



Christian
Reformed
Church

PRAYER GUIDE

APRIL 2024

“... for he is praying.”

—Acts 9:11

1 MONDAY (ReFrame Ministries) *Chinese ministry*—A new video series from ReFrame’s Chinese ministry team aims to equip Chinese speakers with new ideas for using media to share the Christian faith. Pray that Chinese-speaking believers will have access to the new video series and gain new skills to share their faith.

2 TUESDAY (Thrive) *Germany*—Please pray for overseas military chaplain Raidel Leon Martinez (Air Force), who serves in Germany. Pray for protection, strength, and resiliency as he attends to the spiritual needs of many service members during this volatile time in Eastern Europe.

3 WEDNESDAY (Resonate Global Mission) *North America*—Give thanks for Pastor Obelto Cherubin, who is working with Resonate and Classis Southeast U.S. to plant churches with Haitians living in North America. Please ask God to guide and provide for this work.

4 THURSDAY (World Renew) *Laos*—Praise God with us that Laos remains stable politically. The economy, however, has struggled since the global pandemic. Currency depreciation has brought many challenges to people’s livelihoods. Despite these difficulties,

World Renew is still at work in many vulnerable communities. Please pray for economic stability in the region and for prosperity for struggling families.

5 FRIDAY (Calvin Theological Seminary) *Handlon prison*—The seminary teaches and works with men in the Handlon prison in Ionia, Mich., through partnerships with the Celebration Fellowship congregation and with Calvin University in the Calvin Prison Initiative. Pray for the students as they learn and minister in their context.

6 SATURDAY (Resonate) *Missionaries*—Pray for all of the Resonate missionaries who recently moved to their fields and are settling in, building relationships, and learning the local language.

7 SUNDAY (ReFrame) *English ministry*—As the author of April’s *Today* devotions, Darrell Delaney is offering practical biblical advice for the many challenges Christians face today. Pray that Darrell’s words—both in the *Today* reflections and at a live online event for readers—will help more people look to Scripture for God’s wisdom and advice.

8 MONDAY (Thrive) *Gather: Minneapolis*—Pray for organizers as they prepare for the inaugural Gather

event taking place in Minnesota later this month (Apr. 19-21). In this first of ten planned events, five Christian Reformed classes are coming together to bear witness to God's work in their local contexts and to discern where God may be leading them into renewed ministry and mission.

9 TUESDAY (Resonate) *Alberta*—“Several students are asking a lot of questions about church and Christianity. I invite them to services and other ministry events, but so far they have not attended. . . . I'm praying the Holy Spirit will break through their hesitancy and resistance and move them forward in their spiritual journeys,” shared George Koopmans, a Resonate partner campus minister at Medicine Hat College.

10 WEDNESDAY (World Renew) *Gaza*—In grief-filled prayer we stand alongside people in the Gaza region experiencing unfathomable suffering. We pray that all may “seek peace and pursue it” (Ps. 34:14). May God's peace reign to help us be instruments of his peace, seeing all people as his imagebearers, worthy of love.

11 THURSDAY (Indigenous Christian Fellowship) *Programming*—Due to staff transitions and COVID restrictions, our Home Fires Family Youth activities remain significantly limited. Ask the Creator's Spirit to bless staff and volunteers with insight, passion, creativity, and love as they develop and deliver culturally appropriate programs to inner-city Indigenous families.

12 FRIDAY (Resonate) *Lithuania*—“Please continue to pray for peace in all of the regions our students come from, asking that they will become peacemakers,” say Resonate missionaries Tricia and Benjamin Groenewold Van Dyk serving at LCC International University. LCC welcomes students from Ukraine and many other countries experiencing war and conflict right now.

13 SATURDAY (ReFrame) *India*—ReFrame's Hindi ministry leader in northern India asks you to pray for Christians in Bihar. “Recently some incidents resulted in violence against Christian pastors,” he shared. “There is an increase in the violent interruption of Sunday worship.”

14 SUNDAY (Thrive) *Abuse Awareness Sunday*—“In every anxious thought we have, in all our current chaos and uncertainty, in every war that is raging in and around us . . . In all the . . . conflict we experience with one another . . . In every active struggle against injustice, in every hurt that yearns for healing: may the peace of Christ rest upon us and be our comfort today” (Haley Montgomery).

15 MONDAY (Resonate) *Michigan*—A Resonate partner church planter in Michigan is giving thanks that two women have started attending church, reading the Bible, and praying faithfully. “It was so exciting to see the growth and joy in these women. We are anticipating baptizing them this summer,” said the church planter.

16 TUESDAY (World Renew)
Creation care—Praise God with us for the ever-growing number of churches partnering with our Climate Witness Project, which provides a network and resources for education, worship, energy stewardship, and advocacy for making a real difference in creation care. On Earth Day next week (Apr. 22), pray that the program will continue to bless and equip churches across North America.

17 WEDNESDAY (ReFrame)
Japan—Pray for Sasuke, a Japanese listener who shared, “As I celebrate my 81st birthday, I thank you for the emotional support I’ve received through this broadcast over the years. May God grant me the gift of continued listening, and may his presence be felt in every moment.”

18 THURSDAY (Resonate) *Cohorts*—Resonate’s Cohort initiative is recruiting young adults to serve in Central America, Detroit, Europe, and the Middle East. Cohort is an opportunity for young adults to live in community, serve in a grassroots ministry, and engage in deep spiritual formation while learning about joining God on mission. Pray for the candidates the Lord is guiding into these opportunities.

19 FRIDAY (CRC Communications)
Gather events—The first of ten Gather events, designed to bring together five classes each for mutual story sharing and inspiration, begins today in Minneapolis, Minn. Classes Lake Superior, Huron, Hackensack, Lake Erie, and Columbia will gather today until Sunday.

20 SATURDAY (Thrive) *Middle East*—God of peace, who loves us and the people of Israel and Palestine, who loves the powerless and the powerful alike, we cry out to you. Bring your salvation near to us, O Lord. We pray for an end to hostage taking and killings. We pray for an end of vengeance, of terror, and of threats. Amen!

21 SUNDAY (Resonate) *Sierra Leone*—Pray for Resonate ministry partners serving the Christian Reformed Church in Sierra Leone as they work to spread the gospel in hard-to-reach communities. They are facilitating Timothy Leadership Training, discipling people, building relationships with people, and more.

22 MONDAY (Climate Witness Project) *Earth Day*—Creator God, all creation proclaims you, from the heavens above to the earth below. Thank you for the earth that continues to sustain us, in spite of our lack of care and stewardship. May our eyes see your creation in all its splendor. May we consider your creation in every action. May we see you in all we do. Amen!

23 TUESDAY (ReFrame) *Russian ministry*—Every month 25-50 Christians gather online to discuss books from a Christian perspective. Pray for members of this Russian ministry book club. May thought-provoking discussions about the Christian faith help each member grow in their understanding of Scripture.

24 WEDNESDAY (Resonate)
Japan—Although less than one percent of Japan’s population identifies as Christian, Resonate missionaries Ken and

Jeannie Lee give thanks that churches in Japan are growing and working hard to share the gospel. Please pray for the Lees as they work with these churches and disciple young leaders.

25 THURSDAY (World Renew) *Disaster Response Services* (DRS)—Across North America, volunteerism is down from prepandemic participation. Pray that World Renew's Disaster Response Services (DRS) ministry team will have the capacity to continue rebuilding homes and hope through volunteer services. Give thanks that new volunteers have committed to serve disaster survivors in Louisiana and Florida this year.

26 FRIDAY (Thrive) *Youth and young adults*—Pray for the continued faith formation of youth and emerging adults as we partner with the TENx10 initiative: helping faith matter more to 10 million young people over the next 10 years, offering resources to prioritize youth discipleship and sparking an ecumenical movement that supports underresourced youth leaders.

27 SATURDAY (Resonate) *Ontario*—Anthony and Barbara Pennings, Resonate ministry partners who work with Indigenous communities in Ontario, ask you to pray for the M'Chigeeng community where they serve. Ask the Holy Spirit to help guide the Pennings

as they seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

28 SUNDAY (GEMS Girls' Clubs) *GEMS Sunday*—Thank God for using GEMS to raise up girls and leaders in faith for 66 years. Their identity is LOVED, and their call is to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Mic. 6:8). Ask God to continue to equip leaders on their mission to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

29 MONDAY (ReFrame) *English*—Pray for Juan and Joe, who read *Today* devotions from prison. "I need prayer for guidance and patience," Juan writes. "I would like to pray for my brother-in-Christ, Joe, because he is leaving here and returning to the outside world, where there will be more temptation and influence."

30 TUESDAY (World Renew) *Ukraine*—Today, more than two years after the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the conflict continues. Ask God for provision for the hungry, safety and shelter for the displaced, and healing for all. May God continue to guide us, our supporters, and our partners to share hope and love with vulnerable people struggling from hunger, poverty, and injustice.

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