

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's calendar is sponsored by Evonne Showalter</p>		<p>1 One year ago, a major earthquake struck in the mountains of southern Morocco. Pray for God's continuing provision and comfort as the people rebuild and mourn those lost. May God's peace and light shine in that place.</p>	<p>2 Pray for Mosaic of Grace Church, Harrisonburg, Va., as they invite friends and neighbors to weekly small groups for Bible study, food and fellowship. Pray that people will come hungry to know and grow in Jesus.</p>	<p>3 Today and tomorrow, VMissions is hosting an Interface Training, a program that focuses on establishing missional thinking and practice as a core purpose for churches. Pray for an impactful time together.</p>	<p>4 Pray for the growth and health of the Conoscere Gesù church in Bari, Italy, a member of the Italian Mennonite Church, and for their outreach efforts.</p>	<p>5 Join David and Marta (names changed) in praying for opportunities to connect with local believers in their Central Asian context as they build relationships and continue language learning.</p>
<p>6 As a new school year has started at the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania, pray for the kids and mothers as Norma Teles and other staff teach them about Jesus and develop their life skills.</p>	<p>7 Lift up the planning and preparations for a Perspectives class, to be held at Eastside Church in Harrisonburg, Va., beginning in January 2025. Pray for wisdom and direction for each of the course teachers and the planning committee.</p>	<p>8 Pray for several individuals who are exploring or preparing for service in the Isaan region of Thailand, and pray for workers and local church partners as they also prepare.</p>	<p>9 Lift up the South Asian country where workers James and Anne (names changed) serve. After a recent government collapse, the country now faces its worst flood in 37 years. Pray for God to provide for the overwhelming need.</p>	<p>10 Join church planters serving Spanish-speaking communities in the US in praying for connections with new families and youth as they share God's good news and gather together. Pray for good kingdom fruit to result.</p>	<p>11 Lift up Baker Rigg, chaplain at the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail, Harrisonburg, Va., as he meets with many inmates and manages a very full schedule to meet a growing hunger in the jail for God.</p>	<p>12 Join Joyel Allen, serving in college ministry at Mary Baldwin University, in praying that God will guide students to encounter the love of God, and that many will come to know Jesus as Lord.</p>
<p>13 Pray for God to strengthen the ministries in Mannheim, Germany, that David and Rebekka Stutzman are working with to bring believers and spiritual seekers together and bear witness to God's love in a post-Christian context.</p>	<p>14 Lift up next year's E³ Collective teams, asking the Holy Spirit to bring together churches and groups to experience the impact of service and mission. Pray for the right leaders, partners, and participants to join.</p>	<p>15 Pray for the children of mission workers who are serving around the world with their parents. Ask God to grant them a deep sense of daily care, grace, and belonging wherever they are.</p>	<p>16 Join Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed), serving at YWAM Myrtle Beach, in praying for creative ways to invest in the children and families in their afterschool program and for impactful results.</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 Pray for the marketplace ministry of Ben and Risa Yutzy, Timberville, Va., as they seek to be disciple-makers in everyday situations and as they teach and train others to do the same on their dairy farm and in the local community.</p>	<p>19 Pray for Isaan church leaders and members of Life Enrichment Church in Thailand as they implement their vision for church multiplication.</p>
<p>20 Join Rafael and Solange Tartari in praying for the Holy Spirit's work and transformation in the lives of each person they reach out to in Shkodër, Albania, as they discern their future assignment in the region.</p>	<p>21 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.</p>	<p>22 Pray for the gospel to reach the Turkmen, an Islamic people group of 8.8 million mostly residing in Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. Only 1 in 2,000 are followers of Jesus, with no known evangelical presence.</p>	<p>23 As Shawn Green celebrates his birthday today in Termoli, Italy, praise God for the way he and his wife Laura have responded to God's call to serve in Italy for the past nine years. Ask the Lord for multiplying kingdom fruit.</p>	<p>24 Pray for the church in Venezuela to live and share the gospel with neighbors across divides, amid political persecutions and incarcerations following an election widely seen as fraudulent.</p>	<p>25 Pray for the Soil+Seed Festival, today through Sunday at Highland Retreat, Bergton, Va., and its spiritual impact. This is an intergenerational retreat and gathering to rest, worship, sing, play, connect, and be together.</p>	<p>26 As Em (name changed) celebrates her birthday today in Central Asia, pray for many opportunities for deep connections with people through her work and in her life who are open to the good news of Jesus.</p>
<p>27 Pray for Nathan Carr, serving in Harrisonburg, Va., as he works to establish a recovery ministry called Resurrected Ministries and builds networks of support in order to help people who have struggled with addiction.</p>	<p>28 Join Marcello Arrostuto and Marianna Vaglica, tranSend interns serving the Shalom congregation in Palermo, Italy, in praying for the growth of the church through outreach and discipleship.</p>	<p>29 Pray for Jesus to become known among the Biafada, a small Muslim people group of Guinea-Bissau, West Africa. There are very few, if any, followers of Jesus among the people group.</p>	<p>30 As Jay (name changed) celebrates his birthday today in Central Asia, ask God to guide his leadership of the launch team as they serve among the Uzbek people group. Pray for receptive hearts and multiplication.</p>	<p>31 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.</p>	<p>"For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41:13 (NIV)</p>	

Call to Prayer

In September, six VMissions staff members traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, to attend the annual Missio Nexus conference, gathering with representatives of many other agencies and churches. The theme was “Priority” and explored the progress made and the need remaining to reach the world’s people groups 50 years after Ralph Winter introduced the concept of unreached people groups (UPGs) as a strategic focus for the Great Commission at Lausanne in 1974. We see the continuing need for cross-cultural ambassadors to go with the good news to the approximately 7,000 remaining UPGs, most of whom live in the 67 countries of the 10/40 Window, a swath of the globe stretching from North Africa in the west to Japan in the east.

Focus on UPGs has led to mission organizations and churches learning about people groups that would likely never have the opportunity to hear the gospel unless someone crossed barriers of understanding and acceptance. In addition to praying for people groups in distant places, some have found ways to visit and develop relational ties or send long-term workers. Some developed friendships with neighbors from UPGs much closer to home. VMissions increasingly partners with churches in the global south, the majority Christian world, as they send workers to live and work among UPGs as ambassadors of the gospel. Many of these sent ones continue to work in the professions they practiced in their passport nations.

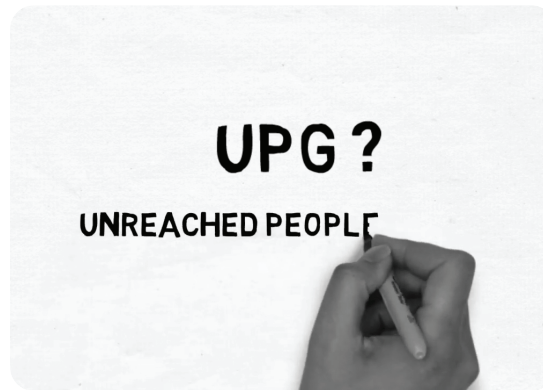
Jesus came as a baby to a particular people shaped by language and culture. He learned language and proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom from within a culture. And just as Jesus crossed barriers of understanding and acceptance, he invites his followers to do the same. After receiving the promised Holy Spirit, the disciples would be witnesses of the gospel in four categories of places: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). None of these represented home for Jesus’ listeners that day, most of whom were Galileans.

This work remains unfinished by Jesus’ own criteria. Jesus said, “[T]his gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:12-14). Let’s intentionally live toward the day when we’ll join “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language” (Rev. 7:9) in worship around the throne of the crucified Lamb.

—JASON RHODES SHOWALTER

Prayer for UPGs

It is estimated that of the 8 billion people alive in the world today, 3.4 billion of them live in unreached people groups with little or no access to the gospel of Jesus Christ. According to Joshua Project, there are approximately 17,446 unique people groups in the world with 7,391 of them considered unreached (over 42% of the world’s population). The vast majority (85%) of these least reached groups exist in the 10/40 window and less than 3% of missionary work is done among these people.



Watch a brief video to learn more:
([youtube.com/watch?v=4nbXRuStiiE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nbXRuStiiE))



People Group: an ethnolinguistic group with a common self-identity that is shared by the various members. The most dominant identifier of a people group is their language, but each unique people group also shares a common history and customs. For strategic purposes, a people group is the largest group through which the gospel can flow without encountering significant barriers of understanding and acceptance. In the Bible, the Greek word “ethne” is often translated “nations” but really means ethnic groups or people groups.

Content courtesy of Global Frontier Missions:
<https://www.globalfrontiermissions.org/>

Ways to Pray

Reaching the whole world with the gospel was God’s mission from the beginning. He is the one with enough compassion and resources to reach every people group on earth. Despite not needing our help, God delights in inviting us into his business, and the first and most powerful step is through prayer. Oswald Chambers wrote, “Prayer doesn’t prepare us for the work, prayer is the work.”

Building a habit of prayer for the nations can take many forms. You might set an alarm to pray for a few minutes each day at a certain time or incorporate it into mealtime prayer. You could take a neighborhood prayer walk every Tuesday afternoon and invite others along or start a prayer group at your church. You might decide to pause and pray as current events come up in daily news or conversation. All of these can aid to incorporate learning more about unreached people groups and inviting others into these prayer habits.

While it is sometimes difficult to see the effects of prayer, consider how prayer has already impacted the world. Immediately after directing His disciples to pray, Jesus sent them out to preach the good news (Mt 10, Luke 10). Over two thousand years later, thousands of people groups all over the world have been reached and continue to spread the good news. Let us faithfully pray to God, who does immeasurably more than we ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20), to let His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven (Mt 6:10), across every nation and tribe and people and language (Rev. 7:9) . . . until all have heard.

Getting Started

- Incorporate prayer for the nations into mealtime prayer.
- Use the unreached people group of the day prayer guide from Joshua Project ([joshuaproject.net](https://www.joshuaproject.net)).

Going Deeper

- Connect with some mission workers from your local area. Pray for them and communicate with them.
- Start a group to pray for the nations. Use a video resource like Prayercast ([prayercast.com](https://www.prayercast.com)) to pray for specific needs along with local believers.