



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p> <p>The Family of Sam and Sarah Weaver</p>			<p>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.</p> <p>1 John 1:5-7 (NIV)</p>		<p>1 Pray for two VMissions staff members (not named for security) as they travel in Central Asia to meet partners and encourage workers in the region.</p>	
<p>2 Pray for Mosaic of Grace Church, Harrisonburg, Va., as they begin small groups. Pray that the Discovery Bible Study format would help move people from knowledge to obedience and introduce visitors to God's beautiful story.</p>	<p>3 Join Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin, serving in Nam Yuen, Thailand, in praying for the evangelistic efforts in their district to reach new households that would result in multiplying disciples.</p>	<p>4 Pray for two men in South Asia who James and Anne (names changed) discipled, who are feeling called to share the gospel. Pray that they will be directed by God in how, when, and with whom they witness.</p>	<p>5 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 Catholicism without much true faith.</p>	<p>6 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>7 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>8 As Hannah Shultz celebrates her birthday today in Harrisonburg, Va., join with her in praying that the children God has entrusted to her will listen to and follow God's teaching—building their lives on a secure foundation.</p>
<p>9 Join Dan and Mary Hess, serving in Milot, Albania, in praying that God will open many doors and catalyze a movement of faith in Jesus to transform that community and nation for God's purposes.</p>	<p>10 As short-term E³ Collective teams are departing for service this season, ask God to prepare each participant's heart and mind for learning and blessing.</p>	<p>11 As Sarah Schoenhals celebrates her birthday tomorrow, join with her in praying for more workers to serve in the Isaan region of Thailand, where she serves with her husband Mark and two daughters.</p>	<p>12 Lift up Raleigh and Opal (names changed) as they celebrate a shared birthday today in North Africa. Ask God to bless and encourage them, and enhance their vision and ministry to reach a largely unreached people group.</p>	<p>13 Lift up the tranSend interns serving in college ministry roles in the Shenandoah Valley: Joyel Allen, Rachel Janney, Olivia Kasidiaris, Jhustin Thompson, and Vicki Barnes. Pray for open hearts to the good news.</p>	<p>14 Pray for Baker Rigg, who has been building partnership networks 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>15 Pray for tranSend intern Rissa Martin as she receives and orients volunteers from all over the world to Agape Home near Chiang Mai, Thailand.</p>
<p>16 Lift up the ministry of Garden City Church, planted by Tyler and Kendra Yoder, and pray for God's spirit to move in the Richmond, Va., community as neighbors receive and embrace the message of the kingdom.</p>	<p>17 Pray for healing for Lee Martin, serving with his wife Peg with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in West Virginia, who is receiving more treatment. Ask God for wellness and comfort through the process.</p>	<p>18 As Armando Sanchez celebrates his birthday today, ask God to bless him in this next year as he and Veronica reach neighbors with the gospel through their church planting ministry, Iglesia Shalom, in Waynesboro, Va.</p>	<p>19 Lift up the evangelism and discipleship ministry of Diómedes Franco in La Vega, Dominican Republic, among vulnerable youth and others. Pray for God to help them not to return to addiction but to grow and bear fruit for God.</p>	<p>20 Ask the Lord to bless the ministry of church networking and outreach in the post-Christian context of Mannheim, Germany, where David and Rebekka Stutzman and their three children serve.</p>	<p>21 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>22 As Elena Buckwalter de Satalaya celebrates her birthday today, lift up her and her husband Freddy as they transition to become youth pastors at Lindale Mennonite Church, Linville, Va.</p>
<p>23 (30) Today the Life Enrichment Church in Thailand celebrates Easter with a gathering of believers together from all the districts. Pray especially for effective ministry to the children during this special weekend. 30</p>	<p>24 Pray for the Mediterranean Retreat, April 28 to May 2 in Croatia, as VMissions workers serving in Italy and the Balkans gather to worship, learn, and enjoy refreshment together.</p>	<p>25 As C. Farah Grace (name changed) celebrates her birthday today, ask for the Lord's favor in her interactions with Arabic-speaking people in Harrisonburg, Va. Ask God for good opportunities for her to share the hope of Jesus.</p>	<p>26 As Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed) are on home assignment in the U.S. from their ministry in Southeast Asia, ask the Lord for refreshment, reconnection with family and friends, and provision for this season.</p>	<p>27 Pray for the group of mothers and girls that Norma Teles meets with at the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania. Join her in praying for good opportunities to share about Jesus, and for their openness to faith.</p>	<p>28 Lift up Ken Wettig as he celebrates his birthday today. Ask the Lord to deeply move in the hearts of youth who participate in SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest), an adventure and discipleship program that Ken leads in Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>29 As Dini Shahini celebrates his birthday today, ask God to engage and equip the church in Albania to be a light illuminating God's kingdom in Lezhë and beyond, and inviting others to join the family of God.</p>

Call to Prayer

During a vacation some years back, which—as wonderful and needful as that time of rest was—I felt hollow inside. Even my prayer life seemed to go strangely quiet, with only gentle bubbles of rather lazy appreciation for beauty springing to the surface of my heart throughout the days.

The fact is, you and I were made for work! Not just the work we do in exchange for a paycheck, but the common vocation we engage because we have given our lives to the Lord Jesus. In giving our lives to Jesus, we discover that there is something that our Lord wants us to do—pray. And despite the volumes written and sermons preached, if I am to be honest, there is nothing in my Christian life quite as challenging and counter-intuitive as this work of prayer.

In what sense is prayer *work*? I would not argue that it is work because something is accomplished by virtue of our doing it. If prayer had some sort of straightforward causal function, it would suggest that we, rather than God, were in the driver's seat. Not so! Prayer for me is work because it is a vigorous expression of belief and belief is hard work. In John 6, when the disciples ask Jesus what they must do to do the works of God, Jesus says “believe in the one he has sent.”

When we pray we are joining the likes of blind Bartemaeus who cried out with importunity as Jesus passed on the road, “Lord, have mercy upon me!” We entreat and implore because we can't fix the things that are wrong. Yet, there is nothing weak and pathetic about the prayers we direct towards our Lord.

To turn to God in prayer is not the same as shrugging our shoulders and saying nothing can be done. Our prayer is a faith stand—a vigorous expression of confidence, an insistence that God is indeed the One before whom our complaint and appeal must be laid. And even more challenging is the sobering realization that we have been commissioned by Jesus himself to not only cry out our appeal, but to carry his very authority in prayer!

As with any kind of work, our capacity increases as we engage it on a consistent basis. There is no more meaningful and important work to be done! What prayer work is God asking you to do?

—CAROL TOBIN

Answers to Prayer

- **James and Anne** (names changed) recently were involved in hosting a Christian youth conference where they serve in South Asia. They had good conversations and are asking God for wisdom in their follow-up with several youth. Anne writes, “One super special moment we had at the youth conference was when an offering was taken for the next conference. The amount was four times what I expected. And the number of young people volunteering to be involved in planning the next meeting was also large. *Initiative is beautiful.* Praise God. Pray that these youth would put their energy into serving the church and building God's kingdom.”
- **Hannah Shultz**, serving in music and discipleship ministry among children and youth of Iglesia Esperanza de Vida (EDV) and Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah in Harrisonburg, Va., praises the Lord for sweet connections with the EDV children over a bonfire dinner at her home and for their growth as children of God. She also praises God for opening doors to new opportunities and partners in her ministry.
- Praise God that after nearly three years of waiting, **Freddy Satalaya** has been given a visa interview at the US embassy on April 12. Join Freddy and Elena in praying that everything leading up to the interview and the interview itself will go well, and that he will receive his US visa right away. Elena and Freddy have served with VMissions and Mennonite Mission Network in Iquitos, Peru, and most recently in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Ways to Pray

Focus on prayer for the Muslim world during the month of Ramadan

Prayer is a practice common to both Christians and Muslims. Followers of both faiths pray for similar reasons: to engage their minds on the ways of God; to gain understanding of his will and find the strength to pursue it; to seek comfort and help; as a means of sharing the deepest thoughts of their hearts with the one in whom they put their trust. So, why do we pray for Muslims?

We Pray to Change Our Hearts

We gain our understanding of Muslims through what we experience and what we hear. Yet our experiences and knowledge will be limited. For some, experiences and knowledge will lead them to view Muslims with fear or animosity, while others will view them with warmth and concern, and yet others with indifference. When we pray for others as Jesus taught us to, we begin to see who we pray for through his eyes. The first command of Jesus was to love others as he loves us. To love Muslims, we must be willing to allow God to direct our understanding of who they are and to see them as God does. So we pray to gain an understanding of God's heart for Muslims the world over.

We Pray to Change the World

Christians believe that through prayer we can affect change in the world. We believe God works with us to accomplish his will and that in prayer we can encourage miraculous things to happen. Muslim people come from enormously diverse cultures and societies and their needs are varied and unique. Prayer helps us to understand these needs and how to respond to them. We pray for the needs of Muslims because that is one way we can love. We pray also for Muslims to gain a greater understanding of Jesus. We realize that as his followers, we often fail to represent Jesus well. Therefore, we do not pray for Muslims to become like us—we pray for them to become like Jesus. We pray that they will join us on the journey towards experiencing that abundant life of which Jesus spoke and towards establishing his kingdom of peace on earth.