

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's calendar is sponsored by:</p>  <p>Neighbors Serving Neighbors®</p>			<p>1 Lift up Joyel Allen, serving in campus ministry at Mary Baldwin University, Staunton, Va., and join her in praying that her prayer and financial support team will be completed soon for full-time ministry.</p>	<p>2 Pray for Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed) and their two Christian teammates serving in a slum in Southeast Asia. Pray especially for Spirit-led encounters and courage to share about the Lord.</p>	<p>3 Lift up the VMissions board meeting happening today and tomorrow in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray for the Lord's wisdom and guidance in strategy and planning for the next season of ministry.</p>	<p>4 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.</p>
<p>5 Join Baker Rigg, chaplain at Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, in praying for this season of transition from pastoral ministry to full-time chaplaincy. Pray for wisdom, grace, and the provision of funds.</p>	<p>6 Pray for the recent launch of the Horsch Technical Program at Lezha Academic Center. It teaches German and technical skills to students and others who want to enter technical job fields in Germany or Albania. May it be a blessing to the community.</p>	<p>7 Join David and Marta (names changed) in praying for opportunities to connect with local believers in their Central Asian context as they build relationships and continue language learning.</p>	<p>8 Pray for the Life Enrichment Church as they host the sixth Thai Anabaptist Gathering today through November 11. Pray also for Mark Schoenhals, serving in Det Udom, Thailand, who will be the main speaker.</p>	<p>9 Pray for high school and college students to faithfully follow Jesus and joyfully spread the gospel to people in their orbit. Pray for impactful interactions and positive responses to the gospel invitation.</p>	<p>10 Lift up those affected by the major earthquake in the mountains of southern Morocco in September. Ask the Lord for provision of shelter and food as cold weather comes, and for God's peace and light to shine amidst unimaginable grief and loss.</p>	<p>11 Join James and Anne (names changed), serving in South Asia, in praying for some local believers who are interested in joining their church. Pray for discernment in this process of seeking the Lord.</p>
<p>12 Pray for the Tajik people group, around 70% of whom live in Tajikistan in Central Asia. Almost entirely Muslim, only 1 in 200 Tajiks globally is a follower of Jesus. Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches and send workers.</p>	<p>13 Pray for Rafael and Solange Tartari, serving in Shkodër, Albania, as they meet with people for one-on-one faith conversations and equip the local church to engage every person God has put around them.</p>	<p>14 Pray for the outreach ministries of Iglesia Shalom, Waynesboro, Va., and for church planters and pastors Armando and Veronica Sanchez as they visit with neighbors and invite others to new life in Christ.</p>	<p>15 Pray for the ministry of Yacoub Rasul (name changed) as he serves among the Arabic-speaking community of Harrisonburg, Va. Ask God for continued favor with the people group he relates to and for opportunities to connect.</p>	<p>16 Pray for the three children of Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin in Bangkok, Thailand, as they adjust from homeschool to the classroom, from rural to urban, from Isaan to an international community after a change in ministry location earlier this year.</p>	<p>17 Pray with church planter Juan José Lagos for the discipleship groups and children's classes at Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo, Winston-Salem, NC. May these efforts be impactful and lead everyone to love and serve the Lord.</p>	<p>18 Pray for tranSend intern Devin Stipe as he serves as an assistant leader of SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest), based in Harrisonburg, Va., Pray also for youth to join the SLAQ program and encounter God through adventure experiences.</p>
<p>19 As Anne (name changed) celebrates her birthday today in her major city in South Asia, ask God to bless her ministry among Muslim-background believers, as she encounters many difficult situations that require prayer and discernment.</p>	<p>20 Join church planter and pastor Alfonso Alvarado in praying for protection and blessing for those involved in the donation of land and the meeting space for Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah in Timberville, Va.</p>	<p>21 Pray for the children whom God has entrusted to the ministry of Hannah Shultz, serving in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray that they will listen to and follow God's teaching as they build their lives on a secure foundation.</p>	<p>22 Pray for the church that Shawn and Laura Green serve in Termoli, Italy, as they seek to demonstate and share an authentic relationship with Jesus in a largely post-Christian context.</p>	<p>23 On Thanksgiving, pray for VMissions workers around the world to always carry the joy of life in Jesus and to give thanks in all circumstances, even if they are far away from family on this special day of gathering.</p>	<p>24 Pray for God's leading in the future for Andressa Coutinho, who served in Shkodër, Albania, before returning to Brazil to recover from a major health challenge. Pray that her call to serve in Albania will remain strong and again become a reality.</p>	<p>25 Lift up the ministry of the David and Rebekka Stutzman family in Mannheim, Germany. Pray that the Lord will bear good fruit through their church planting and networking ministry.</p>
<p>26 Pray for Kate Miller (name changed), a tranSend intern serving in Central Asia, as she finishes her assignment at the end of January and is discerning what is next for her.</p>	<p>27 As Mary Hess celebrates her birthday today in Milot, Albania, pray for the many seeds she and her husband Dan have planted to bear fruit for God's kingdom. Ask the Lord to build and strengthen the church for outreach.</p>	<p>28 Lift up The Soil and The Seed Project as workers Seth and Theresa Crissman (Harrisonburg, Va.) coordinate the creation of music, art, and little liturgies to sow seeds of the gospel in the hearts of families and faith communities.</p>	<p>29 Pray for Jesus to be made known to the more than 25 million people in North Korea, most of whom are non-religious because religion is strongly discouraged by the Communist dictatorship. Only 1 in 63 North Koreans are followers of Jesus.</p>	<p>30 Lift up Raleigh and Opal (names changed) as they serve among a largely unreached people group in North Africa. Ask God to encourage them and enhance their vision for ministry.</p>	<p>Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 5:16-18</p>	

Call to Prayer

Very early in Jesus' ministry the disciples humbly asked their master, "Lord teach us to pray," an admission that effective prayer is not readily grasped and is very much a learning process. And indeed, that describes the journey that I have needed to pursue throughout my life. Meaningful, effective prayer has not come easily and has required humility and willingness to learn. I wish to share some of the things that the Lord has taught my wife Eva and me regarding this foundational and essential practice of living a life of prayer that draws us ever closer to the Lord, to discern his ways, hear and follow his voice, and pursue his purposes.

Even as the "Lord's Prayer" begins with an acknowledgment of the holy presence of our heavenly Father, I have had to realize that prayer is more about worship and praising God for who he is and what he has done than presenting my personal and intercessory requests for others. It is a time to lift up God's name and attributes and enter into the realization that he, our loving and caring Father, is to be honored first, and that his provisions and interest in every aspect of our lives flow out of his love. Indeed, the cares and burdens of life that we carry for ourselves and others often cause us to neglect that foundational aspect of prayer.

Effective prayer requires faith, intentionality, and perseverance. It's not a quick automatic repetition of the "Lord's Prayer" or reciting "Now I lay me down to sleep." In addition, it is not easy to persevere when prayers seem to go unanswered or countless urgent life pressures distract. When I would ask Eva if she had time to pray with me, her response would inevitably be, "I always have time to pray!"

Taking time to join in deliberate focused prayer with your spouse or a close friend requires commitment and sacrifice but underscores the power of collective intercession, "where two or three are gathered in his name."

There were times in life when there was nothing left to do but pray. Precisely in those times we were drawn to prayer and discovered a deeper meaning of prayer. Not knowing how to pray, we learned to trust God; we learned to turn our lives over to our loving Father in total surrender and dependence. Prayer became a time of communion and listening to his voice of comfort, instruction and direction.

—WILLARD EBERLY

Answers to Prayer

- **Yosiah and Anita Rahma** (names changed) are grateful to the Lord for the ways Christians in their majority-Muslim nation in Southeast Asia have responded with generosity after a devastating fire in their slum neighborhood. Yosiah and Anita have also been distributing relief with the help of their teachers at House of Hope. Anita writes, "Our second fire-relief distribution went well. Our church donated 65 food packs and we purchased 65 rice cookers. While a rice cooker may seem like a strange thing to give those who lost everything in a fire, it's the first appliance any family would want here. Cooking rice to eat three times a day is a lot easier with a rice cooker. It can also be used to cook soups, steam vegetables, and cook other things. We set up a "free store" of children's clothes and shoes, and each family could come through and pick 10 items. We are so grateful for our teaching team—we couldn't have done this without their help. Most families affected by the fire have found new places to rent, and some have rebuilt their houses."
- Join **Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin** in praising God for a new house church being planted in the village of Ban Nong Udom in the Isaan region of Thailand by ministry partners Songkran and Lot. When the Thailand E3 Collective prayer team was there in September, they spent a day praying in this new village, for and with the new families who are interested and learning about the gospel. "There was tremendous openness to receiving healing and prayer. What was exciting was that it was the whole household that was gathered and interested, and the son in particular, who is a coach of a local soccer program, made a profession of faith," wrote Bethany. "A few days later, Nam Yuen church members visited and the families were asking about receiving baptism. Praise God for this open door! Pray that whole families would believe and be baptized and receive the full impact of God's salvation."

Ways to Pray

Jesus invited his disciples to follow him, promising that he would show them how to "fish for people." (Mark 1:17) Just as Jesus multiplied the catch of fish for his fisherman disciples, so Jesus wants to multiply the "catch of people" for his followers today.

Ways to pray for multiplication as you "fish for people:"

- **Ask God to show you where to fish.** Are there places where you regularly interact with non-believers? If not, ask God to show you where you might start connecting with non-believers on a regular basis. Maybe it's joining a secular mom's group, a bike club, or a yoga class. Or maybe its spending more time in your backyard or on your street getting to know your neighbors.
- **Pray for specific persons.** Be explicit in your asking. Pray for specific non-believers in your lives and pray that they will know Christ.
- **Pray for opportunities.** Ask God to open doors for conversations with the non-believers you're praying for. Trust God to provide spaces and opportunities to share his love with your non-believing friends. Not only do we invite God to work in those relationships in that way, we also increase our awareness and intentionality in such opportunities. It's harder to miss the open doors when you're looking for them.
- **Ask others to pray with you and hold you accountable.** Consider joining a Life Transformation Group as a guided way to do this.
- **Ask God for divine appointments.** Be open to ways God might be inviting you to cast your nets outside of your regular zones of interaction. Begin each day asking God who you should share with that day. You might meet someone in the grocery store check-out line who just needs an encouraging word, or you may run into an old acquaintance who really needs a reminder that God cares for them. Ask God to make you aware of ways to show His love through you each day. And when God speaks, ask for the courage to obey!