

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NIV)		The May calendar is sponsored by:  BLUE RIDGE HEARING CENTER, INC. May is “Hearing Month”		1 Pray for the European Worker Retreat which runs through May 4. Ask God for a special time of bonding, spiritual nourishment, and refreshment as workers worship and learn together in Albania.	2 Pray for the Mark and Sarah Schoenhals family who serve in Thailand as they finish the school year and plan for their home assignment in the US from mid-May to mid-August, as well as planning for the next school year.	3 As Seth Crissman celebrates his birthday today, pray for God’s continued blessing on his life and impactful ministry through The Soil and The Seed Project, Harrisonburg, Virginia.
4 It is a time of uncertainty in the slum community in Southeast Asia where Yosiah and Anita Rahma (names changed) serve, as the government announced a possible mass eviction. Pray for mercy and hope.	5 Pray for opportunities for Ben and Risa Yutzy, Marketplace Workers in Timberville, Va., to bring people together, share the gospel, and make disciples on their farm and in their community.	6 Pray for sustaining grace and a supportive Thai community for Fernando Valencia, a new teammate of workers Steve Horst and Bethany Tobin from Peru who is following God’s call to Bangkok, Thailand, this month.	7 Lift up Baker Rigg, chaplain at Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail in Harrisonburg, Va. Pray for the increasing demands of ministry connected to his role, and ask God to direct his appointments with inmates.	8 Pray for God’s blessing and endurance as the Carlin and Chass Kreider family finalizes many details in preparation for their mission assignment in Panama City, Panama, beginning in August.	9 Pray for the ministry of Norma Teles as she meets with groups of mothers and girls at the Joshua Center in Lezhë, Albania. Pray for meaningful ways to communicate the gospel, and for their openness to faith.	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.
11 In the unreached country in South Asia where James and Anne (names changed) serve, local believers live with a lot of pressure and persecution of all sorts. Pray that workers will know how to best support these local believers.	12 Pray that international students going into the Immerse International program, Millersville, Pa., will be deeply impacted by the gospel message. Lift up worker Michael Hershey as he serves them.	13 Pray for the SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest) Summer Faith Adventure. In addition to a sense of belonging and purpose, pray for a fresh revelation of the good news of Jesus. Lift up Ken Wettig, SLAQ director.	14 Ask God to guide Ruth Rivera as she prepares to join the new Isaan Doorways program, arriving in Thailand in July. Ruth is from Honduras and will serve through VMissions and UB Global.	15 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.	16 As Randall Schalabach meets with men seeking recovery from addiction to pornography in Wayne and Holmes counties in Ohio, pray for new men looking for help to find his developing ministry called Eleftheria.	17 Today is Putt For Missions, a mini-golf fundraiser for VMissions. Pray for a safe, fun, and meaningful time of fellowship among all ages.
18 Pray for workers to share the gospel among the Khalka, the largest group of Mongols in Mongolia, who mostly follow Buddhism. Only 1 in 71 people are followers of Jesus.	19 Lift up this 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.	20 Pray for Steve Horst, serving in Thailand, as he begins to coach new workers in another context in May. Pray that Steve will be a vessel of God’s encouragement and wisdom in a growing team of new workers.	21 Join church planters Mike and Risha Metzler in praying that their church, Mosaic of Grace, Harrisonburg, Virginia, will grow in trusting God, in loving each other, and in imagination for God’s mission.	22 Nathan and Anya Stan (names changed) and their daughters are serving on the Central Asia business for transformation (B4T) Launch Team. Pray for them in this year of intense language study and cultural immersion.	23 Lift up the ministry of the David and Rebekka Stutzman family in Mannheim, Germany. Pray that the Lord will bear good fruit through their church planting and networking ministry.	24 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.
25 Lift up Raleigh and Opal (names changed) and their family, serving in North Africa among gospel-unreached Berber people. Recently they have experienced some encouraging answers to prayer.	26 As church planter Alfonso Alvarado celebrates his birthday today, ask the Lord for favor and endurance as Alfonso faithfully lives his call to minister to God’s people at Iglesia Monte Moriah, Timberville, Virginia.	27 Praise the Lord for new workers who are joining teams around the world. 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.	28 Join the Tartari family, serving in Shkodër, Albania, in praying for Albanian men. Reaching them in particular with the gospel takes a lot of hard work and the results are not immediate. Pray for God to move in their hearts.	29 Pray for the marketplace ministry of Carl Strite, using his Strite’s Donuts business in Harrisonburg, Va., as a means to share the gospel at various events and connect with those far from God.	30 Pray for the gospel to be known among the Persian people of Iran, who are overwhelmingly followers of Shia Islam, and for the few believers there: only 1 in 55 are followers of Jesus.	31 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.

Call to Prayer

You and I were made for work! Not just the work we do in exchange for a paycheck, but the common vocation we engage because we have given our lives to the Lord Jesus. In giving our lives to Jesus, we discover that there is something that our Lord wants us to do.

One of those things he wants us to do is to pray.

And despite the volumes written and sermons preached, if I am to be honest, there is nothing in my Christian life quite as challenging and counter-intuitive as this work of prayer.

In what sense is prayer work? I would not argue that it is work because something is accomplished by virtue of our doing it. If prayer had some sort of straightforward causal function, it would suggest that we, rather than God, were in the driver's seat. Not so! Prayer for me is work because it is a vigorous expression of belief and belief is hard work.

In John 6, when the disciples ask Jesus what they must do to do the works of God, Jesus says "believe in the one he has sent." When we pray, we are joining the likes of blind Bartemaeus who cried out with importunity as Jesus passed on the road, "Lord, have mercy upon me!" We entreat and implore because we can't fix the things that are wrong. Yet, there is nothing weak and pathetic about the prayers we direct towards our Lord.

To turn to God in prayer is not the same as shrugging our shoulders and saying nothing can be done. No! Our prayer is a faith stand—a vigorous expression of confidence, an insistence that God is indeed the one before whom our complaint and appeal must be laid.

And even more challenging is the sobering realization that we have been commissioned by the Lord Jesus himself to not only cry out our appeal, but to carry his very authority in prayer!

—CAROL TOBIN, former longtime missionary in Thailand and former VM Missions staff member currently volunteering with the Harrisonburg (Virginia) Perspectives course

Worker Focus



Worker profile: Ken Wettig

Service location: Harrisonburg, Virginia
Program: transForm | **Serving since:** 2021

Assignment: I serve as the director of SLAQ (Servant Leader Quest), a program that seeks to raise up diverse cohorts among the next generation of serving leaders in the way of Jesus through outdoor adventures, community service, and "crucial conversations." We come alongside both Christian families and the local church to create formative experiences that both support and challenge youth in developing the kind of character and leadership that we see in the person of Jesus.

Biggest challenge: Time. We live in such a busy culture, and unfortunately the same is true for high school-aged youth as well. So, making sure the schedule is laid out months in advance, and that all the various pieces are well-communicated represents much of the challenge in this sort of ministry. Finally, just getting out of the way and letting the Holy Spirit work among the Serving Leaders and youth as they really own the learning experience.

Biggest joy: Every aspect of the cohort takes significant levels of behind-the-scenes coordination and planning, which can be taxing, but once that work reaches its intended purpose—our learning activities—it is all worth it. Whether the outdoor excursion, the community service, or the crucial conversations, the youth bring a lot of energy and excitement to everything we do, and I find it an honor to be a part of it every time.

Ways to Pray

PRAY FOR OPEN DOORS

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word..." (Colossians 4:2,3)

- Pray that God will open doors of ministry, partnership, and friendship.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead mission workers.

PRAY FOR BOLDNESS

"Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel... Pray that I may declare it boldly." (Ephesians 6:19-20)

- Pray for effective cross-cultural communication.
- Pray for boldness to speak God's Word.

PRAY THAT THE WORD OF GOD WILL SPREAD

"Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere." (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

- Pray that spiritual forces of evil will not hinder the spread of the gospel.
- Pray that the Word of God will be received with joy.

PRAY FOR PROTECTION

"Pray that we may be rescued from wicked and evil people; for not all have faith." (2 Thessalonians 3:2)

- Pray that the Lord will guard mission workers from the evil one.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will change the hearts of those who hear the Word.

Pray for God's guidance in travel; pray for refreshment of body, mind, and spirit

"Pray that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company." (Romans 15:32)

- Pray for protection and provision in travel.
- Pray for spiritual refreshment from the Holy Spirit in the company of other believers.