

PRAYER GUIDE

AUGUST 2020

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.

-1 Chronicles 16:11

SATURDAY (Resonate Global Mission) Church planters—Pray for church planters in this time of pandemic as they work to keep people in their new congregations connected and find ways to serve and minister in their communities. Many bivocational planters are also working from home as part of their employment, and some are dealing with lost income. Ask God for wisdom, encouragement, and provision.

SUNDAY (Back to God Ministries International) Russia—Andrei in Siberia recently wrote, "Thank you for your messages. You are always kind in your broadcasts and in personal interactions with me. I really appreciate the spiritual nurture that I receive from you." Pray that Andrei will continue to find answers to questions about the Chriistian faith.

MONDAY (World Renew) South Sudan—Since March, World Renew has provided emergency food assistance to more than 12,000 people in South Sudan. Our hearts break in response to the violence, hunger, and poverty there, but these things are a clear reminder of why we must not falter. Life-saving food assistance continues to reach thousands of people in such countries. Please pray that this urgent work is helpful and effective.

TUESDAY (Resonate) Germany—Give thanks for God's work through a church that Resonate missionaries David Kromminga and Mary Buteyn are planting in Berlin! One man had little exposure to Christianity before moving to Germany, but now he's learning more about Jesus and is a beloved member of the church community. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue drawing him to know Christ!

SECOND SECTION SECOND SECTION SECOND SECTION SECOND SECTION SECOND SECTION SECOND SECTION SEC

THURSDAY (Chaplaincy and Care) COVID-19—Many of our chaplains serve in long-term care, hospitals, and hospice organizations. Daily they minister to over a thousand residents and patients who cannot be visited by their local clergy and family members due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please pray for our healthcare chaplains' safety and strength as they continue to share the gospel in these troubled times.

FRIDAY (Resonate) Connection and guidance—Pray for church planters and parent churches who are considering planting a church. Ask the Spirit to speak into their decision making—providing guidance for how best to plant a church and engage communities. Pray for resources to make planting possible and for leaders to step up.

SATURDAY (Back to God Ministries) Chinese ministry—Our Chinese ministry team is publishing a book of articles on how the church has used new media amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray for pastors and other leaders who are using this content and seeking creatively and effectively to be the church in the many contexts in which they work.

9 SUNDAY (Calvinist Cadets) *New theme*—The theme of our upcoming season, "Dive into the Word," will challenge Cadets and counselors to go to the Bible earnestly and often. Please pray for wisdom, strength, and discernment for our counselors and clubs as we strive to help boys become more Christlike in all areas of life during uncertain times.

MONDAY (Resonate) *Outreach*—Praise God that many church plants are reaching out to their communities in creative ways amid the coronavirus pandemic. Many have partnered with organizations for food distribution, hosted drive-in worship services, and helped provide funds for people short on income. Pray that people will experience Christ's love.

TUESDAY (World Renew) COVID-19 prevention—We have initiated or adapted programs to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce its impact on our most vulnerable communities. This includes distributing leaflets, delivering community announcements, and running prevention-awareness campaigns in partnership with local radio stations reaching hundreds of thousands of people. Pray that these measures may be effective.

WEDNESDAY (Back to God Ministries) *India*—Pastor Sivon recently found our programs on Facebook. "I am sharing this with my congregation, and people are calling me to testify that they are being blessed tremendously by this," he wrote. Pray for this Christian pastor as he serves the Savior in a Hindu-majority nation.

13 THURSDAY (Resonate) Sierra Leone—Resonate missionary Istifanus Bahago gives thanks for the recovery of a church member who was sick with COVID-19. Please pray for church plants in Sierra Leone as they continue to face effects of the coronavirus, and ask God to provide for the people's needs.

FRIDAY (Indigenous Family Centre) Strength—The effects of COVID-19 continue to challenge people who live in precarious housing and struggle with difficult family dynamics. We have been supporting vulnerable families remotely and, when appropriate, in person. Please pray for strength as we seek new ways to offer help and to share God's love. Pray also that God will meet our needs for financial health.

15 SATURDAY (World Renew) *Niger*—In several border areas Niger is facing conflicts from extremists, and people are fleeing or living in fear and insecurity. World Renew

continues to provide basic needs and trauma healing for refugees. Please pray for an end to the conflicts, for healing and provisions for all who have been displaced, and for courage and protection for all service workers.

16 SUNDAY (Centre for Public Dialogue) Day of Justice—A lot of information about injustice is flooding our inboxes and social media and news feeds, so as we seek justice in our churches, let's take a moment to acknowledge that the flood of information, as good as it can be, is not enough to transform our beings. May we confess to what we cannot see and ask the living God to touch our eyes each day.

MONDAY (Back to God Ministries) Mexico—Pray for Maria, who watches our Spanish ministry videos in Mexico. Though under stay-at-home orders in her area, she has been able to send and receive lots of positive messages in communications with her loved ones. May she continue to be encouraged in faith.

TUESDAY (Resonate) Mexico—Pray for the congregation of New Life, a church that Resonate missionaries Ben and Amy Meyer helped to plant in Guadalajara, Mexico. Give thanks that God has been working through this church to help provide for people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that this community's acts of love will point people to Jesus.

WEDNESDAY (World Renew) COVID-19 protection— To ensure that all new and existing projects minimize virus transmission, we are equipping local staff, healthcare workers, and community members with masks, hygiene kits, soap, washing stations, and hand sanitizer. Pray that the world's most vulnerable communities will receive whatever lifesaving equipment they need.

THURSDAY (Calvin Theological Seminary) *Preparations*—We are gearing up for the new school year, including residential in-person orientation, move-ins, and courses—all in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. Pray for ongoing health and safety for all as we begin the new academic year together.

21 FRIDAY (Back to God Ministries) Japan—A listener from our Japanese outreach shared that she is seeing reminders of God as she watches flowers bloom in her neighborhood. Pray that other listeners who may be feeling especially isolated from Christian community at this time will also see God's hand at work.

SATURDAY (World Renew) *Senegal*—Hawa is a struggling HIV-positive mother of five. Each day brings a host of challenges, but due to Hawa's strength and heart—and thanks to the support of our partners—her family is thriving. Please continue to pray for the health and safety of people living with HIV/AIDS and their families during the COVID-19 crisis.

23 SUNDAY (Worship Ministries) *Renewal*—Pray for the worship leaders in our denomination, all of whom have had a challenging few months adapting to the reality presented by COVID-19. May they find physical, emotional, and spiritual rest and be encouraged in their calling.

MONDAY (Race Relations) *Responding*—Since the death of George Floyd, our staff responding to requests for help have faced congregants, pastors, and ministry leaders

affected by the tragedy. Some are dealing with deep sadness and hurt/anger, while others are sensing a personal threat to their views and values. Pray that everyone senses Christ's embrace and embraces their neighbors.

TUESDAY (Resonate) Church planters—As people who generally thrive on personal relationships, church planters spend a lot of time meeting people in their community. As a result, the COVID-19 pandemic has made their work especially challenging. Ask God to keep them from being discouraged, and pray that they may be creative and inspired in the work they are doing.

26 WEDNESDAY (Safe Church) Connections—We are thankful for the connections we have been able to foster through our online webinars and book clubs that have been created in response to stay-home orders during the pandemic. In the midst of a global crisis we have been able to build relationships within our Safe Church ministry.

THURSDAY (Back to God Ministries) Family Fire—
Pray for Michelle and Helen, two women who have recently reached out to Family Fire to ask for prayers for their respective marriages, which are falling apart quickly. Ask God to work in these situations to bring peace and healing.

FRIDAY (World Renew) COVID-19 response—We respond to the needs of families affected by natural disasters, armed conflict, drought, climate change, and more. The current pandemic places an additional burden on people already facing difficult situations. Our local partners work to ensure that life-saving assistance, including food distribution to families in refugee camps, can continue. Pray with us that God will continue to provide for the world's most vulnerable communities.

SATURDAY (Raise Up Global Ministries) *New manual*—Timothy Leadership Training is developing a new manual about spiritual powers in the hope that the Spirit will use it to bring freedom from fear and to exalt Jesus, who is over all powers and authorities (Col. 1:15-20). Pray for wisdom and insight for the writing team, for field testing, and for perceptive feedback. Lift up the global church and its leaders as they strive against the powers of darkness.

SUNDAY (Resonate) Eastern Europe—Pray for a Resonate missionary who works with, mentors, and equips church planters in Eastern Europe. These church planters minister in communities where people's hearts are often closed to the gospel—but seeds are being planted, and this missionary is seeing growth. Ask the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in many lives so that people may know the hope and love of Christ.

MONDAY (Communications) New season—September begins tomorrow, marking a new season of education, church ministry, and other seasonal work. Pray for God's guidance for all who are navigating and implementing decisions about life and work amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

www.crcna.org

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