



SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>If you would like to sponsor the prayer calendar, please contact us!</p> <p> david.gingerich@vmmissions.org (540) 434-9727</p>		<p>He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”</p> <p>Mark 4:21-23</p>			<p>As Paulo Silva (name changed)¹ celebrates his birthday today in Central Asia, ask the Lord to strengthen and expand his ministry of mentoring and supporting workers on the launch team and in outreach to local friends.</p>	<p>Pray for Heidi Schoenhals² as she begins her freshman year of high school, which includes traveling to another part of Thailand for one week each month. Pray for health, safety, and lots of joy in the journey.</p>
<p>Pray for three adolescent boys³ in Winston-Salem, N.C., with whom church planter Juan José Lagos is walking in their journey of repentance. Ask the Lord to fill their hearts with the good news of Jesus.</p>	<p>On Labor Day, thank the⁴ Lord for the investment of each mission worker’s labor for God’s harvest. Pray for patience and perseverance as they faithfully plant seeds and nurture the growth.</p>	<p>As Michael Hershey celebrates⁵ his birthday today, lift up his ministry with Immerse International in Millersville, Pa. Pray that international students going in the program will be deeply impacted by the gospel message.</p>	<p>Lift up church planter Alfonso⁶ Alvarado, serving at Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah in Lacey Spring, Va., and the finances he needs for his ministry. Ask God to supply generously to meet this significant need.</p>	<p>Lift up Yosiah and Anita⁷ Rahma and their sons Josh and Simon (names changed) who serve in a slum in Southeast Asia. Pray for their health and strength as they live and serve incarnationally in a difficult place.</p>	<p>As tranSend intern Kate⁸ Miller (name changed) celebrates her birthday today in Central Asia, ask the Lord for close connections and opportunities for her to share God’s message.</p>	<p>Pray for each mission⁹ worker’s emotional and spiritual health as they engage in ministry. Ask God to help each one lead out of their marriage or singleness, and thrive with the support of a caring community.</p>
<p>Join church planters¹⁰ Armando and Veronica Sanchez, at Iglesia Shalom, Waynesboro, Va., in praying for God’s provision in ministry funds, and for brothers and sisters equipped and willing to disciple others.</p>	<p>Pray for the first day of¹¹ school today at Lezha Academic Center in Albania. Ask God for wisdom, love, and grace as teachers engage with students. Pray for impact for the students as they hear God’s word.</p>	<p>Pray for the E3 prayer¹² team which is joining with VMissions workers and the Life Enrichment Church in northeast Thailand, Sept. 11-25. Pray that God will work among the team and local believers in powerful ways.</p>	<p>Kierston Kreider, Mission¹³ Mobilizer, is on the E3 prayer team in Thailand with his family. He is also exploring more partnership possibilities in Thailand for VMissions. Ask God for guidance in discernment.</p>	<p>Join Rafael and Solange¹⁴ Tartari, serving in Shkodër, Albania, in praying for every person God has put around them. May God’s word sown in each of these hearts germinate and bear kingdom fruit.</p>	<p>Tomorrow is the annual¹⁵ Bike Shenandoah event in Harrisonburg, Va., which raises funds for VMissions among other organizations. Pray for safety for the ride and for good fellowship.</p>	<p>As Mark Schoenhals celebrates¹⁶ his birthday today in Thailand, lift up his family’s ministry among the Isaan people group in Det Udom. Ask God for an outpouring of gospel impact and vision for the work ahead.</p>
<p>Pray for God’s rich blessings¹⁷ and impact at the annual conference of Mennonite Church of Trinidad and Tobago, a fraternal partner of VMissions. Staff member Jason Rhodes Showalter is attending the conference.</p>	<p>Lift up the Steve Horst and¹⁸ Bethany Tobin family in their continuing transition to life and ministry in Bangkok, Thailand. Pray for opportunities to witness and minister to the Isaan people living in the capital city.</p>	<p>Pray for the outreach¹⁹ ministries of the church that Shawn and Laura Green serve in Termoli, Italy, as they live and share the invitation to a deeply-rooted relationship with Jesus in a largely post-Christian context.</p>	<p>Join Norma Teles, serving as²⁰ director of the Joshua Center in Albania, in praying for the preschool kids and the good news of Christ they are learning and taking home. Pray that it will bring salvation and hope.</p>	<p>Pray for the ministry of²¹ Yacoub Rasul (name changed) as he plants house fellowships and develops Christian leaders among the Arabic-speaking community of Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>Pray with Ken Wettig, director²² of SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest, based in Harrisonburg, Va.) and tranSend intern Devin Stipe, for youth to join the program and powerfully encounter God through adventure experiences.</p>	<p>Pray for the Somali people²³ group, located mostly in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. This unreached group is over 99% Muslim. Ask God for more kingdom workers and impactful interactions with gospel believers.</p>
<p>Lift up Joyel Allen, serving²⁴ in college ministry at Mary Baldwin University, Staunton, Va., as she engages in full-time campus ministry and reaches the next generation with God’s good news.</p>	<p>Join Dan and Mary Hess,²⁵ serving in Milot, Albania, in praying for multiplication of the gospel in their town to transform their community and nation for God’s purposes.</p>	<p>Pray for God’s transformation²⁶ 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 children as they support the ministry.</p>	<p>A number of VMissions²⁷ staff are attending a Missio Nexus Leaders Conference in Orlando, Fla, today through Friday. Pray for good content and tools that help VMissions live more fully into its mission and vision.</p>	<p>Pray for the VMissions²⁸ team in Central Asia and for relationships to grow to allow for deeper faith discussions and significant gospel opportunities with the interns’ host families, language teachers, and other staff.</p>	<p>As E3 Collective teams are²⁹ planned and come together over the next year, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the right people to participate and experience a taste of life on mission. Lift up the trip leaders and coaches.</p>	<p>Pray for the Burmese people³⁰ group, the majority of whom live in Myanmar (Burma) and are Buddhist (95%). Pray for the few believers and workers there to share God’s redemption in Jesus and make disciples.</p>

Call to Prayer

We were a young, newly-married couple with a toddler in tow, heading to the unreached frontier of northern India. We moved to a “small” city of two million people. Along with one other family—our teammates—we were the only foreigners in the city. It felt like an impossible task, way too huge for us, but not for God.

So, we started praying. The more we listened in prayer, the more excited we became as we heard God’s dreams for that place. They were much larger than what we could dream up on our own, and we felt honored that God called us to come and be part of his work. A central feature of that work was, in fact, to pray: to know what God wanted to accomplish and to fervently invite him to be at work.

We affectionately referred to our city as “Metal City” because it is a center for the export of brass handicrafts. But in addition to the export of brass, handicrafts from all over northern India are received and then shipped across the globe.

Being the only foreigners there, we didn’t think much about missionaries who may have been there before us until an Indian believer gave us a church history book describing work that had happened across North India over a century before. We read about the first workers who came to Metal City in the late 1800s and dedicated the majority of their lives to serving there. It was amazing to see the way that their prayers lined up with the prayers the Holy Spirit was continuing to prompt us to pray!

There was a story in the book about the first men who came to faith in Metal City and how they grew and quickly became ones who took the good news to many other places. In fact, much of the kingdom work in the north could be traced back to these men. This amazing experience humbled me as a young adult. We thought we were the first believers coming to that city. But, in the Body of Christ, there had been hundreds of years of dedicated prayer and service in that place before us.

And God had spoken the same things to them as he was speaking to us more than a century later! When God showed us it was time to move on from Metal City, we visited the same Indian believer and passed on the notes of the promises that God had spoken to us in our years of living and praying there.

—RUTHY HERSHEY

Answers to Prayer

- **James and Anne** (names changed), serving in South Asia, reported that a recent women’s conference hosted by believers in their area was a huge success. Anne writes, “I was spiritually fed by my local sisters’ Bible teaching, and the testimonies of what God is doing around the nation are just incredible. Again and again I heard of women—so poor they had nothing to eat—meeting Christians, getting a job through them, and slowly coming to understand the full gospel. I feel like I can better dream (and work towards) the future of God’s kingdom here. Praise God that there is a growing number of believers among this huge people group of 200 million.”
- **Vicki Barnes** serves in college ministry in Harrisonburg, Va., among the local colleges. Over the summer, in checking in with students she walked with during the school year, Vicki has been amazed at God’s transformation at work in students’ hearts. “One of my girls from the women’s basketball team, who was initially hard to reach due to a lot of resistance to the gospel, chose to give her life to Christ a few weeks ago. Her boyfriend also accepted the gospel and chose to get baptized recently. And one of our student leaders shared a testimony that her friend had also accepted Christ. We celebrate these testimonies of transformed lives and the impact that our students are able to have on others near and far!”

Ways to Pray

“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.” (Psalm 139 :1-4 NIV)



Image: Workers Cecilia and Juan José Lagos, serving as church planters at Iglesia Renuevo in Winston-Salem, N.C., receive prayer during the Worker Retreat. VMissions photo

Around 90 VMissions workers, staff, and their families gathered July 30 to August 1 at Highland Retreat for our annual Worker Retreat on the theme Praying for the Harvest. A significant part of each retreat is inviting every worker to take turns sharing about their ministry, and spending time in prayer for them. The Lord moved powerfully in our midst as we joined in asking God for strength, healing, protection, and ministry breakthrough.

A recurring theme in worker sharing was how stressful working in ministry can be on marriages, whether couples serve together in the same assignment or not. As you lift up workers in prayer, ask God to strengthen and nourish healthy marriage relationships and healthy parenting. Pray for God’s hand in open communications, attentiveness, grace, honesty, and healing as couples draw near to God and each other.