VMMissions JUNE 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by: Clinton and Susie Bridge			May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6 (NIV)			1 Today is the second day of the Motorcycle for Missions fundraiser for VMMissions. Pray for a safe ride and good fellowship as riders join in supporting the cause of mission.
2 As Norma Teles celebrates her birthday today in Lezhë, Albania, ask God to encourage and bless her as she plans to travel to the U.S. this summer to connect and share with supporters and churches.	3 Pray for the Rafael and Solange Tartari family in Albania as they are far away but deeply impacted by flooding devastation in southern Brazil that has affected their family members and home communities.	4 As David Stutzman celebrates his birthday today in Mannheim, Germany, pray that the spiritual seekers he connects with will find spiritual homes as followers of Jesus.	5 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 in the jail for God and a busy schedule.	6 Lift up church planter Alfonso Alvarado, serving at Iglesia Menonita Monte Moriah in Timberville, Va. Ask God to supply finances he needs for his ministry as his Ministry Support Team hosts a fundraiser this month.	7 In Central Asia, visa rules have changed and the visas for 12 teammates planning to join the Launch Team in the next year have become more complicated. Ask God to make a way through this red tape.	8 Pray for participants planning to go on E ³ Collective teams this summer and fall. Ask God to bless the preparation and the experience as a taste of life on mission. Lift up the trip leaders and coaches.
9 Pray for God's provision, wisdom, and creativity for God's people in producing opportunities for sustainable work, an important need for the health and sustainability of Jesus movements around the world.	10 Lift up Raleigh and Opal (names changed) and their family, serving in North Africa. Pray for this season of gospel sowing. May it bear fruit in their context among Berber people unreached by the gospel.	11 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.	12 Pray for the continuing reconciliation between the Vasto and Termoli congregations in Italy that the Shawn and Laura Green family serve among, after years of tensions between the churches.	13 Today through Saturday, VMMissions is hosting an in-person training in Spanish on how to multiply disciples, leaders and churches using the Four Fields model. Pray for opportunities to use this practical tool.	14 Lift up Lewis and Ashley Roberts, serving as interns in recovery ministry in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray for ministry and life balance, for partners to come alongside, and for monthly financial provision.	15 The James and Anne family (names changed), workers in South Asia, are currently on home assignment in the U.S. Ask God for a time of healthy refreshment and engagement with their networks of support.
16 Lift up the Arab people group of Morocco. Almost entirely Muslim, only 1 in 1,250 people are followers of Jesus. Pray for workers to enter the harvest and for local believers to share their hope in Jesus.	17 Join Juan José Lagos, church planter at Iglesia Renuevo in Winston-Salem, NC, in praying for the church's weekly evangelism efforts, including Bible studies during the week to reach their neighbors.	18 Pray for Isaan church leaders and members of Life Enrichment Church in Thailand as they implement their vision for church multiplication. Also pray for two worker families as they help engage in this vision.	19 Pray for staff member Martin Rhodes as he wraps up his sabbatical in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, at the end of the month. Pray that he will feel refreshed and ready to jump back into his work at VMMissions on July 1.	20 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.	21 Pray that the gospel seeds planted in Milot, Albania, by Dan and Mary Hess will bear fruit for God's kingdom. Ask the Lord for peace as Dan and Mary finish their assignment on July 1 and return to the U.S.	22 Pray for the SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) Summer Faith Adventure. In addition to a sense of belonging and purpose, pray for a fresh revelation of the good news of Jesus.
23 (23) Pray for openness and kairos moments for youth from Enciende Una Luz, Harrisonburg, Va., as they begin an E ³ Collective Border Perspective trip to the US/ Mexico border today. 30	24 Lift up the ministry of Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed), serving in a slum in Southeast Asia. Ask God to open the hearts of neighbors as the love of Christ is demonstrated by this worker family.	25 Join with Nathan Carr in praying for others to step in and help at Resurrected Ministries, Harrisonburg, Va. The ministry is also in need of financial support and assistance.	26 Lift up those who serve with The Soil and The Seed Project, including Seth and Theresa Crissman. Their new release is Ordinary Time Volume 10. May it help sow the gospel in the hearts of families and faith communities.	27 Pray for the gospel to reach the Jat people group of India, who are Sikhs. Only 1 in 50 people are followers of Jesus. Ask God for gospel workers to come and live among them, especially believers in Jesus who were formerly Sikh.	28 Pray for college ministry workers Joyel Allen (Mary Baldwin University, Staunton, Va.) and Olivia Kasidiaris (James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.) Both are completing their assignments this month.	29 Pray for the first graduates of SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) as they launch out into the world of adulthood. Pray that they continue to share the message of Jesus and disciple others to deeper relationship.

Ways to Pray

By inviting others into the rhythms of prayer in our lives, we're inviting them to more fully discover the nature of God and kingdom of God.

I am struck by several key components of prayer:

- Praise and worship of God should be the starting point for prayer. When we worship, we align our soul, mind and spirit with God, bringing our focus to the Lord rather than our own tiredness or worries.
- Applying the truth of God is a simple yet powerful form of prayer. This means claiming the promises that God has already given, aligning our prayers with the word of God, reminding God of his word and promises.
- **Prayer sometimes requires persistence.** Sometimes you have to tell God the same thing you told him yesterday. Jesus also encouraged his disciples to keep praying without giving up in the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18.
- When we pray, we should have an expectation that God will respond. Our faith may waver, but that expectation is an act of faith. As our prayers come from a burning desire to see God move and answer, we will see God begin to reveal himself.
- **Prayer needs to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.** Pastor Wendy Malvaez explains it this way: "God begins to reveal what is happening and how we should be praying through impressions, dreams, visions, and words of knowledge. The Holy Spirit labors through us, giving us a burden of something God wants to do on earth."
- Corporate prayer provides community for believers who are seeking the Lord. When we come together to prayer we can feel supported, knowing that others are joining with us. Praying in community also helps us better hear from God as our brothers and sisters around us share what they are hearing through the Holy Spirit.

SOUTH ASIA

The James and Anne family (names changed) serve among the world's largest unreached people group in South Asia. James works with media outreach to this people group alongside people from both Christian and Muslim backgrounds. Praise God for this growing ministry.

They write, "We think about 20 local believers are involved in media outreach through about four organizations. The amount of collaboration and fruitfulness is growing. Our team is thinking of what steps there are to coming to faith, and which ones seekers get stuck at. They are having incredible conversations with locals who want to learn how to become free from sin. Pray for the team of folks who are coaching this media outreach program, and for God's protection over their families, health, and faith."

ALBANIA

Over the past few months, **Dan and Mary Hess**, serving in Milot, Albania, have had the opportunity to take a number of youth to the nearby city of Lezhë to participate in a Baptist church's youth ministry group.

They write, "These have been encouraging times for our youth to mix with [other] youth who have a deeper and more foundational relationship with Christ. Most of our youth are in the baby steps of their faith or have yet to commit their lives to Christ, so it is good for them to see a different perspective and lifestyle from youth who are ahead of them in their faith. Many of these youth share about their faith openly and apply it to their struggles in life. These are things that we can't really teach our youth, so it has been a blessing to be a part of this."

PRAY FOR BOLDNESS.

Mission workers need supernatural boldness to proclaim the gospel, especially in areas where Christians face intense persecution.

You can pray that:

- They will not give in to fear but will remember that God has not given them a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).
- They will be filled with the Holy Spirit to courageously and boldly preach the gospel not just with words, but in power (1 Thessalonians 1:5, 1 Corinthians 2:4).

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel." – Ephesians 6:19

PRAY FOR PEOPLE WITH OPEN HEARTS.

Through the power of prayer, hearts that are resistant to the gospel can be softened and become fertile soil for the truth to grow and produce fruit (Matthew 13:1-23).

You can pray that:

- Any barriers that would keep people from following Jesus, such as family, fear of persecution, false religions, etc., will be broken down by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Their hearts will be soft, receptive, and open to the gospel.
- God will deliver them from spiritual blindness and supernaturally open their eyes to the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4-6).
- God will lead them to a community of believers and that they will become disciples who produce much fruit for God's glory.