



# JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year! Pray for God's Spirit to transform and multiply those who know and follow Jesus near and far in this next year.	2 Join Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin, serving in Nam Yuen, Thailand, in praying for God's continued insights, changes and healing for participants in last month's seminar about freedom from patterns of woundedness.	3 The Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course begins this evening in Harrisonburg, Va., and continues for 15 weeks. Pray for God to powerfully use this time of learning and engagement.	4 As Klementina Shahini celebrates her birthday today, thank God for her witness to the love of Jesus in Lezhë, Albania, through Lezha Academic Center (LAC). Pray for her health and ministry as she is currently in the U.S.	5 Vicki Barnes was recently appointed and is serving in college ministry at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va. Pray in particular for her engagement with the women's basketball team.	6 Ask the Lord for healing and comfort for tranSend intern Andressa Coutinho, serving in Shkodër, Albania, as she is in her home country of Brazil receiving chemotherapy treatment for lymphoma.	7 Pray for two teenagers at Mosaic of Grace Church, Harrisonburg, Va., who have expressed interest in baptism. Ask God to strengthen their faith in Jesus and for guidance as Mike and Risha Metzler walk with them.
8 Lift up The Soil and the Seed Project as workers Seth and Theresa Crissman (Harrisonburg, Va.) create music, art, and little liturgies to sow seeds of the good news in the hearts of families and faith communities.	9 Ask for God's guidance as the leaders of a dozen Anabaptist mission and service agencies gather starting today in Harrisonburg, Va., for a consultation on "Economic Inequality in Cross-Cultural Ministry."	10 Pray for an outpouring of gospel fruit in the prison ministries of chaplains Jason Wagner (Augusta Correctional Center, Craigsville, Va.) and Baker Rigg (Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, Harrisonburg, Va.)	11 The church that Shawn and Laura Green serve in Termoli, Italy, is searching for a new meeting space of their own (they currently rent a restaurant). Ask God to provide the right situation and place.	12 Join Ken Wettig, director of SLAQ in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying that participating youth will powerfully encounter God and commit to the way of Jesus through SLAQ's adventure experiences.	13 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.	14 Pray for the children and youth that Diomedes Franco and his wife Victoria serve in La Vega, Dominican Republic. Many struggle with hardships and trauma. Ask the Lord to comfort and guide them in God's ways.
15 Lift up Lee Martin and his wife Peg in prayer as they serve with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in W.Va. Pray for continued peace and healing for Lee's lymphoma.	16 Lift up the ministry of the David and Rebekka Stutzman family in Mannheim, Germany. Pray that the Lord will bear good fruit through their church planting and networking ministry.	17 Join Rafael and Solange Tartari in praying for the Holy Spirit's work and transformation in the lives of each of the young people they have been discipling and connecting with in Shkodër, Albania.	18 Pray for church planter Alfonso Alvarado and the ministry of Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah in Lacey Spring, Va. Pray for stability and for new families to join the faith community.	19 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.	20 Pray for the new and returning workers who are currently engaged in support raising among churches and individuals for their terms ahead, and ask the Lord for provision.	21 Join Dan and Mary Hess, serving in Milot, Albania, in praying that God will open many doors and give them avenues to share the gospel among everyone they are building relationships with.
22 Lift up Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed), serving in Southeast Asia, as they are on home assignment in the U.S. Pray for the Spirit's leading and refreshment.	23 In this winter season, pray for the physical health and wellbeing of the VMissions board, staff, and workers as they minister in their contexts.	24 As Bethany Tobin celebrates her birthday today in Thailand, ask the Lord to grant her family clarity in vision for the next steps in their ministry.	25 Pray for the short-term E <sup>3</sup> Collective teams gearing up to serve this spring and summer. Ask God to prepare each participant's heart and mind for learning and encouragement.	26 Join church planter Juan José Lagos at Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo, Winston-Salem, N.C., in praying that the Holy Spirit will transform the lives of many as the congregation shares the gospel.	27 Lift up the VMissions board in prayer as they meet today and tomorrow. Ask the Lord to grant wisdom and vision for the ministries of VMissions.	28 Pray for Mark and Sarah Schoenhals, serving in Det Udom, Thailand, as they serve Life Enrichment Church and proclaim the gospel in new communities. Join them in asking God for new workers to join the team.
29 Pray for God's spirit to move in the Richmond, Va., community of Garden City Church, planted by Tyler and Kendra Yoder, as neighbors receive and embrace the message of the Kingdom.	30 Pray for the tranSend interns serving in college ministry roles in the Shenandoah Valley: Joyel Allen, Rachel Janney, Olivia Kasidiaris, Jhustin Thompson, and Vicki Barnes.	31 Lift up pastors and church planters Armando and Veronica Sanchez as they share the gospel through the ministries of Iglesia Enciende una Luz, Harrisonburg, Va., and at Iglesia Shalom, Waynesboro, Va.	<p>Prayer calendar sponsored by: <b>Richard Good</b> In appreciation for God's providence in our lives.</p>		<p>You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit. Job 10:12 (NIV)</p>	

# Call to Prayer

“Lord, teach us to pray,” asked one of Jesus’ disciples in Luke 11:1. They didn’t ask Jesus to teach them to walk on water or cast out demons, but to pray. They had seen Jesus model a life of prayer. Yet, prayer didn’t come naturally to the disciples; they knew they fell short. Just prior to this, Luke 10 records how Jesus invited his disciples to join him in his mission. The first command he gave them was to pray: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” So the disciples asked Jesus to teach them.

Jesus’ command to pray has resonated within our team of Latino church planters. We long to see a fruitful harvest, a multiplying movement of Jesus’ disciples. In God’s kingdom we are born anew to multiply, and Luke’s gospel has been teaching us that multiplication is preceded by prayer. So in response to the Spirit’s invitation, we have been meeting once a month for the last year to pray. As we’ve come together, God has done new things. First, he’s helped us see the potential in the fields in which we labor: “Look at the harvest! Gain a new perspective!” There are more people ready to open their hearts to Jesus than people ready and trained to share about him with them. This is what God sees, and this perspective should make us sense the urgency for new workers.

Second, we are learning that God alone is the one who sends and commissions people. It all lies in his power. And this is a supernatural thing! The phrase “send out workers” in Greek is *ekballo*, which means to draw out violently, to be overcome by an opposite force, to cause one to depart in haste. What a puzzling description of being sent out! This sounds like a disruptive call that drags people away from their normal lives and routines and pushes them towards a new ultimate purpose in life, namely God’s mission and glory. So we need to pray for this supernatural call into people’s lives, which only God can do.

Third, we’ve discovered that as you pray for laborers for the harvest, you grow in your willingness to be one of them! You catch the kairos moment, the Spirit fills you with compassion that overcomes fear. As we pray, we become willing to go.

God has determined to bring about a harvest through the prayers of his people. He delights in answering those prayers, doing “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20).

—LIZZETTE HERNANDEZ

# Answers to Prayer

- Rafael and Solange Tartari, serving in Shkodër, Albania, praise God that at a recent youth retreat, some of the university students in attendance heard the gospel for the first time and are now immersing themselves in the Word of God. They are also thankful that their children Paulo and Sophia completed the final process for their permanent visas and they now have them in hand!
- VMissions is grateful to God for several recent worker appointments. **Baker Rigg** was appointed to serve as chaplain at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail. **C. Farah** (name changed) serves as a Marketplace Worker in a medical interpreter role that opens many doors to ministry among Harrisonburg’s Arabic-speaking community. **Yacoub Rasul** (name changed) is an Egyptian church planter serving among Harrisonburg’s Arabic-speaking community in a partnership ministry between VMissions and Faith Community Church, Harrisonburg, Va. **Vicki Barnes** is serving with Every Nation Campus in college ministry at Eastern Mennonite University.

# 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

## EMOTIONAL NEEDS

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

## PHYSICAL NEEDS

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

## 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