

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p> <p>Bob and Rosalie Eshleman, in loving memory of their son, Lee Eshleman</p>			<p>Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14 (NIV)</p>	<p>1 As VMissions finishes its fiscal year at the end of this month, pray for God's provision in meeting our Mission Fund goal by August 31. Ask God to lead partners in the mission to give generously.</p>	<p>2 Lift up the Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin family as they arrive back in Bangkok, Thailand, early this month and as they plan to begin a sabbatical at the end of August. Pray for the adjustment to new rhythms and experiences.</p>	<p>3 Pray for the outreach efforts of Shalom Church in Palermo, Italy, as they share the gospel and Christian literature while providing water and juice to those passing by at the local urban market.</p>
<p>4 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>5 Pray for workers who long to see people discipled at a heart level—to see the gospel transform not just their religious allegiance but their inner dreams, emotions, and identity—and for wisdom in carrying this longing each day.</p>	<p>6 As Rebekka Stutzman, who serves in Mannheim, Germany, celebrates her birthday today, pray that the Lord will bear good fruit through her church planting and networking ministry alongside her husband David and their children.</p>	<p>7 Two workers share a birthday today. Ask God to lift up Laura Green in Termoli, Italy, and Solange Tartari, serving in Shkodër, Albania, as they faithfully serve the Lord and multiply disciples in their contexts.</p>	<p>8 Pray for Baker Rigg, chaplain at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, Harrisonburg, Va., as he ministers to inmates. Pray that the spiritual hunger and growth he has seen in the jail continues and multiplies.</p>	<p>9 Join Joyel Allen, serving in college ministry at Mary Baldwin University, Staunton, Va., in praying that the transformational work God started in students this past year will continue and grow as the new school year begins.</p>	<p>10 Join Norma Teles in praying for the girl's club she hosts at the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania. Pray that through questions and conversations, God will demonstrate the truth of Jesus' love and salvation through faith.</p>
<p>11 Anita Rahma (name changed), serving in Southeast Asia, recently launched her first book in the local language. Pray that this book will be a blessing for Christians there and inspire others to serve in slum communities.</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 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>14 Ask God to engage and equip the Christian church in Albania to be a light illuminating God's kingdom in that country and beyond, and inviting others to join the family of God.</p>	<p>15 As Veronica Sanchez celebrates her birthday today, lift up her church planting ministry alongside her husband Armando at Iglesia Shalom in Waynesboro, Va. Ask God to bless her with good opportunities and fruitfulness.</p>	<p>16 Join Mark and Sarah Schoenhals, serving in Det Udom, Thailand, in praying for a new Ministry Support Team (MST) leader to come alongside them in support of their ministry.</p>	<p>17 In situations where decisions to follow Jesus result in family or cultural persecution, pray for God to strengthen believers' faith and show the transformation of new life in Jesus.</p>
<p>18 Pray for Clay Kauffman and Brynn Yoder, interns serving with Highland Retreat, Bergton, Va., as they end their assignments next month and discern where God is leading each one in the months and years ahead.</p>	<p>19 Lift up workers currently engaged in ministry partnership development. Ask God to provide meaningful connections and to invite the right people to become prayer and financial partners.</p>	<p>20 Pray for the Malay people of Malaysia, a Muslim people group almost entirely unreached by the gospel. Only 1 in 1,250 people follow Jesus and face harsh penalties for Christian evangelism.</p>	<p>21 Lift up James and Anne (names changed), serving in South Asia. Ask the Lord to bless and enrich their ministry of outreach and discipleship with Muslim-background spiritual seekers and new believers in South Asia.</p>	<p>22 Pray that international students going in the 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>23 Lift up the VMissions board meeting today and tomorrow in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray for a Spirit-led time of gathering and wisdom as the board makes decisions and guides the direction of VMissions.</p>	<p>24 Join church planter Juan José Lagos in praying for those who have recently accepted Christ at Iglesia Cristiana Renevo, Winston-Salem, N.C. The church has focused on evangelism and discipleship. Pray for multiplying fruit.</p>
<p>25 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>26 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>27 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>28 Pray for the Sinhalese people of Sri Lanka. A majority Buddhist people, only 1 in 14 people follow Jesus. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send missionaries who can witness to the Sinhalese in culturally relevant ways.</p>	<p>29 Lift up international students that Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed), serving with YWAM Myrtle Beach, S.C., have shared the gospel with this summer. Pray for the Lord to transform their hearts and minds as they return home.</p>	<p>30 Pray for God's comfort, peace, and guidance as Lee and Peg end their assignment with MCC Appalachia Build (formerly SWAP) in West Virginia this month and return to Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>31 As worker David R. (name changed) celebrates his birthday today in Central Asia, ask the Lord for favor in language learning and relationship-building as he serves with his family among an unreached people group.</p>

Call to Prayer

In June, our church planned a very special celebration of baptism and communion, during which three people had the opportunity to publicly witness the transformation that Jesus made in their lives and despite all the challenges they faced in deciding their faith, they remained firm and convinced of God's work in their lives.

M., who in past years celebrated the Feast of Sacrifice with her Muslim family, this time celebrated the new life in Christ with her family of faith. Unfortunately, no one from her family came to attend the service, which we understood very well, and we pray that in God's time the truth and love of Jesus will touch their hearts.

C. and P., despite coming from a Catholic family, are being persecuted by their own tribes. This is very common in Albania. Here families are organized into tribes, are extreme followers of religious traditions, and all decisions are based on what will bring them shame or honor. Because of this cultural context, most people who convert go through many challenges, conflicts, and discouragement.

C. with his wife and two little children have been living with his parents (which is common here). When the elder of the tribe (his oldest uncle) discovered that he and his wife had been baptized, he gathered all the men of the tribe and went to their house accusing them of embarrassing the tribe for "switching religion" and tried to force them to go back on their decision. C. did not accept it, and so the tribe has disinherited him, which means he is now dead to them, and he must leave home with his wife and children. This is a very complicated situation, and as a local church we are providing spiritual support and providing a place for the family to live.

At this time they really need the prayers of their family of faith, and especially for the family elders who are at the center of it all. In this situation, we pray that God works in their hearts, transforming all hatred and indifference into love, and transforms the conflict into peace. We praise God that despite everything, we see growth and firmness of C. and P. with the Lord.

—RAFAEL TARTARI, serving in Shkodër, Albania

Answers to Prayer



BORDER PERSPECTIVE

At the end of June and beginning of July, a team of youth from Enciende Una Luz, Harrisonburg, Va., spent a week at the Texas/Mexico border along with two couples and VM Missions worker **Hannah Shultz** to participate in Border Perspective, an E³ Collective trip.

Trip leaders reported that the experience was very spiritually and missionally impactful for the youth, and they were excited to share the love of Jesus with folks coming across the border with great spiritual and physical need.

Hannah wrote, "Praise God for the body of Christ! It is beautiful to be part of God's global family and to share His goodness with others together! The prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. I believe that the prayers that have been prayed are opening spiritual doors that we wouldn't be able to walk through otherwise—that hearts are being softened for the truth that we get to share!"

Ways to Pray

Pray along with the Tartari family for those who have made decisions for Christ that have resulted in persecution:

- May the Lord strengthen the faith of these brothers and sisters who courageously made the decision for Jesus.
- May they be a connection of light and blessing to their families and communities. May many see the transformation that Jesus made in their lives.
- Pray that God will do a wonderful work in the lives of other people in the church who have been attending services for over a year, but who still face the challenge of their families agreeing and respecting their decisions.
- For Muslim peoples around the world that they may have the opportunity to come to the full knowledge of the truth through the grace and love of Jesus.
- For strength, health, and wisdom to guide these new believers through difficult circumstances.