

PRAYER GUIDE

MAY 2024

Jesus . . . [showed] them that they should always pray and not give up.

-Luke 18:1

1 WEDNESDAY (Resonate Global Mission) Ontario– Resonate missionaries Nasser and Sylvie Charliekaram, who serve in Toronto, ask you to pray for refugees worldwwide. They especially ask you to pray for their work serving immigrants and refugees who speak Farsi.

2 THURSDAY (Communications) *National Day of Prayer* (U.S.)—Join Christians across the United States today in praying for God's healing and guidance for the nation and the world. May God's will, love, and wisdom guide leaders at all levels for the good of all communities, families, and individuals.

3 FRIDAY (ReFrame Ministries) Japan—Fumio has been listening to ReFrame's morning devotional programs and journaling each day. He wrote, "The devotional reflections answer the questions I'm worried about on a daily basis and make me feel refreshed." Praise God for Fumio's growing faith.

SATURDAY (Resonate) *Mexico*—"Thank God that our former campus ministry students who have graduated are working in social work, business, and for the city," said Resonate missionary James Lee, who works with COMPA campus ministry in Mexico. Please pray for these students as they share the love of Christ in their workplaces. Lee equips them to be missionaries wherever God places them.

5 SUNDAY (Diaconal Ministries Canada) *NewGround Sunday*—God is constantly at work doing new things and making a way for positive change in unexpected places (Isa. 43:19). He calls churches to follow him into their communities to be an active part of their transformation. Pray that more churches may utilize the NewGround program (formerly Operation Manna) to help them in this calling.

6 MONDAY (World Renew) West Africa—Praise God that despite security challenges linked to armed and jihadist groups in West Africa, World Renew and partners are able to work well and meet objectives in seeing communities flourish. Pray for political and social stability in West Africa and for God's guidance as we work to extend God's love and hope to communities struggling with hunger and poverty.

TUESDAY (Resonate) *Europe*—Resonate missionaries serving among people from a Muslim background in Europe ask you to pray for a woman they are working with, that she may "grow in her trust of the Lord despite her circumstances as an asylum seeker."

8 WEDNESDAY (Thrive) Children and youth—Please pray for the spiritual development and protection of children and young people in our congregations. Pray also for children's ministry leaders, youth leaders, parents, and caregivers as they model faith practices and contribute to the faith formation of the next generation. **9 THURSDAY** (ReFrame) *Ascension Day*—Today in the worldwide church we begin a season of longing for Jesus' return. Pray that God's people around the world will continue forward with the Great Commission, as found in Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8, sharing the good news of Jesus in all languages.

10 FRIDAY (Resonate) *Tennessee*—Give thanks for the way God is working through Phil Covert, a Resonate mission network developer, and his ministry, Reality Co. Through this ministry Phil provides support for artists in Nashville. For many of the musicians connected with Reality Co., Phil has become their pastor, and the Reality Co. community has become their church.

11 SATURDAY (Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee) Oneness and grace—Father God, Creator of all of us and of all things, help us to follow your call to be one as you are one. Help us to find things that unite us with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, instead of things that divide. Have patience with us, O Lord, as we struggle to work that out.

12 SUNDAY (World Renew) *Mother's Day*—On this Mother's Day join us in praying for women's rights around the world, that women may make positive changes for their families and communities. As Psalm 146 says, God "upholds the cause of the oppressed" and "sustains the fatherless and the widow." May God bless women everywhere as they contribute to flourishing in his world.

13 MONDAY (Resonate) *Philippines*—Resonate missionaries Charles and Hensel Oh in the Philippines are wrapping up Timothy Leadership Training in the Iloilo and Bukidnon communities. Pray for leaders who participated in this training as they begin to practice what they have learned. Ask God to work through these leaders as they serve their churches and communities.

14 TUESDAY (Thrive) *Leaders*—Please pray for pastors and ministry leaders in seasons of transition, whether it be in discerning a new call or preparing for retirement. Pray for wisdom, peace, and courage to follow where the Lord leads.

15 WEDNESDAY (ReFrame) Today *devotions*—Maria reads the *Today* devotions and asks for prayers: "I'm a lonely, divorced, disabled 73-year-old woman living alone. I'm trying to renew my faith, but I'm struggling to focus."

16 THURSDAY (Indigenous Ministries) *Hearts Exchanged*— Participants in the 2023-24 season of Hearts Exchanged, a reconciliation learning and action journey, are wrapping up their learning this month. Pray for participants, including a cohort for pastors that meets today, as they consider how to use their learning in their local churches in further dialogue and action.

17 FRIDAY (World Renew) *Latin America*—Agriculture production is deteriorating in Honduras; please ask for God's provision for the growing number of families struggling with hunger. Pray too that the Nicaraguan government will continue to allow organizations like World Renew to share Christ's hope with families in crisis. As economic instability and violence worsen in this region, pray for peace and safety.

18 SATURDAY (Cadets) *Season wrap-up*—As we near the end of the Cadets season, our "Rooted and Grounded" theme, based on Ephesians 3:17-18, reminds participants of the great love of Christ. We pray that cadets and counselors will reflect that love as they continue living for Jesus.

19 SUNDAY (Resonate) *Pentecost*—The Pentecost story includes people speaking in diverse languages—and thousands of people coming to faith in Christ! Please pray for Resonate missionaries, church planters, and campus ministers as we work to spread the gospel to people of all nations.

20 MONDAY (Thrive) Reconciliation—Lord, thank you for reconciling us to you through your finished work on the cross. Father, help us to remember who we are in you. Be our strength and guide as we strengthen each other. May we be reconciled with each other. Holy Spirit, make us one. Give us the courage to walk together in unity. Lord, help us, and thank you! Amen.

21 TUESDAY (World Renew) *Diversity and development*— May 21 is the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, highlighting the essential role of intercultural dialogue toward peace and sustainable development. Pray that communities may continue to forge effective cooperation and sustain peace, that all cultural rights may be considered in public policies, and that all members of society may benefit from sustainable development.

22 WEDNESDAY (Resonate) *Dominican Republic*—Pray for a new building project for Pena de Horeb Christian School in the Dominican Republic. For many years this school has been the only one in the community. "Besides providing access to Christ-centered education, the school serves the community with a food program and a small health clinic," said Resonate missionary Mario Matos.

23 THURSDAY (ReFrame) *Benin*—Issa discovered ReFrame's French ministry broadcast, leading him to God. Despite being part of a Muslim-majority village, he now attends a Christian church weekly. His wife opposes his faith in Christ. Pray for Issa's family unity, his faith journey, and an upcoming meeting he will have with ReFrame's discipleship team.

24 FRIDAY (Redeemer University) *Students and programs*—Please pray that Redeemer University may continue to flourish in its mission of preparing students to reflect the love of Jesus Christ in every career and calling. Specifically, pray for new program developments and partnerships Redeemer is exploring that will allow more students to thrive in the years ahead.

25 SATURDAY (Resonate) Burkina Faso—After participating in Timothy Leadership Training, Joseph started a Christian school in his community in Burkina Faso. This is the only school in that community. Pray that children may not only receive an education from this school but also experience and personally come to know the love of Christ.

26 SUNDAY (Calvin Theological Seminary) Graduates— Over 50 students will be graduating this month. Rejoice with our graduates and their families and the churches and others who have supported them. Pray for them as they transition to ministry positions, further studies, or other places where God may lead them.

27 MONDAY (Thrive) *Memorial Day* (U.S.)—On this Memorial Day, we remember all who had a bright future and gave up their lives while serving their country—lives that ended too soon. We pray too for all who were left behind friends and family who felt abandoned and unknown in their grief. We live in the hope that one day all wars will cease at the coming of Jesus Christ.

28 TUESDAY (ReFrame) *Brazil*—Pray for Lorena, who follows our Portuguese ministry programs in Brazil. She writes, "I'm grateful for your biblical teachings that uplift me. In 2020, amidst battling breast cancer, I found God.... Now healed, I am blessed by your sermons on overcoming struggles.... Pray for continued health and Christ's glory through my life."

29 WEDNESDAY (World Renew) East Africa—As Kenya continues to grapple with unrest due to rising food prices, please pray for peace and stability. Praise God for rains that have allowed for crops to start growing again in this region. Pray also that we may expand community programs and share Christ's love with more families struggling with hunger, poverty, and injustice.

30 THURSDAY (Resonate) *Campus ministries*—Pray for Resonate partner campus ministries as they work to engage students throughout the summer and prepare for the fall semester. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance in all of their planning, connections, and relationship building.

31 FRIDAY (Thrive) Love—Lord, thank you for loving us unconditionally even when we don't show love toward each other. Help us to live fruitfully in relationship with each other and to love our neighbors as we love you. Move us to look beyond skin color and see your image in everyone we meet. Help us not just to talk about love but to embody it. Amen.

• www.crcna.org

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