

OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lift up the Discipleship Training School, beginning today at YWAM Myrtle Beach (S.C.), where Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed) serve. Pray that from here, long-term workers will be sent to the 10/40 Window.	2 Pray for the marketplace ministry of Ben and Risa Yutzy, Timberville, Va., as they seek to be disciple-makers in everyday situations and teach others to do the same.	3 Pray for the more than 30 children and youth who gave their lives to the Lord at Jamaica Mennonite Church camps this summer. Pray that they will continue in the faith and grow as disciples.	4 As prison chaplain Jason Wagner celebrates his birthday today in the Shenandoah Valley, ask God to transform many inmates through faith in Jesus at the Augusta Correctional Center in Craigsville, Va.	5 Pray for the Minangkabau, a people group of about 7 million from Sumatra, Indonesia. Only one in 385 are believers in Jesus. Pray for God to lead mission workers there to share the good news and make disciples.	6 Pray for Armando Sanchez, serving as a church planter in Waynesboro, Va., as he partners with another church to start a new Hispanic congregation in Elkton, Va., with six families ready and interested.	7 Ask God to engage and equip the Christian church in Albania to be a light illuminating God's kingdom in that country and beyond, and inviting others to join the family of God.
8 Pray for people who are discerning God's call to minister in a service assignment. Ask for clarity and alignment with God's will, and encouragement and wisdom in the process.	9 Join Alfonso Alvarado, church planter of Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah, in praying for the congregation's move to Timberville, Va., meeting at Crossroads Mennonite Church, and for the many details involved.	10 Pray with Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin, serving in Thailand, for key church leaders there to gain a vision for the importance of specific youth and young adult ministry. Pray for leaders to empower and support those in ministry to youth.	11 As a new school year has started at the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania, join director Norma Teles in praying for the center's new families, and for all to be open to change and the good news of Jesus.	12 Pray that workers and ministry partners will be eager disciples desiring to emulate and follow Jesus everywhere they go, always attuned to God's heart and ministry of reconciliation.	13 Join James and Anne (names changed) serving in South Asia, in praying for God's wisdom for Muslim-background believers to know how to react to community opposition to their new faith.	14 Raleigh and Opal (names changed) and their family, serving in North Africa, have returned to their location after home assignment in the U.S. this summer. Pray for this transition and the next season of their ministry.
15 Children at Iglesia Esperanza de Vida are involved in leading the church service today. Join Hannah Shultz, serving in discipleship ministry in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying for wisdom and Holy Spirit empowerment.	16 Pray for Baker Rigg, chaplain at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, Harrisonburg, Va., as signs of spiritual growth are continuing with an increase in requests to visit with him, and requests for Bibles.	17 Lift up the International Missions Association conference in Southeast Asia today through October 25. Several VMMissions workers and staff are attending. Pray for an impactful, Spirit-filled conference that builds global relationships.	18 Join Lee and Peg Martin, serving with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in Kimball, W.Va., in thanking God for wonderful staff and volunteers who served in July and August, and pray for the upcoming season of ministry.	19 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.	20 Pray for Mosaic of Grace Church, Harrisonburg, Va., and co-pastors Mike and Risha Metzler, as they seek to be a faithful light to their community and invite others to experience new life in Jesus.	21 Lift up Kate Miller (name changed), a tranSend intern serving in Central Asia, as she serves the last four months of her assignment and discerns the Lord's call on her next steps. Pray for lasting fruit from her experience.
22 Pray for the VMMissions launch team in Central Asia as new workers join. Ask God for team relationships to grow and for gospel impact with host families, language teachers, and others.	23 As Shawn Green celebrates his birthday today in Termoli, Italy, praise God for the way he and his wife Laura have responded to God's call to serve in Italy for the past nine years. Ask the Lord for multiplying kingdom fruit.	24 Lift up the networking and church planting ministry of the David and Rebekka Stutzman family in Mannheim, Germany. Pray for avenues of deep spiritual connection as believers and seekers encounter Jesus together.	25 Pray for the Khmer people group, the majority of whom live in Cambodia and practice Buddhism. Only one in 33 are followers of Jesus. Ask the Lord to grow his church and empower Khmer disciples.	26 As Em (name changed) celebrates her birthday today in Central Asia, pray for many opportunities for deep connections with people through her work and in her life who are open to the good news of Jesus.	27 Ask God to guide the right people to participate in next year's short-term E³ Collective trips. Pray for ready and open hearts prepared for learning, engagement, and encouragement.	28 Continue to pray for healing for Andressa Coutinho, who is convalescing after a major health challenge in her home country of Brazil. Her sense of call remains to return to minister to the people of Albania in Shkodër.
29 Lift up Isaan church planters Songkran and Lot, who are moving into a new village and starting a house church in Thailand. Pray for their neighbors to come to faith as they experience life in Jesus.	30 As Jay (name changed) celebrates his birthday today in Central Asia, ask God to guide his leadership of the launch team as they serve among the Uzbek people group. Pray for receptive hearts and multiplication.	31 Pray for God's guidance and blessings for the Italian Mennonite Church conference happening this weekend, November 4-5. Lift up Willard Eberly, former worker in Italy, who is the conference guest speaker.	This month's calendar is sponsored by Evonne Showalter		Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 1 Peter 3:8	

Call to Prayer

The Joshua Project (joshuaproject.net) compiles data on people groups across the world for the purpose of pinpointing groups that are least reached by the gospel. Website users can search through over 9,000 people groups, learning about their location, history, beliefs, and also their accessibility (through translated scripture or other believers) to the gospel.

I'd like to offer an invitation and challenge to begin praying for a specific people group as a way of praying for God's blessing to reach the ends of the earth. As a family, a Sunday School class, or even as an entire congregation, choose a specific people group and commit to praying for the good news to spread throughout that group. Pray for:

- **People to share the good news of Jesus with your people group.** For groups that are completely unreached, someone from outside their group will need to introduce them to the gospel. Pray that God will stir in people's hearts to share the gospel with your people group.
- **Leaders from within the people group** who will devote themselves to spreading the gospel 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 your people group, giving them miraculous signs that point them to Christ.
- **Unique and genuine ways for contextualizing the gospel** within your people group's cultural context. Pray that your 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 his 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 your people group will have strength and faith to continue proclaiming God's goodness even when they are abused because of it.

—SARAH SHOWALTER

Answers to Prayer

• The **Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin family** praise God for abundant grace recently as they adjusted to the intensity of the school schedule and workload. Steve and Bethany also made two separate multi-day trips to Nam Yuen (their former service location) during the first few weeks of school. Bethany helped with a children's ministry meeting and Steve helped with a church-wide construction day building a new house for local ministry partners Songkran and Lot. "Since moving, we still haven't restarted our times of meeting with Songkran and Lot, please pray that we can get into an effective rhythm of meeting online as couples and that all that God intends for good in their family will come to be," Bethany writes.

• **Lee and Peg Martin**, serving with SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) in Kimball, W.Va., are praising God for answering the prayers of many: during a follow up PET scan at UVA, the results were clear. Lee was declared to be in complete remission from cancer. "We could not have asked for better news, and we give thanks for God's healing work, for the healing work of wonderful doctors and other medical staff, and for the prayers, love, and encouragement of so many. We are blessed indeed," they write.

Ways to Pray

Jesus not only viewed children as worth his time, he told the disciples that these children have a gift in the way they receive the kingdom of God. As believers, we are tasked with the job of bringing the little children to Jesus, whether it's biological children, nieces and nephews, neighbors, or school children.

One of the ways we do this is by encouraging and teaching children to pray. We can spend all the time in the world teaching children about God, but if we don't teach them how to relate to God, we're not doing any better than the disciples who tried to shoo the children away.

Here are several suggestions for how to model and encourage prayer in the lives of children. Keep in mind that the goal is not just to prepare children to be Christian adults. God often uses children in his plans and he wants to use the children in your life too.

Share your own experiences. Share with children examples of things that you have asked God for, or times that you have heard or seen God's response to your prayers.

Pray in the moment. The best way to teach children how to pray is to pray in their presence. When children approach you with a worry or problem, pray with them on the spot. Model that nothing is too small to take to God in prayer.

Go on a prayer walk. Children enjoy movement and being 'on site' makes the prayers more meaningful and concrete. Walk around your neighborhood and ask God's blessing and salvation on each family. Pray for the children in each home.

Pray a blessing. Pray a daily blessing over your child using Scripture. Passages such as Numbers 6:24-26, Ephesians 3:16-20, and Colossians 1:9-12 could be used as blessings.

Pray for your children's prayer life. As you model prayer in daily life, ask God to draw the children's hearts to him. Pray that God's love and presence will be made known to them through their prayers, and that they will grow in faith and relationship with God.