




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p>  <p>Everence®</p>			<p>1 As Andressa Coutinho, tranSend intern in Albania, celebrates her birthday today, ask the Lord for healing, wholeness, and guidance as she continues treatment for a major health challenge in her home country of Brazil.</p>	<p>2 Ask God to comfort and uphold the people in Turkey and Syria affected by the recent major earthquake. Pray that God's love and hope may shine in the midst of the tragedy and rebuilding.</p>	<p>3 Join Juan José Lagos, church planter at Iglesia Renuevo in Winston-Salem, NC, in praying for the church's weekly evangelism efforts, including Bible studies during the week to reach their neighbors.</p>	<p>4 Pray for the VMissions team in Central Asia and for relationships to grow to allow for deeper faith discussions with the interns' host families, language teachers, and other staff.</p>
<p>5 Pray for Hannah Schoenhals, daughter of Mark and Sarah Schoenhals, as she completes her fifth grade school year in Thailand this month and prepares for one more year in the Thai school system.</p>	<p>6 Pray for Mosaic of Grace Church, Harrisonburg, Va., as they discern how to provide community for known sexual offenders. Pray that God's Spirit gives wisdom, creativity and unity among their elders.</p>	<p>7 James and Anne (names changed), serving in South Asia, ask for prayer to have wisdom, generosity, and creativity in dealing with the poverty that is all around them.</p>	<p>8 Join Norma Teles, serving as director of the Joshua Center in Albania, in praying for the preschool kids and the good news of Christ they are taking home. Pray that it will bring salvation and hope.</p>	<p>9 Lift up the millions of refugees moving and settling in new places around the world. Ask God to guide the global church to make them feel welcomed where they go and share the love of Jesus in word and deed.</p>	<p>10 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>11 Join Hannah Shultz, serving in music and discipleship ministry in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying that the children she relates to will more deeply know the love of God for them; that they are known, cared for, and belong.</p>
<p>12 Lift up the church that Shawn and Laura Green serve with in Termoli, Italy, as it seeks to be a place of transformation and invitation to its neighbors. Pray for good spaces and avenues for ministry.</p>	<p>13 Ask God to guide the right people to participate in the upcoming E³ Collective trips to Germany, Jordan, and Greece. Pray for ready and open hearts prepared for learning and blessing.</p>	<p>14 Pray for the ministry of Dan and Mary Hess, serving in Milot, Albania. Ask the Lord for many faith conversations and open doors in that community to share the good news.</p>	<p>15 Pray for SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) youth as they launch out on a long weekend service project starting tomorrow, and pray for each one to encounter Christ through service, fellowship, and good stories along the way.</p>	<p>16 Lift up Nathan Carr, serving in Harrisonburg, Va., as he builds networks of faith-based support for people who have struggled with addiction and substance abuse issues, and for those who have been released from jail.</p>	<p>17 Ask God for divine provision in the needs of the church planting ministry of Diómedes Franco in La Vega, Dominican Republic, especially for meeting space and personnel for childrens' clubs and community groups.</p>	<p>18 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.</p>
<p>19 Pray for the marketplace ministry of Ben and Risa Yutzy, Timberville, Va., as they seek to make disciples in everyday situations and to teach others to do the same.</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 As Ruthy Hershey celebrates her birthday tomorrow in Millersville, Pa., lift up her nursing school studies and her heart for prayer ministry. Ask God to provide opportunities to share the gospel and nurture others in faith.</p>	<p>22 As Mike Metzler celebrates his birthday today, lift up his church plant, Mosaic of Grace Church, Harrisonburg, Va., alongside his wife Risha and their children. Pray for the year of the Lord's favor in their neighborhood ministry.</p>	<p>23 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 movement in that Muslim context.</p>	<p>24 As Isaiah Hartzler celebrates his birthday today, pray that his internship experience relating to Mosaic of Grace, Harrisonburg, Va., will help him discern God's long-term call on his life.</p>	<p>25 Pray for Lee Martin, serving with his wife Peg with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in West Virginia, who completed chemotherapy treatment for lymphoma. Ask God for health and continued healing.</p>
<p>26 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.)</p>	<p>27 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>28 Pray for Mark Schoenhals and an evangelism team from Life Enrichment Church (Thailand) as they go out into nearby villages to share the gospel each Wednesday afternoon this month.</p>	<p>29 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>30 As Tyler Yoder celebrates his birthday today in Richmond, Va., ask God to bless his family: his wife Kendra, baby son Zion and two foster daughters, A. and S. Pray also for the ministry of their church plant, Garden City Church.</p>	<p>31 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>	

Call to Prayer

From the time I was a little girl, I heard that I needed to pray. How important prayer is for people who want to follow Jesus, and I certainly wanted to follow Jesus. How powerful prayer is to change things around me, and there certainly were things around me that I wanted to see changed.

However, I found prayer, in the ways that it was modeled to me, very difficult. I struggled to find the right words. I felt self-conscious saying my prayers out loud. If I tried to pray inside my head, it lasted a whole five seconds before I was distracted. I always felt guilty, feeling I should be praying more. But to be honest, I didn't really "get" prayer. If God already knows my thoughts, even before I think them, why do I need to voice them? And since he is sovereign, isn't he going to do what he wants whether I pray or not? Maybe you've had the same struggles.

God really does want to teach us to pray. He has been taking my husband and me through such a journey over the past two decades. Step by step, he has been teaching us how to hear him and obey. Prayer has become much more than something that we "should" do. It is something we desire and enjoy, something that feels like a great honor.

In John 15:14-16, Jesus is speaking to his disciples, "You are my friends if you keep on doing what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you [my] friends, because I have revealed to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed and placed and purposefully planted you, so that you would go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit will remain and be lasting, so that whatever you ask of the Father in my name [as my representative] he may give to you."

These verses speak of a dynamic relationship of asking, hearing, and obeying. As representatives of Jesus, prayer keeps our relationship with God moving and growing as we declare and live out his purposes on the earth. Could it be that the God of the universe desires to speak to me? Could it be that he wants to share with us his dreams and plans and that we get the amazing privilege and honor to co-labor in relationship with him to see those things accomplished on the earth?

The answer is Yes, yes—more than we know!

—RUTHY HERSHEY

Answers to Prayer

- **Rafael Tartari**, serving in Shkodër, Albania, was given an opportunity through a partner organization working as chaplains in the local prison, to share God's love and forgiveness with the prisoners. Many were touched by the good news. Rafael and others also had the opportunity to visit and bless some needy families of these prisoners last month, taking them food and praying with them. Praise God for these opportunities to share with prisoners and their families!
- Praise God for a recent weeklong Every Nation Campus conference in Orlando all five VMissions tranSend interns serving in college ministry attended. **Vicki Barnes**, serving at Eastern Mennonite University, shared that she felt an overwhelming re-affirmation of her vocational calling to campus ministry, and was blessed by the worship and fellowship. "I saw students from campuses across the country that come from different cultures, ethnicities, and upbringings. This gospel isn't just for one type of person based on race, age or gender, but is open for everyone! We saw hundreds of lives saved, baptisms, physical and mental healing, and fellowship happen throughout the entire week," she wrote.
- Praise the Lord that **Paulo and Ana Silva***, serving on the business for transformation team in Central Asia, found a house close enough to allow their son to continue walking to school and to stay connected with new friends. The interns on the team, **David and Marta***, have made good progress in language and cultural learning, and everyone has been blessed with regular opportunities to meet with other experienced workers for strategy discussions and mutual encouragement.
(*names changed)

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