

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28 (NRSV)</p>	<p>1 Happy New Year! Pray for the good news of life in Jesus to transform lives and multiply believing communities near and far in this next year as God’s Spirit empowers the church for mission.</p>	<p>2 Pray for God to lead as James and Anne (names changed) form a team in South Asia with three others, with three more couples coming in the next two years. Pray for wisdom and cooperation as they serve together.</p>	<p>3 Tomorrow, Adam and Elise (names changed) are leading a three month YWAM (Youth With A Mission) outreach to South Asia along with six discipleship students. Ask God to give these students a heart for long-term ministry.</p>	<p>4 As Klementina Shahini celebrates her birthday today in Lezhë, Albania, pray that God will continue to give her strength and health as she engages in God’s kingdom work.</p>	<p>5 Pray for Mike and Risha Metzler and their family as they welcome a girl into their home through foster care and continue their ministry with Mosaic of Grace Church in Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>6 Pray for the Vasto and Termoli congregations in Italy that the Shawn and Laura Green family serve among. There have been longstanding tensions between the churches. Pray that in this new year, God will continue their reconciliation.</p>
<p>7 Lift up the two interns serving with Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed) in a slum community in Southeast Asia as their internship time is soon ending. Pray for the Lord’s guidance on their next steps.</p>	<p>8 Pray for God’s love and grace over ministry partner Iglesia Esperanza de Vida, Harrisonburg, Va., as they undergo a pastoral transition and move to a home-church model.</p>	<p>9 Join David and Marta (names changed), serving in Central Asia, in praying for opportunities to build relationships and connect with local believers. Pray for the language learning process and healthy family rhythms.</p>	<p>10 This evening is the orientation session for the Perspectives class in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray that the Holy Spirit will challenge and inspire students to deeply engage with God’s heart for mission to all people.</p>	<p>11 Pray for Isaan church leaders and members of Life Enrichment Church in Thailand as they implement their vision for church multiplication. Ask God for wisdom in how two worker families help engage in this vision.</p>	<p>12 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>13 Pray for the ministry of Ineo Netzwerk in Germany that David and Rebekka Stutzman work with in Mannheim, Germany. Pray that the spiritual seekers they connect with will find their identities as followers of Jesus.</p>
<p>14 Pray for participants planning to go on E³ Collective teams this spring and summer. Ask God to bless the preparation and the experience as a taste of life on mission. Lift up the trip leaders and coaches in prayer.</p>	<p>15 Pray for Baker Rigg, chaplain at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, Harrisonburg, Va., as he ministers to inmates. Pray that the signs of spiritual growth he has seen in the jail continue and multiply.</p>	<p>16 Lift up VMissions workers as they pray when no spiritual movement seems to be happening, for encouragement to keep persevering in prayer. Ask God to reveal glimpses of his work in those situations.</p>	<p>17 Pray for high school and college students to faithfully follow Jesus and joyfully share life in him with people in their circles. Pray for impactful interactions and positive responses to gospel invitations.</p>	<p>18 Last month, tranSend intern Kate Miller (name changed) finished her assignment in Central Asia. As she discerns her future, ask God for clarity and guidance in her future ministry opportunities.</p>	<p>19 Pray for grace and peace to fill Armando and Veronica Sanchez as they have fully transitioned their ministry to Iglesia Shalom in Waynesboro, Va. Ask God to bless their congregation and outreach efforts with fruitfulness.</p>	<p>20 As Mission Mobilizer Kierston Kreider plans for a new year of campus visits, events, and church engagements to recruit workers, pray for God to work in people’s hearts and minds to serve the global church in mission.</p>
<p>21 Pray that international students going through the program of Immerse International, Millersville, Pa., will be deeply impacted by the gospel message. Lift up workers Michael and Ruth Hershey as they serve there.</p>	<p>22 Pray for visions of Jesus and interactions with believers among the Sayyid people group, who are Muslims living mostly in India and Pakistan. According to the Joshua Project, this group is completely unreached by the gospel.</p>	<p>23 Lift up Alfonso Alvarado and his church planting ministry at Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah, Timberville, Va. May he and his wife Milagro continue to be vessels of God’s love and truth.</p>	<p>24 As Bethany Tobin celebrates her birthday today in Thailand, ask God to bless her and her family as they have responded in faith to serve the unreached Isaan people group of Thailand in the capital, Bangkok.</p>	<p>25 Join Norma Teles, serving in Lezhë, Albania, in praying for the children of the Joshua Center, an early learning center, and their families to receive and accept the invitation to know God’s good news in Jesus.</p>	<p>26 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 in this season of ministry.</p>	<p>27 Join Ken Wettig, director of SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) in Harrisonburg, Va., in praying for continued pathways of spiritual formation for youth participating in SLAQ programs this year.</p>
<p>28 Pray for the administrators, faculty, and students of Lezha Academic Center in Lezhë, Albania, as they finish the first semester of the year and start a new semester. May the light of Jesus shine through the school.</p>	<p>29 Join church planter Juan José Lagos in lifting up the discipleship groups and children’s classes at Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo, Winston-Salem, NC., that they will be impactful and lead everyone to know and serve the Lord.</p>	<p>30 Pray for breakthrough among the Northern Kurds who live in mostly mountainous areas of eastern Turkey. Of a population of over 9.2 million, only one in 1,000 people are believers in Jesus.</p>	<p>31 Pray for Seth and Theresa Crissman and The Soil and The Seed Project ministry based in the Shenandoah Valley, as they build faith in families and households through music, scripture, and liturgies.</p>	<p>This month’s calendar is dedicated in honor of Dick and Wanda Good As faithful sponsors of this prayer resource for 20 years and in memory of E. Richard “Dick” Good (1930-2023).</p>		

Call to Prayer

“For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, through perseverance we wait eagerly for it.” —Romans 8:24-25 (NASB)

In his book *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, Eugene Peterson wrote, “The spiritual atmosphere in which we live erodes faith, dissipates hope and corrupts love.”

In the face of the louder voices and the evening news, our job is to vigorously hold on to the hope that God will fulfill his purposes, not by might, not by strength, but by his Spirit!

We are instructed to pray, “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10 NASB). When we declare what is “not yet,” we hold on to our kingdom position. This is why it is always appropriate to pray for healing: it is the kingdom reality. If not manifested as soon as we might like, then most certainly, ultimately. May we not forget the mind-boggling words in James 5:16 that our prayers are effective and powerful!

In 1 Kings, Elijah sends his servant time and time again to tell him if there is yet any sign of rain coming. It is recorded that the servant had six disappointing trips to scan the horizon. Six: the sum of the imperfection of humans and human history.

But the seventh time—the number that carries an inference of God completing his work—the servant sees a tiny cloud “as small as a man’s hand” coming up from the sea. This small sign is all that Elijah needs as confirmation that his hopes are a matter of certainty. Indeed, the awaited rain comes.

May we, like Elijah, guard our God-given hope that he will indeed come and “rain righteousness upon us” (Hosea 10:12).

—CAROL TOBIN

Answers to Prayer

- **Ana** (name changed), serving on the VMissions launch team in Central Asia, recently had the opportunity to speak at a summit about dealing with and preventing domestic violence, which remains an ongoing issue. A number of people attending have lots of influence in the community of faith, and the presentation was well-accepted. Praise the Lord for the ways Ana has used her extensive experience in member care and child safety to make a positive difference in schools and in society. Pray that this summit will have a lasting impact in that place and change hearts away from violence.
- **James** (name changed) is a graphic designer serving in South Asia. He recently began a weekly 14-session-long graphic design training with 13 people during office hours. Most are Muslim-background believers; a few are Muslim. James was able to start off with his testimony of God working in his life. Praise the Lord for this opportunity to share, learn, and grow with those taking the training. Pray that they will want to learn not just about design but also about Jesus, and pray that the skills these folks learn would be used for the kingdom.

Ways to Pray

Pray for open doors to the unreached

The reality is that many of the places that most need the gospel have significant barriers to gospel ministry. Those barriers can be political or they can be cultural. Governments try to stop the entrance of missionaries to a place or stop the ministry of missionaries in that place, or the people themselves need to have their hearts softened by the Spirit to hear and receive the word. God has the power to break down any barrier, and has appointed prayer as the means by which he often intends to do so.

Pray for a bold, clear, and winning message

We often imagine that mission workers have natural boldness, but we imagine wrongly. Even the apostle Paul asks for prayer for boldness! And we hope to be clear, crystalizing the message in a way that can be understood by people for the first time in a way that lays the proper foundation for knowing and walking with God. When we pray for the work of missions, we are joining an essential work as co-laborers.

Pray for endurance in hardship

Modern travel makes getting to the mission field easier than ever. Once there, endurance is the precious commodity. In many places, living cross-culturally means enduring frustration and frequent setbacks. Mission workers share the gospel and have to leave the results in God’s hands, but it may mean years without discernible fruit. Even in places where the Spirit is bringing about conversion, it takes incredible patience to see a ministry all the way through to indigenous leadership. When we pray for missionaries, we should pray for their endurance. We should pray for toughness and resolve which would characterize soldiers on the front lines of ministry.

You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.—2 Corinthians 1:11 (ESV)

Content by Mark Collins with edits, found at www.crossway.org/articles/how-to-pray-for-international-missions/