



MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.</p> <p>John 10:28 (NIV)</p>	<p>1 As Lee and Peg Martin serve with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in Kimball, W.Va., pray for decisions about hosting teams in this time. Pray for God's healing work through Lee's immunotherapy at UVA this month.</p>	<p>2 As the Harrisonburg Perspectives class gathers for the final time today, pray that the seeds sown over 15 weeks will bear kingdom fruit as students embrace God's call to share the good news everywhere.</p>	<p>3 As Seth Crissman celebrates his birthday today in Harrisonburg, Va., pray for God's outpouring of blessing on his life, family, and ministry, as he and Theresa create music and scripture resources for households and families.</p>	<p>4 Lift up Joyel Allen, serving in college ministry at Mary Baldwin University, Staunton, Va., as she finishes her tranSend internship. Pray that God will help her develop a partnership team for full-time campus ministry.</p>	<p>5 Pray for God's leading in a potential Middle School Parent & Child Adventure with SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) later this summer, and for director Ken Wettig as he serves in Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>6 Lift up Alfonso Alvarado as he trusts that God will provide the finances for his ministry so they can continue to be vessels of God's love and truth to those he has brought into their lives and their church, Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah, Lacey Spring, Va.</p>
<p>7 Pray that our children and youth will seek to find their identity in Christ above anything else and to know his unending and profound love for them.</p>	<p>8 Pray for Kate Miller (name changed), a tranSend intern serving in Central Asia, for her continual language learning, knowing how to deal with homesickness, and ways to build community and find friends there.</p>	<p>9 Join Juan Jose Lagos, church planter and pastor of Iglesia Renuevo, Winston-Salem, N.C., in praying for people with whom he has shared the gospel. Many have opened their hearts to Christ but some don't attend church.</p>	<p>10 Pray for Jesus to be known among the Roma people of Albania, among whom Norma Teles serves in Lezhë. Traditionally nomadic itinerants, in Albania they are majority Muslim (60%) with a growing Christian minority (25%).</p>	<p>11 Lift up Yosiah and Anita Rahma and their sons Josh and Simon (names changed) who are on home assignment in the U.S. Pray for their final month, for rest and refueling before they return to Southeast Asia.</p>	<p>12 Join Norma Teles, serving in Lezhë, Albania, in praying for a seven-year-old boy who is asking God to give him more capacity to learn and help him to focus.</p>	<p>13 Pray for people in Turkey and Syria affected by the recent major earthquake to know and experience the hope and presence of Jesus in powerful ways as they mourn and rebuild.</p>
<p>14 Pray for the marketplace ministry of Ben and Risa Yutz, Timberville, Va., as they seek to be disciple-makers in everyday situations and teach others to do the same.</p>	<p>15 Lift up Baker Rigg, who has been appointed to serve as the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail Chaplain in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray especially for financial provision as he expands his support network.</p>	<p>16 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.</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 Pray with Hannah Shultz, serving in music and discipleship ministry in Harrisonburg, Va, that her perspective on the present will continually be informed by eternal things and help her be more effective now.</p>	<p>19 Dini and Klementina Shahini are hosting a conference today through Sunday for Christian teachers in Albania on the theme Teaching for Eternity. Pray for the conference to enable good teaching outcomes.</p>	<p>20 Pray for the Putt Fore Missions fundraiser for VMissions today. Ask the Lord to bless this time of fun and fellowship for God's glory.</p>
<p>21 Lift up upcoming short-term E³ Collective trips this summer to Kenya, Jordan, and Greece. Ask God to prepare each participant's heart and mind for learning and blessing.</p>	<p>22 In each area of ministry, pray for clarity about God's will and for ministry teams to work together in unity in alignment with that will. May God's kingdom be made known near and far.</p>	<p>23 As Peg Martin celebrates her birthday today, ask the Lord for divine peace, clarity, and comfort as decisions are made regarding their assignment in West Virginia, and as she walks with her husband Lee through medical treatments.</p>	<p>24 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>25 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>26 As Alfonso Alvarado celebrates his birthday today, ask the Lord to grant favor in financial provision and endurance as Alfonso faithfully lives his call to minister to God's people at Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah, Lacey Spring, Va.</p>	<p>27 Lift up the Wayfarers E³ Collective to Germany, arriving today. Participants will explore what it means to follow Jesus in the post-Christian landscape of today's church in Europe.</p>
<p>28 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>29 Join Dan and Mary Hess, serving in Milot, Albania, in praying for those who have made the decision to follow Jesus, that their faith in him will deepen and they will share their new life in Jesus with others.</p>	<p>30 Pray for the Uzbek people group, located primarily in Central Asia where VMissions workers serve. They are overwhelmingly followers of Islam (86%) with virtually no gospel access, especially in rural places.</p>	<p>31 Lift up the Motorcycle for Missions fundraiser for VMissions this Friday and Saturday. Pray for safety for the ride and for sweet fellowship among all participants who are partnering in the work of mission.</p>	<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p>  <p>BLUE RIDGE HEARING CENTER, INC.</p> <p>May is Better Hearing and Speech Month</p>		

Call to Prayer

Manantial de Vida, a Hispanic congregation in Harrisonburg, Va., hosts weekly prayer nights. Their goal and purpose for these prayer nights is both to pursue the Father's will through prayer, but also to teach and motivate the church to grow in prayer. Pastor Wendy often leads the prayer nights from the microphone, applying the truth of God to the prayers of the congregation.

By inviting others into the rhythms of prayer in our lives, we're not only inviting them to pray, we're inviting them to more fully discover the nature of God and kingdom of God.

Jesus, upon asking for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus' grave prayed aloud, "Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." There was something important that Jesus wanted to model, something about the connection between prayer and miracles and about a God who always hears us.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matthew 6, he wasn't just giving them another spiritual discipline to check off the list. Jesus' model of prayer revealed things about the nature of God and the kingdom of God.

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name." There is a holiness and honor to be given to God. "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." God's desire for earth is the same wholeness experienced in heaven.

"Give us today our daily bread." God is our provider. "Forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors." God desires for us to live free from the bondage of sin. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." God has the power to strengthen us when we are tempted. Jesus' prayer witnesses to who God is and what God is doing among us.

And so, the challenge is this: to yield to the Spirit as we infuse the rhythms of our life with prayer and to invite others into our rhythms of prayer. In doing so, may we live into a culture of prayer that witnesses to the nature of Christ and the kingdom of God.

—SARAH SHOWALTER

Answers to Prayer

- **James and Anne** (names changed) recently hosted a youth conference committee meeting at their house in South Asia, serving among Muslims and Muslim-background believers. "We were so blessed to see the type of Christian leaders we get to work with. These folks shared how they were blessed spiritually by each other, and also about various weaknesses of the youth conference in such a lovely humble joyful way. Praise the Lord, he is building his Kingdom here and it's beautiful," Anne writes.
- **Michael Hershey**, currently worker with Immerse International, Millersville, Pa., and former worker in India, traveled to India in March. He had a very meaningful time reconnecting with people from his assignment. On his first night there, he wrote, "O God, I do love this place. Help this love to keep growing as I experience the beauty, as well as the challenges of this place. Help me to give and to receive as Your son and as one who gets to share in the inheritance of this nation."
- Praise God that **Freddy Satalaya**, serving in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, with Mennonite Mission Network and VMissions, had a successful interview and received a U.S. visa, enabling his transition with his wife **Elena Buckwalter de Satalaya** to become youth pastors at Lindale Mennonite Church, Linville, Va.
- Praise the Lord for the continuing recovery of tranSend intern **Andressa Coutinho** after a major acute health emergency, happening in the midst of a longer-term health challenge. Until returning to her home country of Brazil for treatment, she served with the team in Shkodër, Albania, and desires to return to the ministry there. Please pray for her full healing.

Ways to Pray

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word..."

Colossians 4:2,3

PRAY FOR PEOPLE GROUPS

As part of the prayer calendar, we are including several prayer requests each month for people groups, with a brief glimpse into their location and religious adherence. **For a much more in-depth view, look up a particular people group on the Joshua Project (joshuaproject.net) that God has placed on your heart.**

Pray for:

- **People to share the good news of Jesus with the people group.** For groups that are completely unreached, someone from outside their group will need to introduce them to the gospel. Pray that God would stir in people's hearts to share the gospel with the people group.
- **Leaders from within the people group** who will devote themselves to spreading the good news and growing multiplying churches. Pray that those who believe will find ways to share Jesus with their friends and families.
- **Dreams, signs, and wonders.** Ask God to pour out his Spirit on the people group giving them miraculous signs that point them to Christ.
- **Unique and genuine ways** for contextualizing the gospel within the people group's cultural context. Pray that the people group will find that God has not called them to give up all aspects of their culture, but that God meets them in and through their culture which is part of God's unique creation.
- **Strength in the face of persecution.** Many believers around the world face persecution for their faith in Christ. Pray that those who believe in the people group would have strength and faith to continue proclaiming God's goodness even when they are abused because of it.