

PRAYER GUIDE

OCTOBER 2020

Be . . . faithful in prayer.

-Romans 12:12

1 THURSDAY (Raise Up: Coffee Break) *Leaders and seekers*—Ask God to raise up new Global Coffee Break leaders, passionate for his Word; ask that seekers may have courage to join Bible study groups for the first time this fall; pray for churches' wisdom in how to host Bible study groups. Pray that we may equip leaders to share the gospel in a God-honoring, Spirit-empowered way.

2 FRIDAY (Back to God Ministries International) *Burkina Faso*—Pray with our French ministry team in Burkina Faso for a radio listener who recently failed some of her exams. "She was so sad, but the Holy Spirit gave us words of comfort for her," said Marc Nabie, French ministry leader.

SATURDAY (Resonate Global Mission) *North America*— Give thanks for the way CRC church plants in Canada and the United States equip new ministry leaders with the support of Resonate emerging leader grants. Pray for church planters and the leaders they work with in their congregations and communities. Ask God for wisdom and guidance in spreading the gospel.

SUNDAY (Leadership Diversity) *Diversity—Lord, create* hunger and thirst for a church that truly celebrates diversity. May the gifts of ethnic-minority and multiracial churches blossom with new leaders and contagious ministry. Fill your church with diverse worship, missional ministries, and support from all churches in the Christian Reformed family to pray, resource, and lift up the work of the Holy Spirit of God's diverse and unified family. Amen.

5 MONDAY (World Renew) *Disaster Response*—Hurricane Laura made landfall in southern Louisiana on Aug. 27. It was the strongest storm to hit the area in more than 160 years. Please pray for the many families and communities affected by this disaster. Pray also for World Renew staff, volunteers, and all disaster responders as the coronavirus pandemic significantly complicates response processes.

6 TUESDAY (Resonate) *Sierra Leone*—Give thanks for a new CRC church that was recently planted in Kabala, Sierra Leone. The CRC now has three churches in Kabala. The new congregation is meeting in a school, and Resonate missionary Istifanus Bahago is excited about the influence the church could have in the community. Pray that this church may draw many people into a relationship with Christ.

WEDNESDAY (Back to God Ministries) *India*—Mrs. Hiramani helps to deliver our Hindi ministry's devotional guides in India because anticonversion laws make it difficult for us to use the post office. Pray for protection for Mrs. Hiramani and others like her who help to share the gospel in places where laws make it difficult to do so. **S THURSDAY** (Calvin Theological Seminary) *Trust and rest*—Pray for students, faculty, and staff as they navigate school, families, and other obligations during the pandemic. Stress levels can get high, so pray that they will be able to take time with the One who will give them rest (Matt. 11:28).

9 FRIDAY (Resonate) *Central Asia*—Resonate missionaries in Central Asia give thanks for people's responses to online evangelism during the COVID-19 pandemic and say, "May these individuals and families continue to grow in their discovery of Jesus."

10 SATURDAY (Safe Church Ministry) *Community*— While we continue to manage a new way of connecting and supporting our churches, we are thankful for the continued support of our safe church community. We pray for guidance and direction as we continue to navigate this unique time in history.

11 SUNDAY (Chaplaincy and Care) *Discernment*— Chaplaincy and Care Ministry is currently working with over 275 prospective chaplains who are discerning their calling into ministry or beginning the educational journey to chaplaincy. Pray that the Spirit continues to form their faith and life, that we may provide meaningful support and care, and that they may find clarity in their call into this specialized ministry.

12 MONDAY (World Renew) *Canadian Thanksgiving*—As Christians across Canada count their blessings and acknowledge God's goodness today, their hearts also go out to people in need. Together, let us thank our Provider for plentiful harvests, employment opportunities, freedom of choice, and the support of friends and family—asking God to supply the needs of all who are hungry, unemployed, alone, or mistreated.

13 TUESDAY (Resonate) *Eastern Europe*—A Resonate missionary in Eastern Europe gives thanks for a man who was baptized after connecting with church planters that the missionary helped to train. Please pray for this man as he continues to learn about new life in Christ!

14 WEDNESDAY (Office of Social Justice) *United States*—As the U.S. election approaches, please pray for a safe and fair election, wisdom for leaders, and a culture of graciousness and discernment in the church. Pray that leaders will take seriously their responsibilities to address poverty and act justly in the coming months and years.

15 THURSDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Portuguese ministry*—Praise God for the ways he is working through our Portuguese ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic. A ministry follower named Sonia wrote, "I believe that God has reserved this time for me to study the Bible's truth." Pray that Sonia will continue to seek God's truth during the pandemic. **16 FRIDAY** (World Renew) *Mozambique*—In September the Mozambique government loosened COVID-19 restrictions on public and commercial activities, but COVID-19 cases continue to rise. In addition, terrorism in Cabo Delgado Province has displaced more than 250,000 persons. Pray for the churches in this region as they seek ways to support their members and neighbors in these unsettling times.

17 SATURDAY (Resonate) *Canada*—Give thanks for Tian, a student at the University of Alberta who received a Resonate Emerging Leader grant. Tian has been an influential leader for the campus ministry this past year. Please pray for her as she continues to grow in her relationship with God and in her ability to connect and share her faith with other students.

18 SUNDAY (Disability Concerns) *Disability awareness*— As we come together to celebrate Disability Awareness Sunday, we praise God and delight in the knowledge that each one of us has been designed in God's image. We are thankful for our community, which works together to realize the vision for our churches—that everybody belongs and everybody serves.

19 MONDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Japan*—Pray for Pastor Yasushi Kinki and other members of Inuyama Church. The church was recently featured in our Japanese video series, *The Church in My Town*. Pray with these brothers and sisters in Christ as they seek to share God's love with their community.

20 TUESDAY (Resonate) *United States*—A woman from Asia became a Christian after moving to the United States. Today she is part of a Bible study with Union with Christ Church, a Resonate partner church plant in California. Give thanks for the community that has formed through this Bible study. Please pray for its members as they continue to grow in faith and share about Christ with others.

21 WEDNESDAY (World Renew) *World Hunger Awareness*—This month people around the globe participate in World Hunger Awareness in honor of the founding of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in 1945. With the world on the brink of an acute food crisis, let's join with God in renewing the lives of over 800 million hungry people worldwide, praying that he may transform hunger into hope.

22 THURSDAY (Indigenous Christian Fellowship) *Hope*— During this time of pandemic, fear and despair are haunting people who turn to addictions to cope with hopelessness. A local funeral home has provided funeral services for 40 persons this year due to drug overdoses, as compared with only two such cases last year. Ask the Spirit to help our staff provide hope and support for people overwhelmed by the current crisis.

23 FRIDAY (Resonate) *Healing*—Give thanks for God's perfect timing. A woman in Oman participated in an online trauma healing workshop on suicide facilitated by Resonate missionary Melissa Bos. Less than 48 hours later, the woman received a call from another woman who was contemplating suicide, and she was able to counsel her. While the woman still faces challenges, she's doing much better now.

24 SATURDAY (Diaconal Ministries Canada) *Wisdom and love*—Please pray for deacons as they lead and equip their congregations in the areas of community engagement and development, justice, mercy/compassion, and stewardship. Ask God to grant them an abundance of wisdom (James 1:5), love for God and others (Matt. 22:37-39), and faith that God is able to work in them and through them (Heb. 11:6; Phil. 2:13).

25 SUNDAY (World Renew) *Lebanon*—An explosion Aug. 4 in Beirut caused enormous damage and left more than 300,000 people homeless. This is a crisis on top of many other crises experienced in Lebanon, especially for the over 2 million refugees who live there. Economic troubles and the COVID-19 pandemic have left many vulnerable. Pray for strength and peace for all the communities recovering in Lebanon.

26 MONDAY (Resonate) *North America*—Pray for Resonate partner church plants in Canada and the United States. With the help of Resonate COVID-19 relief grants, many church plants have been able to step up and meet tangible needs in their communities. Pray that God will be glorified through this servant leadership.

27 TUESDAY (Back to God Ministries) *ReFrame Media*— Janie reached out to ReFrame's prayer team and asks you to pray for her son: "He is in jail, so please pray that God will bring restoration and healing to him and that he will turn to Jesus."

28 WEDNESDAY (GEMS Girls' Clubs) *Connection*—It's not easy being a girl today. Nor is it easy to navigate new ways of ministry in the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for God's wisdom, provision, and joy as GEMS leaders across North America discern how they can best connect with today's girls.

29 THURSDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Russia*—Pray for Natalia and other listeners who rely on our Russian ministry team to hear God's Word in Russia. "Our radio is always tuned to your frequency," says Natalia. "We are so thankful for your ministry and for proclaiming God's Word in our lives."

30 FRIDAY (World Renew) *World Hunger Awareness*— In Isaiah 58, God calls his people to loose the chains of injustice, free the oppressed, share food with the hungry, shelter the stranger, and reconcile with estranged family members. These acts not only draw us closer to each other but also deepen our relationship with God. In this time of hunger awareness, pray that all who are hungry may experience a fuller relationship with the Lord who brings healing, righteousness, and hope.

31 SATURDAY (Communications) *Reformation Day*—Today we commemorate the beginning of the Reformation and the changes it brought to Christian thought and the worldwide church. Pray today for the Holy Spirit to bring light, truth, and love into our discussions and interactions with each other and all people.

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