

PRAYER GUIDE

APRIL 2020

"... for he is praying."

-Acts 9:11

WEDNESDAY (Communications) April Fools' Day—Many people consider Christians to be fools, out of touch with science and facts. This should not surprise us; Paul wrote, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1:18). Pray today for strength to follow the Creator of all things, even in the face of ridicule.

THURSDAY (Raise Up: Coffee Break) *Training*—Pray that upcoming Coffee Break training workshops in the United States will bless all who participate. Opportunities are also opening up for new partnerships in various countries; pray for fruitful conversations and relationships. Pray also for wisdom and guidance as we plan to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Coffee Break.

FRIDAY (Resonate Global Mission) Middle East—Pray for a man in the Middle East with whom a Resonate missionary is working. A former Muslim, he accepted Christ and is now passionate about sharing his faith with Muslims. Please pray for his protection—it can be dangerous for him to share his faith.

SATURDAY (World Renew) Cambodia—The COVID-19 virus is affecting far more than people's health. Hundreds of factories in Cambodia are facing a shortage of raw materials from China and have announced temporary closures, affecting about 160,000 workers. People's livelihoods may be at risk if they cannot resume normal business soon. We ask God to continue providing support for all who are affected.

5 SUNDAY (Back to God Ministries International) *Palm Sunday*—On Palm Sunday, Christians remember that Jesus came to save us from *sin*, not from our earthly struggles. Pray that Christians around the world will remember this and look to Christ—even in times of uncertainty and great pain that surround much of our world today.

MONDAY (Resonate) *California*—Praise God for three new believers who had the opportunity to hear the gospel after moving to the United States from a country in Asia. Now they are meeting regularly at a Bible study through Union with Christ Church, a Resonate church plant partner in California. Please pray for them as they grow in their relationship with Christ.

TUESDAY (Chaplaincy and Care) Support—When events such as mass shootings, disease, and tornadoes overwhelm the lives of large groups of individuals, active and retired chaplains are called upon to provide emergency support, critical incident debriefing, and spiritual care. Please pray for chaplains providing such support in response to natural or human disasters.

WEDNESDAY (World Renew) *Nigeria*—In 2019, 1,200 Nigerian families were displaced by drought and religious violence. Through help from World Renew and local partners, they

received cash assistance, giving them the freedom and flexibility to purchase necessary food and household items and to support the recovery of nearby markets and the local economy. Please continue to pray for peace, justice, and protection in Nigeria.

9 THURSDAY (Resonate) *Asia*—Pray for Resonate missionaries working as teachers in Asia. It can be risky for them to share their faith, but many students are curious about faith and are interested in learning about Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of students. Ask God to protect students and missionaries as they have conversations about faith.

10 FRIDAY (Communications) *Good Friday*—As we remember Christ's sacrifice today, ask God to bring home to our hearts the cost of our salvation, the forgiveness and renewal it brings, and the hope we have because of Jesus' resurrection.

SATURDAY (Back to God Ministries) Today devotions—Mary began reading Today devotions last year during Lent. "I always believed in God but never realized the importance of Jesus," she said. Pray for thousands of new Today readers who have been reading for the first time during Lent this year. Pray that, like Mary, they will continue seeking a relationship with Jesus all year long.

SUNDAY (Resonate) Easter—The promise of Easter goes beyond the forgiveness of sins—the awesome power of this day shows God's plan to renew all things! Give thanks for the many CRC congregations, missionaries, campus ministers, church planters, and other ministry leaders who are partnering with Resonate to join God on mission. Pray that people throughout the world will know the love of Christ.

MONDAY (Centre for Public Dialogue) Restoration—As you pray on Easter Monday, please celebrate the coming restoration of all things and our ability to be part of that restoration in the here and now. Please lift up the work of the Centre for Public Dialogue as it works toward renewal in the public sphere.

TUESDAY (World Renew) *Philippines disaster* response—Six years ago Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines, killing more than 6,300 people and displacing 11 million. Now, after 77 months of restorative work, World Renew is officially concluding its Haiyan response program. We praise God for the many gifts that have helped to fortify vulnerable communities, preparing them for future challenges.

15 WEDNESDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Burkina* Faso—A listener to our French radio broadcast in Burkina Faso recently followed up after we connected her to a local church: "Thank you, pastor, for showing me the way. I'm so happy; I went to church last Sunday!" Praise God for this

testimony, and pray for listeners in parts of Burkina Faso where it is not safe for Christians to attend churches.

16 THURSDAY (Leadership Diversity) Women—Pray for the called and gifted women serving in our churches and ministries in North America and throughout the world. Please pray for the flourishing of all women in their calling and use of spiritual gifts. May they bear much fruit for God's kingdom. Pray for upcoming local training events and gatherings.

17 FRIDAY (Resonate) West Africa—Pray for the Fulani, a largely Muslim people group in West Africa with whom Resonate missionaries have been working. Pray for opportunities for Fulani Christians to share their faith in Jesus with friends and family. Ask the Holy Spirit to open hearts and draw more people into a relationship with the living God!

saturday (Diaconal Ministries Canada) Stewardship project—Diaconal Ministries Canada has launched a Stewardship Pilot Project in partnership with Christian Stewardship Services and the CRCNA Canadian Ministries Team. Please pray that this project will help deacons increase churches' awareness of the biblical principles of stewardship and equip people to live those principles out in practical, measurable, effective ways.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month in the United States. Most child abuse is perpetrated by people known by their victims—and often at home. Pray for attentive parents, for healthy family relationships, and for children to have "trusted adults" and safe places to talk about what's happening in their lives. May God's transforming love bring healing to children who experience abuse.

MONDAY (Resonate) Persecuted Christians—Many Resonate missionaries lead training for teachers, pastors, and ministry leaders who work in countries where Christians are persecuted. Ask God to equip, protect, and encourage these leaders as they share their faith in every aspect of their lives.

21 TUESDAY (Back to God Ministries) *Ministry leaders retreat*—Most of our international ministry leaders are traveling this week for a time of peer learning, retreat, and visits to churches. Pray for safe travels for these leaders. Pray for an effective time of sharing about how God is working through their ministry with churches and with one another.

WEDNESDAY (Office of Social Justice and World Renew) Climate Witness—Today is Earth Day! Please pray for facilitators and partners in the Climate Witness Project as they walk with congregations in learning about the realities of climate change. Pray for churches as they find ways to bring this topic before God in worship, educate their communities, reduce their energy footprints, and advocate for policies to protect creation.

THURSDAY (World Renew) Uganda—Currently World Renew Uganda is working with local church organizations in areas that have suffered disasters or are hosting South Sudanese refugees. Additionally, northern and eastern parts of Uganda are battling a large invasion of locusts that is threatening the livelihoods of subsistence farmers. Please ask

God to use World Renew as a blessing to all who need assistance in Uganda.

FRIDAY (Resonate) *Church plants*—Pray for Resonate partner church plants that are uniquely positioned to reach people from a Muslim background. Ask God to draw people to these church plants and to provide opportunities for ministry leaders to share the gospel.

SATURDAY (Disability Concerns) *Training*—Today at Community CRC in Kitchener, Ont., we are hosting our annual Ontario Training Event on coming alongside caregivers. Pray that through this event community will be enriched, church leaders will gather new ideas for ministry, and participants will receive encouragement.

26 SUNDAY (GEMS Clubs) GEMS Sunday—Today is GEMS Sunday! Thank God for using GEMS to shape girls and leaders for over 60 years. Loved by God, their calling is to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Mic. 6:8). Ask God to continue to strengthen leaders on their mission to help bring girls into a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

MONDAY (World Renew) Global Volunteer Program—As Christ's followers, we are challenged to dig deep, ask difficult questions, and reflect on God's calling in our lives. Our Global Volunteer Program offers opportunities for volunteers to develop relationships with Christians internationally while exploring and seeking God's plan for their lives. Praise God with us for these opportunities, and may they continue to open hearts and change lives.

TUESDAY (Calvin Theological Seminary) Prison initiative—Seminary faculty, staff, and students partner with Calvin University to teach classes in the Calvin Prison Initiative and to engage with the CRC congregation within Hanlon Prison in Ionia, Mich. Give thanks for this opportunity to remember people in prison (Heb. 13:3), to partner in ministry there, and to bless students and church members behind bars.

29 WEDNESDAY (Resonate) *Middle East*—Resonate missionaries in the Middle East ask you to pray for the people they serve and minister with. Pray that Resonate missionaries will share the light of Christ and that people will be drawn to Jesus.

THURSDAY (Back to God Ministries) Russian ministry—Our Russian ministry team works closely with local churches in Russia and Ukraine. Pray that listeners and event attendees will develop a long-term relationship with fellow Christians in the church. May God continue to use the partnerships in this ministry to reach people with his Word.

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