

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>As Paulo Silva (name changed) celebrates his birthday today, ask the Lord to strengthen and expand his ministry of mentoring and supporting workers on the Central Asia Launch Team and in outreach to local friends.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>VMissions begins a new fiscal year this month. Pray for the generous abundance of God's provision to allow VMissions to turn ministry plans into reality.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Join Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed), serving with YWAM Myrtle Beach, S.C., in praying that several students they have been walking with will fully open their hearts to Jesus.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pray for Yosiah Rahma (name changed), serving in a slum in Southeast Asia, and his family as his mother passed away in early August after a stroke. Pray for God's comfort and for a good adjustment as his father now lives with Yosiah and Anita.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>As Michael Hershey celebrates his birthday today, lift up his ministry with Immerse International in Millersville, Pa. Pray that international students going in the program will be deeply impacted by the gospel message.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>As college students have returned to campuses, lift up workers serving in college ministry. Pray for openness to the gospel and a longing for God's goodness to impact students towards faith in Jesus.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pray for the all-day Interface training with pastors and church leaders happening today and September 14 at the VMissions Barn. This program focuses on the development of missional churches.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Join James and Anne (names changed), serving in South Asia, in praying for the end of violence in their country. Pray that both sides would listen to each other, and pray for those in power to choose justice instead of corruption.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>As Marcello Arrostuto celebrates his birthday today, lift up his internship at Shalom Church, Palermo, Italy, alongside his wife Marianna. Ask the Lord to bless their engagement in ministry and their young family.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>With instability and political uncertainty in Venezuela, join Jorge and Ginny Enciso, network partners serving in Bogotá, Colombia, in praying for Francys and Pedro, house church leaders in Maracay, Venezuela, to continue to lead wisely and lovingly.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pray for SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) as that program launches Discipleship Cohort #3 in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray that God's Spirit will anoint leaders and parents in their work of discipling the next generation.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pray for the Italian Mennonite Church as members engage in evangelism and share God's message of redemption in a largely post-Christian context.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Baker Rigg, chaplain at Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, is travelling to Utah with his family for his son's wedding. Pray for safe travels and a blessed time, and for wisdom in managing the affairs of the chaplaincy.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Pray for the transition of Lee and Peg Martin back to living in Harrisonburg, Va., after seven years with Mennonite Central Committee in West Virginia, and for workers to continue the ministry of MCC Appalachia Build.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Lift up Jay (name changed) who leads the Business for Transformation Launch Team in Central Asia, which helps new workers get established for the first two years. Pray for guidance to support the team well.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>As Mark Schoenhals celebrates his birthday today in Thailand, lift up his family's ministry among the Isaan people group in Det Udom. Ask God for an outpouring of gospel impact and vision for the work ahead.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Today, the VMissions Global Team is engaging in an offsite team retreat to reflect, process, and plan for the next year. Pray for clarity and focus as the team looks ahead.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pray for the marketplace ministry of Ben and Risa Yutzy, Timberville, Va., as they sow the gospel and make disciples, as they have seen the fruit of multiplication among new disciples.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Last month, Jamaica Mennonite Church held a Youth Camp. 57 campers heard the good news of the gospel over four days, and 18 youth responded to the invitation of Jesus. Pray for the discipleship of these new believers.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Today is Bike Shenandoah, an annual bicycling event in Harrisonburg, Va., which raises funds for VMissions and four other local organizations. Pray for rider safety and good fellowship.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Pray for Shawn and Laura Green and their children, serving in Termoli, Italy. Ask God for encouragement, meaningful relationships, and multiplying kingdom fruit as they faithfully serve the Lord in Italy.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pray for the gospel to reach the 13.7 million Vanniyar people, mostly found in southeast India. Almost all of them are Hindus; only about 1 in 72 are followers of Jesus.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>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>25</p> <p>Lift up the ministry of church planter and pastor Juan José Lagos at Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo in Winston-Salem, N.C. Ask God for strength and favor in reaching and inviting neighbors to transformation in Christ.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pray for Rafael and Solange Tartari, serving in Shkodër, Albania, as they meet with people for one-on-one faith conversations and equip the local church to engage every person God has put around them.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pray for God to lead the right person to serve as an intern with SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest), an adventure and discipleship program led by director Ken Wettig in Harrisonburg, Va.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Ask the Lord for favor and endurance for church planter and pastor Alfonso Alvarado as he faithfully lives his call to minister to God's people at Iglesia Monte Moriah, Timberville, Va.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Lift up the partner relationships built and strengthened during home assignment for a number of workers earlier this year. Ask God to help workers communicate their ministry needs and activities well with their bases of support.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pray for significant impact in the ministry of Randall Schlabach to men in recovery from pornography addiction through Christian recovery programs in Holmes and Wayne counties in Ohio.</p>	<p>This month's prayer calendar is sponsored by:</p> <p>Raymond and Naomi Ressler</p>		<p>"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."</p> <p>John 14:1-3 (ESV)</p>		

Call to Prayer

At the beginning of May, two of my classmates and friends from Eastern Mennonite University and I embarked on a life-shaking experience for five weeks. Through our connections with VMissions workers Yosiah and Anita (names changed), lots of prayer, and other nudges from God, we were given the opportunity to travel outside of what we know and live in a slum located in Southeast Asia.

One of our main goals was to live with and get to know the incredible people who live there. We did this mainly by playing with the many children in the slum community who come to the free kindergarten that Yosiah and Anita started. As we began to learn the local language (a little), we were able to help the children with their reading and math homework. To say that I learned a lot and experienced people's never-ending generosity is an understatement.

It was amazing that even though the communication barrier was difficult, I felt very connected to my host family. There were incredible things I saw and participated in. These included playing with the school kids at a playground, conversations about faith with my host mother, growing closer with my friends who came with me, visiting a local Mennonite church, learning and growing with Yosiah and Anita's family, and seeing God's work and love in the slum. There were also the challenges of constant heat with no air conditioning, dengue fever, visa problems, homesickness, feeling tired and drained, or just feeling helpless. But the challenges were just as important for me as the good things, if not more so. They made me turn to Christ each day and I continued to see his faithfulness and provision come through.

Coming home, I feel as though my faith in Jesus has only gotten stronger as I have seen his power being revealed to me. I continue to pray for my host family, for Yosiah and Anita and their family, and for all of the slums in that country. I pray the people there will know Jesus and that God's work will continue to be done. I hope you will too.

“But He said unto me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.” —2 Corinthians 12:9

—HALIE MAST, served in Southeast Asia, May-June 2024

Answers to Prayer

EVERY NATION CAMPUS CONFERENCE

Currently, the four VMissions workers serving in college ministry serve with Every Nation Campus (ENC), supported by their sending congregation Divine Unity Community Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Vicki Barnes, serving at Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Va., joined campus ministers and interns across North America at the ENC Staff Summit in Orlando, Florida, to rejuvenate, connect with fellow missionaries, and gain additional tools and professional development. The Staff Summit led into another conference for church staff, pastors, and leaders to realign with ENC's mission and vision, and develop relationships with other churches and individuals.

Vicki writes, “We are celebrating 30 years as Every Nation! I am thankful to be a part of an organization that seeks to honor God and make disciples in all nations. This year, I went into these spaces desiring to make new connections and hear God's voice about what he is wanting to do around the nation, and how he wants to use me. I was able to meet some amazing new missionaries, and I received more clarity about my call to ministry. We spent time praying for our church plants, for the nations that we have reached, and for un-reached nations.

I deeply enjoy being able to do this work and am thankful for sweet moments to gather as believers, to worship together, to be equipped and challenged, and leave encouraged. But, I also recognize the burden to continue doing what God has commanded: ‘Go and make disciples of all nations.’ I am excited for all that God will do as we continue reaching college students with the gospel!”

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/