p>Weaver's Flooring America. where friends send friends</p>			<p>1 Pray for the group of mothers and girls that Norma Teles meets with at the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania. Pray for good ways to teach them about Jesus, and for their salvation.</p>	<p>2 Lift up Baker Rigg, who has been appointed to serve as the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail Chaplain in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray for strength and wisdom in the transition, and for financial provision.</p>	<p>3 Pray for Mark Schoenhals and Isaan believer Yutapong as they team up weekly for local evangelism in Det Udum, Thailand. Ask the Lord to prepare many receptive hearts to the good news.</p>	<p>4 As Dini and Klementina Shahini, who serve in Albania, are in the U.S. on medical leave, pray that God will restore Klementina's health and give both of them time to rest and spend time with their children and grandchildren.</p>
<p>5 Pray that followers of Jesus will not be complacent about the mission all have been given to share the good news to all people in each location, vocation and recreation, but will use each opportunity to be salt and light.</p>	<p>6 Join Lee and Peg Martin, serving with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in West Virginia, in praying for spring volunteer groups, for the summer staff hiring process, and for a good report from chemotherapy follow-up tests Lee will have tomorrow.</p>	<p>7 Join Alfonso Alvarado and others at Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah, Lacey Spring, Va., in prayer for the health and healing of brother Raimundo Rodriguez.</p>	<p>8 Pray for the VMissions Border Perspective trip next month (March 5-10) to South Texas. Ask the Lord to lead the participants in preparation for learning and blessing at the U.S.-Mexico border.</p>	<p>9 Lift up the tranSend interns serving in college ministry roles at different universities in the Shenandoah Valley: Joyel Allen, Rachel Janney, Olivia Kasidiaris, Jhustin Thompson, and Vicki Barnes.</p>	<p>10 As Steve Horst celebrates his birthday today, pray for God's favor and provision as his family prepares to relocate their ministry location this year to the capital Bangkok from their current assignment in rural Nam Yuen, Thailand.</p>	<p>11 Pray for the ministry of Yacoub Rasul (name changed) as he serves in church planting and leadership development among the Arabic-speaking community of Harrisonburg, Va.</p>
<p>12 Join Hannah Shultz, serving in music and discipleship ministry in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying that the next generation will seek answers from God and scripture regarding their identity, sense of belonging, and purpose.</p>	<p>13 As Iglesia Cristiana Reneuvo seeks to be a light to their neighbors in Winston-Salem, N.C., join church planter Juan José Lagos in praying for the Holy Spirit's transformation in the lives of many.</p>	<p>14 Pray for the ministry of the church that Shawn and Laura Green serve in Termoli, Italy, as they share the invitation to a deep relationship with Jesus in a context of religiosity without much true faith.</p>	<p>15 God is opening doors in North Africa, as Raleigh and Opal (names changed) and their family live the good news of Jesus in a Muslim context among an unreached people group. Pray for gospel seeds to grow and bear fruit.</p>	<p>16 Lift up David and Marta R. (names changed), who are serving on a business for transformation team in Central Asia and are currently in language and culture study. Pray for encouragement and good progress in this time of study.</p>	<p>17 Continue to pray for healing for Andressa Coutinho, serving in Shkodër, Albania, who is currently receiving treatment for a major health challenge in her home country of Brazil.</p>	<p>18 Ask God for provision in meeting space and personnel for childrens' clubs and community groups that Diomedes Franco, a church planter serving in La Vega, Dominican Republic, leads with his wife Victoria.</p>
<p>19 Pray for God's transformation among the inmates that Jason Wagner ministers to as the men's chaplain at the Augusta Correctional Center in Craigsville, Va. Lift up Jason's wife Jenny and their four children as they support this ministry.</p>	<p>20 Lift up Anjali Horst, the daughter of Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin, serving in Thailand. She is attending a camp for missionary kids this week (Feb. 21-24). Pray for her growth in resilience and courage, and in her identity in Christ.</p>	<p>21 As Risha Metzler celebrates her birthday today, ask God to grant the desires of her heart for more people to come to know the Lord through the outreach ministry of Mosaic of Grace Church, Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>22 Pray for the ministry of James and Anne (names changed) and their family serving in South Asia among the largest unreached people group in the world. Ask the Lord to send more workers to the harvest.</p>	<p>23 As Yosiah Rahma (name changed) celebrates his birthday today on home assignment in the U.S., ask the Lord for refreshment and blessing in this time away from his family's work in a Southeast Asian slum community.</p>	<p>24 As Risa Yutzy celebrates her birthday today in Broadway, Va., pray for her ministry alongside her husband Ben to be disciple-makers in everyday situations and teach others to do the same.</p>	<p>25 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>26 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>27 Pray for the children of mission workers who are serving around the world with their parents. Ask the Lord to grant a deep sense of belonging and to pour abundant grace and care into their lives every day.</p>	<p>28 As a cohort of youth engages in fun adventures and discipleship in Harrisonburg, Va., lift up Ken Wettig and the SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) program's desire that youth will grow in faith and commit to the way of Jesus.</p>	<p>Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world, holding forth the word of life so that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Philippians 2:14-16 (NRSV)</p>			

Call to Prayer

In his book *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, Eugene Peterson wrote, “The spiritual atmosphere in which we live erodes faith, dissipates hope and corrupts love.” In the face of the louder voices and the evening news, our job is to vigorously hold on to the hope that God will fulfill his purposes, not by might, not by strength, but by his Spirit!

We are instructed to pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6: 10 NASB). When we declare what is “not yet,” we hold on to our kingdom position. This is why it is always appropriate to pray for healing: it is the kingdom reality. If not manifested as soon as we might like, then most certainly, ultimately.

The biblical picture that captures this position for me is Elijah, who has just been spectacularly vindicated in the showdown with the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. With great confidence and ears open to what comes next, Elijah boldly pronounces to King Ahab that yet another mighty event is imminent. After three years of drought, rain is coming. Soon. He climbs back up to the top of Mt. Carmel, and sits down under the blazing sun and cloudless sky to wait. The text in 1 Kings 18 says that he crouched down to the earth and put his face between his knees.

And right here is our prayer posture. After being animated by such certainty about the preeminence of God’s purpose and plan, he is now doing the hard work of holding on to what has been revealed to him, realizing that the last thing he needs is to gaze at that brassy blue sky! I picture him with grim determination keeping his heart’s eye fixed on God’s word to him, and continuing to reach out in hope for what is not yet seen.

Elijah sends his servant time and time again to tell him if there is yet any sign of rain coming. It is recorded that the servant had six disappointing trips to scan the horizon. Six: the sum of the imperfection of humans and human history. But the seventh time—the number that carries an inference of God completing his work—the servant sees a tiny cloud “as small as a man’s hand” coming up from the sea. This small sign is all that Elijah needs as confirmation that his hopes are a matter of certainty. Indeed, the awaited rain comes.

May we, like Elijah, guard our God-given hope that he will indeed come and “rain righteousness upon us” (Hosea 10:12).

—CAROL TOBIN

Answers to Prayer

- The **Paulo and Ana Silva family** (names changed) were recently joined in their Central Asian country of service by their daughter, who is taking a leave from her university studies to be with them. Praise God for this extended family time on the mission field, and pray that the process of language and culture learning continues to go smoothly.
- Many doors have opened in the ministry of **Nathan Carr**, extending love and friendship to men released from the local jail in Harrisonburg, Va., and building networks of Christian community for former inmates and those in recovery. Praise God for the ways he has brought many people and details together to help provide an intentional Christian support community for these men.
- Praise God for the ways that VM Missions can partner with God’s work among many local Arabic-speaking people in the Harrisonburg, Va., community through two recently-appointed workers. **C. Farah** (name changed) is serving as a Marketplace Worker in a medical interpreter role, translating for Arabic speakers. **Yacoub Rasul** (name changed) is a church planter serving among the Arabic-speaking community in a partnership ministry between VM Missions and Faith Community Church.

Ways to Pray

Pray that God would open doors of gospel ministry to the unreached.

The reality is that many of the places that most need the gospel have significant barriers to gospel ministry. Those barriers can be political or they can be cultural. Governments try to stop the entrance of missionaries to a place or stop the ministry of missionaries in that place, or the people themselves need to have their hearts softened by the Spirit to hear and receive the word. God has the power to break down any barrier, and has appointed prayer as the means by which he often intends to do so.

Pray for mission workers to present the gospel boldly and clearly.

We often imagine that mission workers have natural boldness, but we imagine wrongly. Even the apostle Paul asks for prayer for boldness! And we hope to be clear, crystalizing the message in a way that can be understood by people for the first time in a way that lays the proper foundation for knowing and walking with God. When we pray for the work of missions, we are joining an essential work as co-laborers.

Pray for workers to endure hardship.

Modern travel makes getting to the mission field easier than ever. Once there, endurance is the precious commodity. In many places, living cross-culturally means enduring frustration and frequent setbacks. Mission workers share the gospel and have to leave the results in God’s hands, but it may mean years without discernible fruit. Even in places where the Spirit is bringing about conversion, it takes incredible patience to see a ministry all the way through to indigenous leadership. When we pray for missionaries, we should pray for their endurance. We should pray for toughness and resolve which would characterize soldiers on the front lines of ministry.

You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.—2 Corinthians 1:11 (ESV)

Content by Mark Collins with edits, found at www.crossway.org/articles/how-to-pray-for-international-missions/