


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p>  <p>where friends send friends</p>				<p>1 Ask God to give worker families good family times. It's very easy to get too busy and not invest in family, and both the family and the ministry can suffer. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance.</p>	<p>2 A YWAM Myrtle Beach team led by Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed) is on an outreach experience in South Asia. Pray for wisdom as they lead and for team unity as they work together all day everyday.</p>	<p>3 The Schoenhals and Horst families are working with local partners in Thailand to create a training process for welcoming new long-term mission workers in Isaan. Pray for wisdom and creativity in this endeavor.</p>
<p>4 Join church planter Juan José Lagos in lifting up the discipleship groups and children's classes at Iglesia Cristiana Renevo, Winston-Salem, NC., that they will be impactful and lead everyone to affirm and serve the Lord.</p>	<p>5 Lift up Jay (name changed) who leads an expanding launch team in Central Asia. The team supports new workers from multiple organizations for their first two years. Pray for ways to expand capacity to support the team well.</p>	<p>6 Join Baker Rigg, chaplain at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, Harrisonburg, Va., in praying for wisdom in how to minister effectively in a time of growing hunger for God in the jail and a busy schedule.</p>	<p>7 At Perspectives in Harrisonburg, Va., a new program called Next Gen Classes has been launched for children. Pray that the teachers will meet the children right where they are and be fully submitted to the Lord.</p>	<p>8 Join Rafael and Solange Tartari in praying for the Holy Spirit's work and transformation in the lives of each person they reach out to in Shkodër, Albania, as they make disciples and seek to multiply God's church there.</p>	<p>9 Pray for each mission 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>10 As Steve Horst celebrates his birthday today in Thailand, pray for a healthy balance of ministry engagement, family time, and spiritual enrichment as he serves with his wife Bethany and children over the next year.</p>
<p>11 Pray for the Italian Mennonite Church and the ways they work at sharing the gospel in a country full of religiosity but decreasing faith. Pray for a focus on discipleship and outreach as they seek to be salt and light.</p>	<p>12 Pray for the Uyghur people group, most of whom live in western China. Almost 100% Muslim, they are severely persecuted and imprisoned by the Chinese government. Only 1 in over 1,175 are followers of Jesus.</p>	<p>13 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.</p>	<p>14 Lift up the ongoing Perspectives classes each Wednesday evening in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray for impactful lessons, engaging teachers, and for God's movement through the course to catalyze mission.</p>	<p>15 Pray for workers serving in college ministry as they seek to faithfully follow Jesus and winsomely share life with Jesus with students. Pray for impactful interactions and positive responses to the gospel invitation.</p>	<p>16 Pray for the ministry of Lezha Academic Center, Lezhë, Albania, and the ways the school engages students with the gospel and partners with Guri i Themelit church. Pray for fruitful kingdom impact.</p>	<p>17 Lift up the ministry of Raleigh and Opal (names changed) as they serve in North Africa. Ask God to bless and encourage them, and enhance their vision and ministry to reach a largely unreached people group.</p>
<p>18 Pray for the children of mission workers who are serving around the world with their parents. Ask God to grant them a deep sense of daily care, grace, and belonging wherever they are.</p>	<p>19 Pray for the Lord's favor in the interactions of Yacoub Rasul (name changed) with Arabic-speaking people in Harrisonburg, Va. Ask God for good opportunities to share his faith and hope in Jesus.</p>	<p>20 Lift up David and Rebekka Stutzman, serving in Mannheim, Germany, and ask God for breakthroughs as spiritual seekers they connect with find their identities as followers of Jesus.</p>	<p>21 As Risha Metzler celebrates her birthday today, ask God to give her wisdom, creativity and unity in leadership of Mosaic of Grace Church alongside her husband Mike as they co-pastor this church plant in Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>22 Pray for new folks who are joining the launch team in South Asia this month, where they will work alongside James and Anne (names changed). Pray for a good orientation and connections with local Muslim families.</p>	<p>23 Lift up a training conference VMissions is hosting today on Mobilizing Anabaptist Mission in Latin America. Pray for good engagement among participants and impactful content.</p>	<p>24 As Risa Yutzy celebrates her birthday today, pray for her marketplace ministry alongside her husband Ben in Timberville, Va., as they seek to be disciple-makers and kingdom multipliers in everyday situations.</p>
<p>25 Pray for pathways of spiritual formation for youth participating in SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) programs this year, and lift up Ken Wettig, SLAQ director, as he serves in Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>26 Lift up Dan and Mary Hess and their ministry in Milot, Albania in prayer. May the many seeds they have planted bear fruit for God's kingdom. Ask the Lord to build and strengthen the church for outreach.</p>	<p>27 Pray for discernment as leaders of the Central Asia launch team visit cities in another part of their country to explore possibilities of places for new work and ministry, and that new families will move to cities outside of the capital.</p>	<p>28 Lift up the Chechen people group, living mostly in and near Chechnya in southern Russia. An Islamic people unreached by the gospel, only 1 in 167 are believers in Jesus. Pray they will have the opportunity to choose Jesus.</p>	<p>29 Pray for Nathan Carr, serving in Harrisonburg, Va., as he builds networks of faith-based support for people who have struggled with addiction and substance abuse issues, and for those who have been released from jail.</p>	<p>“Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14 (NRSV)</p>	

Call to Prayer

Ever since I was a little girl, I have been told how important prayer is for people who want to follow Jesus, and I certainly wanted to follow Jesus! I heard how powerful prayer is to change things around me and there were certainly things around me that I wanted to see changed.

However, since I was a little girl, in the ways that prayer was modeled to me, I found it very difficult to do. I didn't know how to find the right words to pray. I felt self-conscious praying out loud, and if I tried to pray inside my head, it lasted a whole five seconds before I was distracted and thinking about something else.

I felt guilty about always feeling like I should be praying more, but to be honest, I didn't really get prayer. If God already knows my thoughts even before I think them, then why do I need to voice them and since He's sovereign, isn't he going to just do what he wants to do regardless of whether I pray or not? Maybe you have felt some of these same things.

God really does want to teach us to pray and he's been taking my husband and me through such a journey over the past two decades as individuals and together as we followed him. Step-by-step, God's been teaching us how to hear Him and obey. In our life and ministry context, we had the honor of working with others who also taught us many things about prayer. As we grew together, prayer became much more than something that we should do. It became something that we desire and enjoy—something that feels like a great honor. Could it be that the God of the universe desires to speak to me (and the way that he speaks is so full of love) and a desire to be with me that it completely transforms me? It sets me free in places where I've been stuck, and it heals me in places where I have been wounded. Could it be that He wants to share His dreams and plans with us, and that we get the amazing privilege and honor to co-labor in relationship with Him to see those things accomplished on the earth? The answer is yes, more than we know.

We have discovered different ways of praying that are energizing, meaningful and fit who God created us to be. God has so much that He wants to teach us in prayer. It's a journey of learning how to love God more, one another more, and the world around us more. We want to develop a culture of prayer and practice creative, encouraging, and powerful ways to pray together.

—RUTH HERSHEY

Answers to Prayer

- **Adam and Elise Sauder** (names changed) are serving with YWAM Myrtle Beach and are currently leading a team of Discipleship Training School students in South Asia for a mission experience as part of their training. It has been a busy time but they praise God for the opportunities they have been given to share the gospel. They attended three different conferences as the guest speakers. "Each conference was a special time to empower local believers. At the women's and the youth conference, 10 people total made decisions to follow Jesus," they write. "We praise God, that this time around, we really didn't feel the effects of jet lag! We've had energy to support our team, which has been a gift."
- Praise God for the new Perspectives curriculum created for children in three groups from nursery age to age 10 called Next Gen Classes. **Hannah Shultz**, a VMissions worker serving in music and discipleship ministry in Harrisonburg, Va., is coordinating the leadership of these classes. This was a significant amount of work to create and oversee. Praise God for the willingness of teachers to impact the next generation of young people with the story of God's heart for all people to know Him. Pray that Hannah will be sensitive to any new thing that God wants to do during this semester, and for good health for teachers and children throughout the semester.

Ways to Pray

Pray that God would open doors of gospel ministry 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 mission workers to present the gospel boldly and clearly.

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 workers to endure 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/