

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.</p> <p>Ephesians 6:18a (NIV)</p>	<p>1 Pray for the Shalom Church in Palermo, Italy, where tranSend interns Marcello and Marianna Arrostuto are serving. They purchased a new facility and are praying for persons to come as the church begins outreach this month.</p>	<p>2 As Max Z. (name changed) celebrates his birthday today, ask God to work through the many details as his family prepares to move to Central Asia and join the VMissions business for transformation team.</p>	<p>3 Pray for the Thailand team and Life Enrichment Church as they create a program to help new mission workers get a good start to serving long-term in the Isaan region.</p>	<p>4 Pray for visas for 12 people planning to join the Central Asia team in the next year. The government rules changed and now the educational center they've used before is no longer able to provide student visas.</p>	<p>5 This is a busy season for workers who are beginning their ministry or entering a new term of service to build networks of support. Pray for God's abundant provision and the support of partners to meet the needs.</p>	<p>6 Pray for the discipleship and outreach efforts of VMissions' international church partners: the Italian Mennonite Church, Jamaica Mennonite Church, and the Mennonite Church of Trinidad & Tobago.</p>
<p>7 Ask God for favor for Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo and church planter Juan José Lagos as they seek to reach their neighbors and those in need of the gospel in Winston-Salem, N.C.</p>	<p>8 Pray that international students participating in the intensive English program of Immerse International, Millersville, Pa., will be deeply impacted by the gospel message. Lift up worker Michael Hershey as he serves them.</p>	<p>9 Pray for strength and encouragement for tranSend intern Rissa Martin as she receives and orients volunteers from all over the world to Agape Home, an orphanage near Chiang Mai, Thailand.</p>	<p>10 Ask God for encouragement for members of Ministry Support Teams (MSTs) as they faithfully partner with workers to support them through prayer, communication, financial coordination, and sometimes field visits.</p>	<p>11 Pray for the Hausa people group of West Africa, most of whom live in Nigeria and Niger. A group of nearly 39 million, only 1 in 1,000 are followers of Jesus. Ask God to send workers and local believers to reach them.</p>	<p>12 Pray for the church that Shawn and Laura Green serve in Termoli, Italy, as they seek to demonstrate and share an authentic relationship with Jesus in a largely post-Christian context.</p>	<p>13 As MCC Appalachia Build (formerly SWAP) Location Coordinators Lee and Peg Martin are preparing to end their assignment in August and move back to Harrisonburg, Va., pray for God's guidance through this major transition.</p>
<p>14 Lift up church planters Armando and Veronica Sanchez and ask God to bless them and their church as they reach out to neighbors with the gospel and multiply disciples through Iglesia Shalom in Waynesboro, Va.</p>	<p>15 Pray with Hannah Shultz, serving in Harrisonburg, Va., that participants in Summer Worship Camp this week will encounter God and dedicate their lives to worshipping Him in steadfast allegiance, obedience and grateful service.</p>	<p>16 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>17 As Rafael Tartari, serving with his family in Shkodër, Albania, celebrates his birthday today, pray that God will encourage and bless him and his family as they discern their next ministry location.</p>	<p>18 James and Anne (names changed), serving in South Asia, have a dream of an expanded local team of 3-4 worker units in their previous city. Ask God to raise up workers for this harvest field.</p>	<p>19 Pray for God's strength and encouragement for Randall Schlabach as he leads a recovery ministry from pornography addiction for men in Holmes and Wayne counties in Ohio.</p>	<p>20 Pray for God's calling on people to go to the harvest fields near and far to share the good news of Jesus and for partnerships to support the work.</p>
<p>21 As Anita Rahma (name changed) celebrates her birthday today in Southeast Asia, pray for God's encouragement and protection as she and her family live incarnationally in a slum community and run an early education center.</p>	<p>22 Lift up Diomedes Franco as he celebrates his birthday tomorrow. Pray for his ministry and areas of gospel impact in La Vega, Dominican Republic.</p>	<p>23 As Theresa Crissman celebrates her birthday today in the Shenandoah Valley, pray for her ministry alongside her husband Seth with The Soil and The Seed Project as they build faith in households through music and scripture.</p>	<p>24 Pray for financial provision for the Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin family, serving in Bangkok, Thailand, as they partner with supporters to raise funds for their next two-year term.</p>	<p>25 Today and tomorrow, new VMissions workers have an orientation training. Lift up this time of listening to God, learning, and preparation for ministry in the field.</p>	<p>26 As Yacoub Rasul (name changed) celebrates his birthday today, pray for continued favor and impact among Arabic-speaking people in the Shenandoah Valley as he models a gospel witness among them.</p>	<p>27 Pray for church leaders of ministry partner Life Enrichment Church in Thailand to recognize the importance of connecting with youth and to empower and support those in youth ministry.</p>
<p>28 Lift up the VMissions Worker Retreat beginning this afternoon at Highland Retreat. Over several days, workers and staff will worship, fellowship, and pray for each other, engaging the theme Gospel Fluency.</p>	<p>29 Pray for workers and local believers to impact the Hindu Ilavan people group (also known as Izhava) of almost 7 million with the gospel. Mostly living on the southern tip of India, only 1 in 5,000 are believed to follow Jesus.</p>	<p>30 Pray for David and Marta (names changed) and their children serving in Central Asia, as they continue to build relationships and seek to share God's good news in a mostly unreached area.</p>	<p>31 As Nathan Carr celebrates his birthday today, pray for God to lead and bless the development and vision of Resurrected Ministries, Nathan's organization that seeks to create a recovery house in Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p> <p>Jim Good</p>		

Call to Prayer

In times past, people would have sought out the church or ministers for counsel and wisdom on life's questions. Today, rarely do people in a post-Christian society have that inclination to seek out the church. It just wouldn't occur to anyone. Yet, when I am talking to people, there is sometimes an underlying curiosity about what I, as a Christian, might have to share.

So, in these moments, when I sense that we are talking about more than just the surface issues, I take the time to listen and to discern my role as a witness to Jesus Christ. Mostly, I do so softly, sharing my perspectives on how I live my life and what I believe. Sometimes, I offer the wisdom and counsel present in the scriptures. More often, I offer to take their concerns or worries into prayer.

I had occasion to ask several friends within our church community about their observations of how hope is understood in our modern society. I also asked the question, what is hope for us Christians? I liked the answer given by Thomas, a young student in Mannheim: God is near and always will be. He cited Deuteronomy 31:8 (NASB): "The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Thomas said, "In God being near, God knows me and understands me. My hope is that I will also continue to meet God in times of suffering or pain, for God understands and knows suffering."

Like Thomas, I have learned that I have a different starting point and expectation for what to hope for in this life. Life doesn't promise to be absent of hardship, pain or suffering. That things will be made right is something that may happen in my lifetime or not, but I trust that God is at work, reconciling the world to himself. I place my hope in the fact that God is near. If we gain hope from God's nearness, then being near to others is a way we can incarnationally share that hope with others. When the world seems upside down, we have a chance to practice presence with people. It is entering that space with people—with humility and patience, in confidence and faith—that we have a unique message of hope that is suited for the strange and difficult times we are in. And we can join them in prayer knowing that God is near.

—DAVID STUTZMAN, serving in Mannheim, Germany

Answers to Prayer

HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

Vicki Barnes, serving in college ministry at Eastern Mennonite University with Every Nation Campus, helped coordinate an annual End of the School Year Bash with food, kickball, water activities, and worship. Over 80 people attended.

She writes, "One of the greatest joys of campus ministry is being able to celebrate our students, especially our seniors! Some of them came into college with a well-established faith in God. Others chose to start taking their faith seriously while in college, or chose Christ for the first time.

Our students have grown deeper in faith and belief in God, have involved themselves in community, and have continued to lean on God as their rock in the middle of all moments. Join me in praying for the next generation of college graduates that were just sent out into their fields of work and influence—pray that they continue to lean on God and honor him in all that they do."

MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed) have been preparing for their international student ministry at the YWAM Myrtle Beach base this summer. Adam writes that many exchange students are now arriving in Myrtle Beach to work in the tourist industry for the summer, and so far two students have been welcomed in to the YWAM house.

"While I was helping set up one of the rooms, I learned from one of the leaders that a student from East Asia who gave his life to Christ last year was able to recruit a number of his friends from home to come this year! We are excited, and ask you to join us in praying for the international student ministry this summer, and that God will open students' hearts to the gospel."

Ways to Pray

Pray for mission workers and their relationship with God, spiritual rest, maturity in the faith, and overflow of the Spirit. "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). *(All references ESV.)*

Pray for their physical well-being, health, safety, finances, and stamina in stressful conditions. "Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men" (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2).

Pray for their emotional well-being, peace, joy, and hope that abounds. "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word" (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17).

Pray for financial provision from God through faithful partners. "I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God" (Philippians 4:18).

Pray for courage, obedience to the Spirit, and the advancement of the gospel in their work and ministry. "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Pray they will rely on the Lord for ministry success and depend on him in prayer. "To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).

Pray for their team's effectiveness and unity. "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind" (Philippians 2:1-2).

Pray for more workers to join them on the mission field. "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

Pray for their local friendships, for open hearts, and transformed lives. "At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ" (Colossians 4:3).

Pray for the country, government, and the local people. "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jer. 29:7).