

PRAYER GUIDE | SEPTEMBER 2020

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

-1 Corinthians 14:15

TUESDAY (Therefore Go Ministries) Change—Today Youth Unlimited becomes Therefore Go Ministries. Please pray that the process of changing our name goes smoothly and that God will continue to work through us as we support churches in their ministries to youth and emerging adults to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and transform this world for him.

WEDNESDAY (Back to God Ministries International) *Burkina Faso*—As a teenager living in Burkina Faso, West Africa, Djibril regularly accessed pornography on his smartphone. Now, with help from our French ministry team, he instead uses his phone to share his faith with others. Ask God to continue to work through Djibril.

THURSDAY (Resonate Global Mission) Schools—Please pray for Resonate missionaries throughout the world who work as teachers in Christian schools. This school year will be challenging and unpredictable because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ask God for wisdom, guidance, creativity, patience, and encouragement as missionaries teach and disciple students this year.

FRIDAY (World Renew) Disaster Response—On August 4, an explosion in Beirut killed hundreds, injured thousands, and left more than 300,000 homeless. This event also had a devastating impact on essential imports and food prices. Please pray for the people living in Lebanon, including over 2 million refugees, that they may find comfort and healing. Pray also for the church as it seeks to serve the distressed and brokenhearted.

5 SATURDAY (Disability Concerns) Challenges—This year has been incredibly challenging for many of us with physical and mental health challenges. Many gaps in service have occurred, and isolation is a big challenge. As schools and churches start to reopen, we pray for wisdom for leaders. May we see that our most vulnerable are cared for and considered as we navigate this unusual time.

SUNDAY (Calvin Theological Seminary) *New year*—As we begin the new school year, we will be offering in-person learning as we are able, while also making all courses available online. Please pray for students, faculty, and staff as we work together to make necessary changes happen safely and effectively.

MONDAY (Raise Up: Educational Care) Schools and training—All teaching sessions for Educational Care that were planned for spring and summer 2020 have been put on hold as schools in many parts of Africa have closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Pray that private Christian schools will be able to survive in these difficult economic times, and pray for the many teachers who have not received salaries since February.

TUESDAY (Resonate) *Central Asia*—Some Resonate missionaries serve in countries in Central Asia where many people practice Islam or come from a Muslim background. One

missionary couple asks for prayer that the children of their host country will hear the gospel. "Holy Spirit, pour out dreams and visions of Jesus on the children," they ask.

9 WEDNESDAY (World Renew) *Bangladesh, India*—Bangladesh and India have been in lockdown since late March, and coronavirus case numbers continue to climb. This is very difficult for laborers who rely on daily earnings to buy food for their families. In vulnerable areas, World Renew and its partners are providing food, soap, and informational materials on COVID-19. Please pray that families may receive the daily food and shelter they need.

THURSDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Technology*—Lois is 90 years old, but when she looks at changing technology, she concentrates on the way it has helped her connect to the world. She uses her Amazon smart speaker to listen to *Today* devotions and to connect with her family. Praise God for the many ways technology can be used for God's glory.

FRIDAY (Communications) Pain and healing—Today we remember a tragedy that took the lives of thousands of people on 9/11/2001. While our world can sometimes seem chaotic and out of control, we find peace in the assurance that God is in control even in tragic times. Pray that the love of Christ will shine through God's people to light the world, no matter what each day brings.

12 SATURDAY (Resonate) *Worldwide*—Give thanks for the many students throughout the world who study at Christian schools where Resonate missionaries serve. Pray for their health this year during the COVID-19 pandemic and ask that every one of these students will learn more about Jesus as they come to faith in Christ or grow in relationship with him.

3 SUNDAY (Faith Formation Ministries) *Grandparents Day*—We praise God today for the grandparents and elders in our churches who foster faith-forming relationships with youth and young adults. We pray that churches will be responsive to the needs of and strengthened by the gifts of their senior members.

MONDAY (Back to God Ministries) Belgium—After recently moving to Belgium, a Portuguese speaker named Gil has been watching our Portuguese ministry videos, since he doesn't have a church community yet. Pray for Gil as he adjusts to life in a new place and learns a new language. Pray that he will find a community of believers.

TUESDAY (Communications) *Peace*—It has been six months since many churches in North America closed their doors to help "flatten the curve" of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pray that, amid continued fear and uncertainty, we will continue to find peace in God's sovereignty and show love to our neighbors.

WEDNESDAY (Resonate) IMPACT—Give thanks for the ways God is working through Resonate partner IMPACT clubs in Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic! Young people in these clubs are learning about Christ and being equipped and empowered to transform their communities. May the Holy Spirit continue to move powerfully through these clubs for God's kingdom.

THURSDAY (World Renew) Gender justice—In times of social upheaval, including the current pandemic, women and girls in many developing countries are even more economically vulnerable than usual. Working with local partners, World Renew offers opportunities for women and girls to learn work skills or to start businesses so that they can better support themselves and their families. Ask God to bless these ventures so that women, girls, and their families can live healthier, more secure lives.

FRIDAY (Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee) Change—Praise God and give thanks for the work of all denominations worldwide who make up the Lord's church. New relationships are being formed in cyberspace to comfort people everywhere amid the COVID-19 pandemic. We are preparing to meet virtually and to move forward in understanding our role and position in this world. Thank you, God, for the lessons you show us every day.

19 SATURDAY (Candidacy) *Discernment*—This summer 36 first-time candidates were approved as eligible for call, and 24 others received extended eligibility. Pray for these 60 persons as they wait, converse with ministries, and discern their way forward. As COVID-19 realities affect pastor-search processes, pray for God's provision in the matching of churches and pastors. For a list of candidates, visit crcna.org/candidacy.

SUNDAY (Resonate) Honduras—Students at International School Tegucigalpa, a Resonate partner in Honduras, launched a recycling campaign that has raised awareness about caring for the environment in their school and community. Give thanks for the ways God is working through these students to renew and care for creation!

MONDAY (Back to God Ministries) Japan—Our Japanese ministry team recently made the tough decision to cancel their December gathering for listeners. Pray as they consider new ideas to gather believers online in community. Pray also that these believers will find hope and encouragement in the radio and devotional programs they follow.

TUESDAY (World Renew) Guatemala—Economic repercussions and food insecurities triggered by the spread of COVID-19 in Guatemala are deeply concerning. Please pray for this nation's vulnerable communities as they ride out this storm. Pray also for World Renew staff as they plan to relocate their office to the capital, Guatemala City, a more strategic place from which to serve.

WEDNESDAY (Chaplaincy and Care) Conference—Each year we host a conference for our 148 CRC chaplains from around the globe. This year we will host our first-ever virtual conference Sept. 24-26, focusing on the theme "Come to Me: Sufficient Grace, Perfect Power, and Humanity." Pray for chaplains as they collaborate, find spiritual renewal, hone skills,

and implement best practices to continue to minister in "moments that matter" during this critical time in our world.

THURSDAY (Resonate) West Africa—Resonate missionaries give praise for teachers and Christian school administrators in West Africa as they influence children and communities through Christ-centered education. Ask God to equip, encourage, and challenge them in their day-to-day callings as they reach children for Christ!

25 FRIDAY (Pastor Church Resources) Wisdom and love—As COVID-19 lingers on, pastors face considerable stress in their efforts to take wise steps forward with their congregations. Often facing many points of view on a variety of topics, many pastors feel as if they're in a "no-win situation." Ask God to grant our pastors and congregations wisdom, strength, understanding, and patience.

26 SATURDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Indonesia*—Our Indonesian ministry team began helping to broadcast church services through YouTube during the coronavirus pandemic. Yulius, a believer in Indonesia, shared, "Praise God that the church can provide solutions in dealing with COVID-19!"

27 SUNDAY (Safe Church) Abuse Awareness—Today is Abuse Awareness Sunday. We are thankful for the dedicated volunteers who support our ministry, advocating for spaces of safe refuge for all. We give thanks for all of the speakers who have contributed to our 2020 webinar series in order to better connect, collaborate, and coordinate our efforts to end abuse.

MONDAY (World Renew) Food security—Because of the pandemic, the world stands on the brink of a food crisis worse than any seen for about 50 years. Increasing unemployment and loss of income due to lockdowns are putting food out of reach for many struggling people. World Renew continues to provide life-giving food, food vouchers, and hygiene equipment to some of the world's most vulnerable communities. Ask God to provide the food families need in order to thrive.

TUESDAY (Resonate) *Nicaragua*—Please pray for Tesoros de Dios, a Resonate ministry partner that serves students with disabilities and their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for their ministry community. Ask God to provide for and encourage this ministry and its students.

WEDNESDAY (Canadian Indigenous Ministry)
Racism—Today is Orange Shirt Day, designed to raise awareness of the impact and legacy of Residential Schools in Canada for Indigenous children. Pray that our churches will work to undo racism in all its forms and grow in reconciliation. Pray for the Indigenous Ministries of the CRC as they walk with people through this journey.

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