



Christian
Reformed
Church

PRAYER GUIDE **SEPTEMBER 2019**

I will pray with my spirit,
but I will also pray with my understanding.

—1 Corinthians 14:15

1 SUNDAY (Dordt University) *Students and leaders*—Please pray for safe travels for students making their way (back) to our campus this month. Pray also for a great start to the new academic year, wisdom for the leaders of Dordt, and a hunger in the student body for more of Jesus in their lives.

2 MONDAY (Raise Up Global Ministries) *Unity*—Experiencing unity in diversity is one of God’s richest blessings for his people. In August an Educational Care training brought Cambodian, South Korean, Australian, and Filipino Christian school teachers together to help make their schools, classrooms, and lives more Christlike. Pray for these teachers as they implement into their daily teaching what they have learned.

3 TUESDAY (Calvin Theological Seminary) *New year*—It’s the start of a new academic year. We rejoice in another year of strong enrollment, including about 25 M.Div. students. Pray for returning students, and for transitions for new students, including those from four countries outside the U.S. and Canada.

4 WEDNESDAY (Back to God Ministries International) *Scotland*—Sarah, who serves a church in Aberdeen, Scotland, recently shared that she found our Kids Corner website a great resource for her children’s ministry. Pray for Sarah and other children’s ministry leaders around the world as they prepare lesson plans for a new year of Sunday school.

5 THURSDAY (Resonate Global Mission) *Cohort program*—Pray for young adults who are serving, or considering serving, in a Resonate cohort in Central America, the Middle East, and Detroit. Ask God to equip them and guide them as they follow Christ.

6 FRIDAY (World Renew) *Southern Africa*—Three months ago Cyclone Idai swept through southern Africa, causing catastrophic flooding that affected millions of people. With the help of local partners like the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, World Renew responded with food, blankets, oil, and seeds for planting new crops. Please continue to pray for strength, resilience, and healing for all who are affected.

7 SATURDAY (Centre for Public Dialogue) *Schools*—As children head back to school, we ask for your prayers for underfunded First Nations schools. The grade 12 graduation rate for Indigenous students is 24 percent, compared to a national average around 90 percent (2017 data). Please pray for the Education Together campaign of the Center for Public Dialogue as we advocate for structural changes to resolve this issue.

8 SUNDAY (Resonate) *North America*—Many individuals and families are finding community at Resonate church plants throughout North America. Pray especially for the youth who are part of these churches. Ask

God to provide them with mentors who will encourage and disciple them to grow in faith.

9 MONDAY (Candidacy Committee) *Ministry*—A number of candidates for ministry approved by Synod 2019 are praying for opportunities to serve in ministry. Please pray with them for an affirmation of their calling, for a placement in ministry that matches their gifts, and for patience as they seek and wait. Pray also for a group of ordained pastors affiliating with the CRC who will gather for an orientation event Sept. 11-20 in western Michigan.

10 TUESDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Russia*—A volunteer with our Russian ministry team has been meeting with a young man who came to faith in Christ after several calls in to our radio program. Praise God for the meaningful conversations this volunteer had with the young man. Pray that this young believer will continue to grow in his newfound faith.

11 WEDNESDAY (Resonate) *South Africa*—Give thanks for students from Kingsway Christian School in South Africa who were able to learn more about who they are as children of God through a reflective photography program facilitated by Resonate missionary Megan Ribbens. Pray that they will experience God's redeeming love every day of their lives.

12 THURSDAY (World Renew) *Bangladesh*—Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are struggling to survive. Work opportunities are scarce, and food is in short supply. World Renew is committed to keep working in the refugee camps for five years—funding permitting—to help some of the most vulnerable people in the world. We praise

God for his unceasing faithfulness, and we pray that he will continue to provide hope and healing for Rohingya families.

13 FRIDAY (Pastor Church Resources) *Conference*—This weekend, Sept. 12-14, pastors from all over Canada and the United States will gather for our Refreshed for the Call conference in Calgary, Alta. The focus will be on well-being—which is important for pastors and ultimately their congregations. Pray for renewal, refreshment, great fellowship, and a commitment to care for themselves.

14 SATURDAY (Faith Formation Ministries) *Generations*—Pray for churches who long to connect people across generations, for older adults who are wondering what it looks like to follow Jesus in their retirement years, and for younger adults who are navigating faithful discipleship in a rapidly changing culture. Please also pray for Faith Formation Ministries as we seek to help churches form faith in people of all ages.

15 SUNDAY (Resonate) *Dominican Republic*—Scarlet experienced God's grace when she attended Emmanuel Christian Reformed School, a Resonate partner in the Dominican Republic. "Please pray for me, since I still have [challenges] in my life," said Scarlet. "But mostly give thanks to God for what he has done."

16 MONDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Brazil*—Juliana recently contacted our Portuguese ministry team. She asked for prayers because her husband of six years left her, and she has since fallen into a deep depression that caused her to lose her job. Pray for healing in this situation. Pray that

Juliana will continue to lean on Christ to get her through this agonizing time in her life.

17 TUESDAY (World Renew) *Cambodia*—In Cambodia, 72 subsistence farmers are partnering with us to begin their small-business journey: from growing enough to feed their families, to growing and selling for the market. Together we are discerning how to make markets work for the rural poor. Pray with us that God will continue to bless these communities as they acquire the skills and resources they need to thrive.

18 WEDNESDAY (Disability Concerns) *Fellowship*—As churches begin another season of education and ministry programs, ask that God will give wisdom and a spirit of hospitality to youth leaders, Sunday school teachers, and all others so that children and youth with disabilities are fully welcomed, involved, and engaged in church life.

19 THURSDAY (Resonate) *World-wide*—Pray for the many Resonate missionaries who serve at Resonate partner schools throughout the world. Ask God to make himself known to students as missionaries teach, serve, and build relationships with them.

20 FRIDAY (Ecumenical and Inter-faith Relations Committee) *Nigeria*—As Christians in Nigeria face mounting opposition, we pray for the members of the Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria (CRCN), a church in communion with the CRCNA. We pray for God's protection and peace for our Nigerian sisters and brothers.

21 SATURDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Burkina Faso*—Praise God for Luc, a man who recently came to

our offices in Burkina Faso and shared that he wanted to know more after hearing some of our radio messages. Pray along with our French ministry team as they offer pastoral advice to the many people like Luc who want to follow up after hearing our radio broadcasts.

22 SUNDAY (Safe Church) *Awareness*—Today is Abuse Awareness Sunday. Pray that many churches use the resources offered by Safe Church to shed light on the problem of abuse, a subject that too often remains hidden among us.

23 MONDAY (Youth Unlimited) *100 Years*—At Youth Unlimited we are excited to celebrate our anniversary and "100 Years of Belonging to God." We have collaborated with CRC congregations over the past century through SWIM, SERVE, Convention, and other ministry offerings. Please join us in thanking God for the impact this ministry has had on the lives of young people and for the many ways he has provided for Youth Unlimited.

24 TUESDAY (Resonate) *Central Asia*—Give praise with Resonate missionaries in Central Asia! Two young people in their fellowship have become believers and are passionately sharing their faith with seekers. Pray that as these new believers share the good news of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will guide many more to faith.

25 WEDNESDAY (World Renew) *Mali*—World Renew has been endeavoring to share the truth of the ethnic conflict in Mali with its communities—overcoming language barriers, rumors, and war tactics that are misleading. Hundreds of civilians, including women and children, have

been killed in attacks on villages, and many more have been displaced. Ethnic tensions are high. Please continue to pray for peace for everyone affected by this conflict.

26 THURSDAY (Back to God Ministries) *India*—Some regions of India recently passed new postal laws that make it more difficult for our Hindi ministry to mail Christian materials. “Pray that readers will still be able to access the *Masihi Ahwan* (‘Christian Calling’) magazine and *Dainik Bhojan* (‘Daily Devotions’),” shares the Hindi ministry team.

27 FRIDAY (Resonate) *New Mexico*—Pray for students and teachers at Zuni Christian Mission School, a Resonate partner in New Mexico. “Pray that students in Zuni would hear and receive the story of God’s love for them,” said Principal Tim Becksvoort.

28 SATURDAY (Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee) *Ongoing work*—Please pray for this ministry as it seeks new and creative ways of forwarding reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Pray that each member of the committee may be blessed in their work. Pray for open hearts and minds in our congregations to continue meaningful dialogue.

29 SUNDAY (World Renew) *Nigeria*—Lack of transportation is a challenge for many pregnant women in rural communities in Nigeria. The resulting health complications and deaths have spurred World Renew to help community members organize and address this preventable challenge. We give praise to God that this awareness building and organizing have led to much excitement and a number of wonderful self-help initiatives that have richly blessed participating communities.

30 MONDAY (Resonate) *Honduras*—Give thanks that students at the International School in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, are learning about Jesus’ love for them. Resonate missionary Hannah Damsteegt said that six students in her class asked Jesus into their hearts this year.

 www.crcna.org

To see the latest prayer concerns online or to subscribe for weekly e-mail delivery, please visit www.crcna.org/pray.