

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.</p> <p>(continued)</p>	<p>1 Pray for the SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) summer staff needed, and for long term replacements for Lee and Peg Martin who will be completing their SWAP service in Kimball, W.Va., on August 31.</p>	<p>2 Pray for physical health and healing for the Mark and Sarah Schoenhals family in Det Udom, Thailand. They have experienced a lot of illnesses in recent months.</p>	<p>3 Join Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed) in praying for their Muslim friends and neighbors in Southeast Asia (and the other one billion Muslims in the world) in this month of Ramadan. Pray for dreams, visions, and miracles.</p>	<p>4 Pray for staff member Martin Rhodes as he begins his sabbatical and arrives tomorrow in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Pray for rest and for good connections with the church he is serving in the city.</p>	<p>5 Pray for workers serving in college ministry in the Shenandoah Valley as they faithfully follow and share life with Jesus with students. Pray for impactful interactions and positive responses to the gospel invitation.</p>	<p>6 Pray for the Lord's leading in potential opportunities for workers in Central Asia to live and shine God's light by moving to a fertile valley to the east with 10 million people and no known Christians living there.</p>
<p>7 Lift up Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed), serving with YWAM Myrtle Beach. They are on a month long vision trip in Asia with three of their students who decided to stay and explore long-term work.</p>	<p>8 As Hannah Shultz celebrates her birthday today in Harrisonburg, Va., ask the Lord to bless and encourage her ministry to children and through Perspectives, and for clarity and guidance in the next year.</p>	<p>9 James and Anne (names changed), serving in South Asia, are looking for a new local teammate for their online outreach team. Pray that they can find the right person and divide responsibilities well according to gifts and abilities.</p>	<p>10 Lift up Lewis and Ashley Roberts, serving as interns in recovery ministry in Harrisonburg, Va., in prayer as they develop skills in ministry leadership. Ask God to guide them with passion for a recovered life in Jesus.</p>	<p>11 As Sarah Schoenhals celebrates her birthday tomorrow, join with her in praying for more workers to serve in the Isaan region of Thailand, where she serves with her husband Mark and two daughters.</p>	<p>12 Lift up Raleigh and Opal (names changed) as they celebrate a shared birthday today 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>13 Pray for the country of Burma as the Southeast Asian nation has been in civil war for more than three years and citizens are suffering greatly. Ask the Spirit to comfort and empower the church there to be agents of Christ's peace.</p>
<p>14 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>15 Lift up Rafael and Solange Tartari, serving in Shkodër, Albania, as they discern an invitation to serve among Albanian-speaking people in Kosovo. Ask the Lord to guide their next steps in ministry.</p>	<p>16 Pray for God's strength and encouragement for Randall Schlabach as he leads a men's recovery ministry from pornography addiction in Holmes and Wayne counties in Ohio.</p>	<p>17 Nathan and Anya Stan (names changed) and their daughters are serving on the Central Asia business for transformation (B4T) Launch Team. Pray for this first year of language study and cultural immersion.</p>	<p>18 As Armando Sanchez celebrates his birthday today, pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit over their entire congregation, Iglesia Shalom in Waynesboro, Va. and for mobilization to reach people who don't know Christ.</p>	<p>19 Lift up the Hausa people group, an Islamic people living mostly in Nigeria and Niger, of which only 1 in 167 people are followers of Jesus. Pray for believers to share the gospel among their neighbors and for more workers.</p>	<p>20 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>21 Pray for wisdom for Baker Rigg, serving as a chaplain at Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, as he interacts with deep needs in the jail and manages an increasingly busy schedule.</p>	<p>22 Pray for Max and Melissa Z. (names changed) and their children as they prepare to serve on the business for transformation (B4T) Launch Team in Central Asia. They plan to arrive later this summer.</p>	<p>23 Pray for a fresh understanding of God's justice and desire for mercy. As the ravages of warfare and the destruction of polarization sweep the globe, pray for followers of Jesus to illuminate a path of peace and redemption to the world.</p>	<p>24 This evening is the final session of the Perspectives class in Harrisonburg, Va. As students have gathered over 15 sessions, pray for powerful kingdom impact and for some to be called and sent in God's mission.</p>	<p>25 Pray for tranSend interns Joy M. and Elaine U. (names changed) as they serve on the Central Asia Launch Team and teach at an international school. Pray for opportunities to connect well with local people.</p>	<p>26 Pray for peace in Ethiopia, and that the authorities will take actions that bring unity among the different highly polarized ethnic groups. Pray that even as they face a lot of opposition, churches will be strong and follow the Prince of Peace.</p>	<p>27 Lift up Clay Kauffman and Brynn Yoder, interns serving with Highland Retreat, Bergton, Va., as they contribute in various ways to the ministry of the camp and also serve in the local community.</p>
<p>28 Pray for SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) director Ken Wettig as he celebrates his birthday today. Ask the Lord for deep impact through the ministry of SLAQ, an adventure and discipleship program in Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>29 As Dini Shahini celebrates his birthday today in Albania, ask God for opportunities for the church in Albania to engage their neighbors and be a light illuminating God's kingdom in Lezhë and in other cities.</p>	<p>30 Next month, three Eastern Mennonite University students will join the ministry of Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed) in Southeast Asia as interns for five weeks. Pray for the students as they prepare to start their internship.</p>	<p>For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.</p> <p>2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NIV)</p>	<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p> <p>The Family of Sam and Sarah Weaver</p>		

Call to Prayer

In a culture and age when individualism is rated much higher than a collective ideal, prayer can often be viewed as a solely personal activity. Prayer is seen as a key part of one's personal relationship with God and for good reason. Jesus himself encouraged his followers to pray in private, rather than praying publicly for attention, and Jesus also modeled individual prayer in his own life in the numerous times he sought out time alone to pray. But if we confine prayer to an exclusively individual practice, we miss out on the power of praying together.

Scriptures also give us many examples of corporate or collaborative prayer—praying together as a group of people. Jesus tell his disciples, in Matthew 18:19, “for where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” And numerous times throughout the Old Testament and in the New Testament book of Acts, we see examples of collaborative prayer. Many of VMissions' workers, who are serving around the world, also incorporate collaborative prayer into their rhythm of life and ministry.

In Acts 12, Peter is miraculously rescued from prison by an angel of the Lord. While he had been imprisoned the church had “prayed very earnestly for him.” In fact, when Peter left the prison and headed to Mary's house, he found the believers gathered together in prayer. While Peter's escape from prison didn't exactly bring peace between the believers and Herod, it is an example of the power of prayer in overcoming the powers of violence and hate in order to further advance the kingdom of God.

A verse that can help guide our vision for collaborative prayer is Philippians 2:1-2: “Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.”

May we, as believers, gather together to pray to the Lord. May we find unity in discerning together God's guiding. May we be encouraged by each other and by God's Spirit. And may we build bridges of peace through prayers for peace and reconciliation.

—SARAH SHOWALTER

Answers to Prayer

Bethany Tobin, serving with her husband Steve Horst and children in Bangkok, Thailand among the Isaan people, shared a recent story. Before they moved to the capital, Steve and Bethany served in Nam Yuen, a rural district in northeast Thailand where many Isaan people live, and where they still visit regularly. She writes:

“This past February, I prepared a Sunday school lesson on raising Lazarus from the dead. Meanwhile, a household in Nam Yuen, a family who is part of the cow project, who the believers have been praying for, visiting, and sharing the gospel with, had a sudden crisis. The father, Uncle Jaek, collapsed, and was diagnosed with cancer.

The believers rallied around them, donating blood, staying up with them all night at the hospital, and praying for him to be healed. Uncle Jaek, his wife, and youngest daughter put their faith in God even as it became clear that Uncle Jaek was dying.

When he died, the believers came around his family to perform our church's first Christian funeral in Nam Yuen, a tender opportunity for neighbors to witness our Christian hope and community. We processioned through the streets of Nam Yuen singing songs of the hope of heaven.

I had the privilege of being present to Uncle Jaek's widow Aunt Wa and daughter Luck's questions about heaven, experience of reconciliation and closure, and Christ's comfort. The story of Jesus with Mary, Martha and Lazarus guided me through this tender time. Pray with us for this bereaved household who are now following Christ.”

Ways to Pray

There are 1.8 billion Muslims in the world and a good majority of them remain unreached by the gospel. During Ramadan, Muslims enter a season of prayer and fasting. This is a great opportunity for the global church to join in prayer that God would open their eyes to his salvation and raise up workers to bring his good news!

Following are ways you can pray for Muslim people:

- **Join 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim world**
Download a prayer guide (www.pray30days.org) for the Muslim world and start praying for hundreds of Muslim communities. (John 14:13)
- **Pray for church planting movements among Muslim people groups**
Pray for movements to faith in Jesus among the Muslim communities, for thousands of them to be baptized and discipled. (Matthew 28:19)
- **Pray for the witness of Muslim background believers**
Pray for the believers in Muslim-majority nations to be enthusiastic witnesses, sharing their faith in Christ with their community in a meaningful way. (1 Peter 3:15)
- **Pray for the proximate church to have a heart and ministry of reconciliation**
Pray for those churches with a near language, culture, or geography to have a burden and intentionally plant churches among their Muslim neighbors. (2 Corinthians 5:18–20)
- **Pray for collaborative efforts in the global church to reach the Muslim world**
Pray for unity and partnerships, and that the global church can work together to devote greater efforts towards the Muslim world.
- **Pray for scriptures to be available in all languages**
Pray for written and oral translations of the scriptures to be made available to people groups who do not have a Bible in their language. (1 Corinthians 14:10–11)