


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month's calendar is sponsored by:</p>  <p>Neighbors Serving Neighbors®</p>			<p>“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”</p> <p>John 10:10-11 (NIV)</p>		<p>1</p> <p>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>2</p> <p>Pray for the ministry funding needs of Baker Rigg, serving as a jail chaplain in Harrisonburg, Va. Ask for the Lord's blessing on Baker's upcoming speaking engagements.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Adam and Elise Sauder (names changed), serving at YWAM Myrtle Beach, S.C., are expecting their first child, a girl, to arrive this month. Pray for God to grant them good health and a safe delivery.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pray for Mosaic of Grace Church, Harrisonburg, Va., as they seek to make disciples and plant new churches. Pray for wisdom, courage and unity as they discern the Spirit's direction.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>The Mark and Sarah Schoenhals family, serving in Det Udom, Thailand, is navigating a number of challenges. Pray for health, wisdom, and peace.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pray for the VMissions team in Central Asia and for relationships to grow to allow for deeper faith discussions with the interns' host families, language teachers, and other staff.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Lift up leader Allan Lorenzana and the participants in a three-day workshop training on the Four Fields model of discipleship and multiplication beginning today in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray for good ministry impact.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Lift up the ministry of the David and Rebekka Stutzman family in Mannheim, Germany. Pray that the Lord will continue to bear good fruit through their outreach and networking ministry.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>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>10</p> <p>Lift up Raleigh and Opal (names changed) and their family as they serve among an unreached people group in North Africa. Ask God to bless and encourage them, and enhance their vision and ministry.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>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>12</p> <p>As Marianna Vaglica celebrates her birthday today, pray for God's blessing in her ministry internship in the Shalom congregation of Palermo, Italy, alongside her husband Marcello Arrostuto and son Elia.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>As planning continues for the Perspectives class in Harrisonburg beginning January 6, lift up the coordinating team and the presenters who will share. Pray for the students God is preparing to take the course.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Ask the Lord to lead youth to participate and experience deep impact through the ministry of SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest), an adventure and discipleship program based in the Shenandoah Valley that Ken Wettig leads.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Join Norma Teles in praying for the girl's club she hosts at the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania. Pray that God will enlighten their minds and hearts to the truth and that they will respond in faith.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pray for the gathering of partners in God's mission through VMissions today at a Partner Appreciation Banquet at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church to worship, share a meal, and hear stories from workers.</p>
<p>17</p> <p>This afternoon beginning at 4:00 pm, Festival of Praise returns after five years for a worshipful concert of men's a cappella singing groups and combined chorus. An offering will benefit the ministries of VMissions.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pray for the Bambara people, most of whom live in Mali, West Africa, and overwhelmingly practice Islam. Only one in 25 are followers of Jesus.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>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>20</p> <p>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>21</p> <p>Pray for a good work/life balance for workers. Ask God to provide good family times. It's very easy to get too busy and not invest in family, and both the family and the ministry can suffer.</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>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>24</p> <p>Join Rafael and Solange Tartari in praying for the Holy Spirit's transformation in the lives of each person they have been discipling in Shkodër, Albania. Pray for clarity in discerning their future assignment and timing.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pray for the Mandarin-speaking Han Chinese, the world's largest people group. Although great progress has been made, and tens of millions follow Jesus today, more than half (53%) of the people group are non-religious.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Lift up VMissions workers as they pray when no spiritual movement seems to be happening, for encouragement to keep persevering in prayer. Ask God to reveal glimpses of his work in those situations.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Lift up the early education ministry House of Hope, run by workers Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed) in Southeast Asia, and pray for the children who come to learn every day, and for their families.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>On Thanksgiving, pray for VMissions workers around the world to always carry the joy of life in Jesus and to give thanks in all circumstances, even if they are far away from family on this special day of gathering.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pray for the health and growth of the church in Palermo, Italy, where Marcello Arrostuto and Marianna Vaglica are serving as ministry interns.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>As the global church begins Advent tomorrow, pray that the Lord's people will intentionally prepare our hearts for Jesus' birthday celebration and its transformative significance in our daily lives.</p>

Call to Prayer

My wife Theresa and I work together every day, partnering together as followers of Jesus. We tend the garden of our family. We team together professionally through our work at VM Missions and with church communities and neighborhoods. Working, playing, parenting as followers of Jesus. Seeking to make Christ and Christ's kingdom known.

About five years ago, Theresa suggested that we begin a few faith rhythms as a family, mostly concerning Sabbath. We've job-shared and worked bi-vocationally, and at times it has been difficult to stop and disengage and receive God's rest. So we outlined our hopes—as well as the “why” behind the practices we were about to embark on—and started! It felt risky, but right.

Here's what we did:

- As much as possible, we completed all work before stopping to Sabbath on Saturday.
- We sang the same songs every Saturday evening.
- We got out the same candle, and said the same prayers.
- We practiced putting away technology for 24 hours.

Allowing God's word to take root in the soil of our family in a new way has been profound. This new movement was really something very old in my life, old seeds that were planted in me long ago by my parents and siblings. My family did something very similar growing up. Every week we paused. We remembered. We lit candles and read scripture and sang songs. We “sabbathed.”

Those simple Sabbath seeds lay dormant for a while in my life, and I'm grateful for this resurrected Sabbath seed sown into my life through my parents' faithfulness.

God has been doing new, beautiful things in our family as we have paused, and prayed, and remembered God who saves and liberates and frees us, and leads us in paths of righteousness and justice.

As we pause, we can better understand God's love which saves us from sin and violence and oppression and hatred and indifference. This is good fruit that God is growing from the seed of Sabbath that has taken root in our lives.

—SETH CRISSMAN

Worker Focus



Worker profile: Norma Teles

Service program:
tranForm

Serving since: 1999

Assignment: Since 2005, all of my energy and attention has been on serving the Roma community in Lezhë, Albania, through a learning center called the Joshua Center. The Roma are a people group formerly known as gypsies. As historically itinerant travelers and merchants, they have often experienced exclusion and discrimination, and sometimes outright violence. When I noticed that the Roma children did not feel comfortable at children's meetings even in the church, lacked basic skills, and were not attending school, I began a ministry that grew to become the Center.

We now serve 30+ children ages three to six in a part-time preschool program, offering a safe place with educational and recreational activities. We also encourage the participation of their families. I also connect regularly through a girls club with older girls aged 9-19 and with a group of mothers.

Biggest challenge: It has been a really big challenge to engage the family in the process of learning. Some parents don't see the importance of education. But this challenge has opened the opportunity to work with the mothers every two weeks, and it has been very encouraging to see them grow.

Biggest joy: I have great joy when I see a child come to Jesus! One of the first lessons in our curriculum is about how God loves each of them and how they are special. As they internalize these simple lessons, such as “I am special. I am a child of God,” it impacts the way they see themselves and their true worth, and helps their families see them that way too.

Ways to Pray

Pray for the Roma people:

- **Health and daily needs:** Pray for God's provision of enough food and against hunger. Pray for access to medicines and medical care.
- **Poverty:** Pray for God to make a way for each Roma family to have employment with dignity, and enough resources to feed, house, and clothe each one.
- **Wisdom and insight:** Pray that God will give wisdom and insight to those working with local churches and organizations to reach the Roma.
- **Attitudes:** Pray that Christians who live as neighbors to Roma people will reject their social stigmatization and make an effort to reach and share the love of Jesus with them.
- **Church:** Pray for majority-culture churches to be places of true welcome for the Roma and to not perpetuate social attitudes of discrimination.
- **Scripture:** Pray that scriptures and other materials will reach the hearts of the Roma and stir a desire for more of God's word in their own language.
- **Mutual acceptance:** Pray for peace and mutual acceptance between the Roma and their neighbors' cultures.
- **Roma churches:** Pray that Roma churches will ask God for strength and wisdom to care for their people's needs.
- **Outreach:** Pray for winning and effective outreach to the Roma people with the gospel.
- **Education:** Pray for children and young people who often don't go to school. Pray for attitudes to change, embracing the importance of education.
- **Vacation Bible School:** Pray for blessings on VBS and youth group programs for the Roma.