



AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p> <p>Bob and Rosalie Eshleman, in loving memory of their son, Lee Eshleman</p>		<p>1 As VMissions finishes its fiscal year at the end of this month, there is significant financial need remaining to meet our Mission Fund goal by August 31. Pray for generosity and the Lord's calling to support kingdom growth.</p>	<p>2 The Mark and Sarah Schoenhals family returned recently to Thailand after a home assignment in the U.S. Pray for their readjustment to life and ministry engagement in Det Udom, Thailand.</p>	<p>3 Pray for Kate Miller (name changed), a tranSend intern serving in Central Asia as she continues language learning, building community and finding friends there.</p>	<p>4 Raleigh and Opal (names changed) and their family, serving in North Africa, are currently on home assignment in the U.S. Pray for this season of their ministry and for gospel seeds to grow and bear fruit even in their absence.</p>	<p>5 Tomorrow at Iglesia Shalom, Waynesboro, Va., five youth will be baptized. Praise God for their decision and pray for their growth and nourishment as disciples. Lift up leaders Armando and Verónica Sánchez as they walk with the youth.</p>
<p>6 As Rebekka Stutzman celebrates her birthday today in Mannheim, Germany, pray that the Lord will bear good fruit through her church planting and networking ministry alongside her husband David and their children.</p>	<p>7 Two workers share a birthday today. Ask God to lift up Laura Green in Termoli, Italy, and Solange Tartari, serving in Shkodër, Albania, as they faithfully serve the Lord and multiply disciples in their contexts.</p>	<p>8 Join Ken Wettig, director of SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying for continued pathways of spiritual formation for the youth that participated in this year's Faith Adventure.</p>	<p>9 Yosiah Rahma (name changed) and a teammate serving in a slum in Southeast Asia hope to restart outreach meetings with young men in the neighborhood soon. Pray for wisdom and direction.</p>	<p>10 Pray for God's Spirit to give wisdom, creativity and unity among the leadership and members of Mosaic of Grace Church, Harrisonburg, Va. Lift up church planters and co-pastors Mike and Risha Metzler as they lead.</p>	<p>11 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>12 Lift up Lee and Peg Martin, serving with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in Kimball, W.Va.. Pray for continued healing and recovery for Lee, who received treatments for lymphoma.</p>
<p>13 Join church planter Juan José Lagos in praying for two young women who recently opened their hearts to Christ. Pray for their discipleship and for mentors to walk alongside them at Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo, Winston-Salem, N.C.</p>	<p>14 Pray for the ministry of Norma Teles with a group of mothers and girls meeting at the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania. Pray for good ways to reach them with the good news of Jesus, and for their openness to respond in faith.</p>	<p>15 As Verónica Sánchez celebrates her birthday today, lift up her church planting and pastoring ministry alongside her husband Armando at Iglesia Shalom in Waynesboro, Va. Ask God to bless her with good opportunities and fruitfulness.</p>	<p>16 Pray for the Ansari people group, located mostly in India and Pakistan, who are adherents of Islam and almost entirely unreached by the gospel. Pray for followers of Jesus to reach out to these neighbors in faith and love.</p>	<p>17 Pray for the health, salvation, reconciliation and freedom in Christ for the children and parents of Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo members in Winston-Salem, N.C.</p>	<p>18 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>19 Join Hannah Shultz, serving in music and discipleship ministry in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying that the Latino children she serves will draw near to God and that God will draw near to them, according to James 4:8.</p>
<p>20 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>21 As newly-appointed tranSend intern Devin Stipe celebrates his birthday today, pray for wisdom, growth, and discernment as he serves with SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) in Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>22 Lift up the VMissions Leadership Council Retreat being held today at Corhaven in Quicksburg, Va. Pray for a beneficial time of big-picture strategic thinking and God's direction as staff leaders plan for the future.</p>	<p>23 As Rafael and Solange Tartari have been in Brazil and then the U.S. on home assignment this summer, pray for the Holy Spirit to continue transforming the lives of each young person they have been discipling in Shkodër, Albania.</p>	<p>24 Pray for the marketplace ministry of Ben and Risa Yutzy, Timberville, Va., as serve as disciple-makers in everyday situations and teach others to do the same.</p>	<p>25 Lift up the VMissions Board meeting today and tomorrow in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray for a Spirit-led time of gathering and wisdom as the Board makes decisions and guides the direction of VMissions.</p>	<p>26 Lift up the workers serving in college ministry roles in the Shenandoah Valley: Joyel Allen, Vicki Barnes, and Olivia Kasidiaris, as they encourage and disciple students in faith and provide hospitality.</p>
<p>27 Pray for the health and wellbeing of Milagro Alvarado, wife of church planter Alfonso. Also pray for their two children and their pastoral ministry at Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah, Lacey Spring, Va.</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 Pray for the Japanese people who are mostly Buddhist. Less than 1.5% of Japan's population is Christian. Pray for the Lord to send workers in that place to share the love and hope of Jesus.</p>	<p>30 Join Baker Rigg, chaplain at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, Harrisonburg, Va., in praying for wisdom, strength, favor, and fruitfulness during a busy season at the jail.</p>	<p>31 As worker David R. (name changed) celebrates his birthday today in Central Asia, ask the Lord for favor in language learning and relationship-building as he serves with his family among an unreached people group.</p>	<p>"The [Word of] life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us." 1 John 1:2</p>	

Call to Prayer

“What do you do?” “Where do you work?” “What’s your job?” In our North American culture, it’s the first question people ask and often is one of the more significant ways we define our identity. In this world of “work,” where is God?

We so often categorize the various pieces of our lives—work, home, church, etc. We may even find that we take on different personas or identities depending on what activity we are engaging in. Our “work-self” may be different from our “home-self” or our “church-self.” Our culture teaches us that there is a divide between the secular and the sacred—but what are the possibilities if we lived as if there were no divide?

God is inviting us to see the world—and the workplace—through his eyes. This requires a shift—taking a step back from the secular/sacred divide and beginning to look for what God is doing; to look for the sacred within the secular. This “God consciousness” will shape the way we interact with the world around us. Developing a “God consciousness” is a bit like learning to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Want to open yourself up to what God is doing in your workplace? Here are some suggestions to get started:

- Pray for your co-workers. Pray for their families. Ask God to be revealing himself more and more in their lives.
- Pray for clients/customers, whether you work with them on a regular basis or cross paths for just a few minutes. Pray that your interactions with them will be a source of encouragement.
- Pray for your managers and organization leaders. Pray that they will lead with wisdom, compassion, and the courage to do what is right.
- Ask God to reveal what the “good news” for your workplace is. What is it about Jesus and the gospel that would meet the deepest needs in your specific workplace?
- Invite God to give you opportunities to be a witness to that good news.

The possibilities are limitless when you begin to see every aspect of life through the eyes of God. As Henri Nouwen reminds us, “Only prayer allows us to hear another voice, to respond to the larger possibilities.”

—SARAH SHOWALTER

Answers to Prayer

- **Tom Yoder**, VMissions Ministry Coach, was able to attend the Conferência Aliança Evangélica Menonita 2023 in Recife, Brazil. VMissions partners with the conference to send and support three of our workers: **Norma Teles** and the **Rafael and Solange Tartari family**. Tom was able to visit with each VMissions worker from Brazil who is currently in their home country on home assignment and build relationships with the local church and conference leaders. Praise God for the Spirit-filled gathering at the conference, and for meaningful time spent with mission workers. Tom shared with staff about encouraging and being encouraged by them as they connected and the significance of meeting leaders from their supporting congregations and organizations.
- **Baker Rigg** shared a story about an inmate he has ministered to as the chaplain at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, Harrisonburg, Va. This inmate has become a multiplier in inviting fellow inmates to faith in Jesus follower his own transformation in Christ. Baker writes, “I have had the pleasure of being a part of his discipling. He is enjoying his new life and loves his prayer time and Bible studies. He has also had an impact on other inmates. At night he will read the Bible while other inmates listen. Some weeks ago he came to me with the names of a couple of inmates. They overheard him talking about the chaplain and wanted to see me. I gladly accepted the names and told him that I would meet with them. The following week when I met with him, he gave me two more names of inmates that wanted to see me, before I even had a chance to meet with the previous two!” Praise God for the ways these inmates are seeing the Lord’s transformation in others and are being invited into God’s family.

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