

By Prayer

March-April 2019

Prayer Focus:

Special groups such as refugees, migrants, nomads, those at risk, and cross-cultural and trauma healing ministries

Jesus healed a mute, demon-possessed man. When the man spoke, the crowds were amazed! Jesus continued healing and preaching as people came to Him. "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36) The marginalized, helpless, and harassed—including refugees, those living on the streets, and those who have suffered great losses—still need to know Jesus loves them. In this edition of *By Prayer* we will pray together for SIM workers extending Jesus' compassion and gospel so those without a shepherd can come to know the loving care of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Thank you for ministering to the helpless and harassed *by prayer*.

March 2019

MAR 01 FRIDAY

International Leadership & Services – Pray for wisdom for Ken Baker as he completes SIM Formación, a team building and training curriculum for SIM teams globally. Pray the completed curriculum will be a blessing as SIM workers seek to make Jesus known where He is currently unknown.

MAR 02 SATURDAY

Sports Friends – Pray for Sports Friends' pioneering sports ministry efforts in the USA as workers seek to build deeper connections with the refugee population. Praise God for how soccer is already building bridges and deepening relationships with refugee youth and their parents.

THE AMERICAS

MAR 03 SUNDAY

Ministry Focus, Steve and Mary Hawthorne, Bolivia - Few of thousands of miners in Potosi are Christians. A devil image guards the entrance to every tunnel in the mountain, demanding daily sacrifices for safety. They say God has no power there. But Lorenzo came to know Jesus after a serious fall nearly paralyzed him. Pray the Lord will use his witness as he learns more of the Word in his studies with us. Also, as Steve meets with section chiefs of the mining cooperative, pray he will encounter men of peace with prepared hearts, who will open doors to the Gospel inside the mines.

MAR 04 MONDAY

Bolivia – Praise God for how He has been healing and changing indigenous university students into workers to reach their communities with the gospel of Jesus. Pray He completes His work in them. Ask God to continue this ministry as Daniel Bodgan leaves Bolivia.

MAR 05 TUESDAY

Canada – A team trains Bible college teachers in Ethiopia to teach English using Bible-based curriculum. The vision is not only to improve students' grasp of English in their classes, but also to equip potential missionaries with a global language. Ask God to use the many opportunities and overcome the challenges.

MAR 06 WEDNESDAY

Chile – Sandrine is a teacher from France arriving in Santiago this month to work for five months among Haitian immigrants. Pray God guides her work and for a long-term ministry among immigrants to be initiated.

MAR 07 THURSDAY

Ecuador – Praise God for the recent Trauma Healing master certification of a SIM Ecuador missionary. The team can now host an advanced training session in Loja in April. Please pray for a full roster of committed participants so they can officially conduct the course.

MAR 08 FRIDAY

Latinoamérica – Praise God for the transition of SIM Latin America to a SIM Finance office with a SIM Trust account. Ask God to guide the team as they manage administrative and financial needs, and identify His persons for governing roles and developing resources.

Paraguay – Pray for God’s powerful, sovereign guidance and care for three families completing Guarani language school in May. Ask God to clearly direct them as they arrange details for their transitions, and start or join various ministries across Paraguay.

MAR 9 SATURDAY

Peru – Many in the Cotahuasi Canyon remain enslaved to ancient Incan gods, witch doctors, and superstitions. Pray for Brad and Gina who have worked among them since 2001. Pray for the spiritual growth of men serving in church leadership and for more workers.

MAR 10 SUNDAY

United States – The Trauma Healing Global Community meets March 12–14. Pray for fruitful collaboration and learning. SIM hosts Trauma Healing equipping sessions March 18–22. Pray for facilitators Thaddeus and Lucy Gichana (Kenya), Nancy Writebol (Liberia), and Stacey Conard (U.S.).

MAR 11 MONDAY

Uruguay – After a fierce storm, a neighbor of Luis Cortes of SIM Uruguay had a tree fall on his roof. Luis went over and completed the cleanup for him. Through this act of kindness and the conversation that followed, Luis was able to lead this man to Jesus! Praise God!

EUROPE, NORTH & WEST AFRICA

MAR 12 TUESDAY

Ministry Focus, Hans-Georg and Margret Hoprich, Austria - Two ladies came home with us after church. We learned that one, aged 22, fled in danger from her home country. At fourteen she was forced to marry an abusive man, and they had two children together. Now divorced, she and her children, who are in a foster home, are here in Austria. She recently met a man from her country who told her he turned to Jesus and had new joy. A deep longing began to grow in her. Finally, her search over, she prayed to invite Jesus into her life. “The weight is gone. I am so happy!” she said. Pray she will grow in her new faith.

MAR 13 WEDNESDAY

France – Jean and Laure are analyzing the possibilities of setting up a new ministry among street children in an Asian country. Please pray for wisdom as they move forward. Pray for healing and hope for the numerous children there who are in need.

MAR 14 THURSDAY

Switzerland – Yien Reath is an Arabic-speaking refugee (now with a Swiss passport) announcing the Good News to refugees he can relate to in a day center in Greece. Please pray his family integrates smoothly in Greece, and for many hearts to open to the gospel.

MAR 15 FRIDAY

United Kingdom – Give thanks with Richard and Ana for the testimony of an influential and well-known former imam who has come to know Jesus. He spoke at the monthly service for Kurdish and Yazidi migrants. Pray those who were challenged would trust Jesus.

MAR 16 SATURDAY

North Africa – Very few workers are bringing the gospel to the 7.5 million desert nomads of the northern coastal regions and the southern Saharan countries. Pray for resourceful workers who can establish creative solutions to reach these people who do not yet know Jesus.

Benin – The WENO team has organized an orality training session this month. Pray the facilitator coming from Togo leads clearly and effectively. Ask God to help the participants learn to tell stories engagingly and to use this method in communicating the gospel.

MAR 17 SUNDAY

Burkina Faso – Pray for fistula surgeon Dr. Itengre and his wife (from WAMO) working in Burkina Faso, the mission college training leaders for emerging mission sending structures in West Africa, and the safety of the SIM Burkina team living in an increasingly unstable situation.

MAR 18 MONDAY

Côte d'Ivoire – Partner with Côte d'Ivoire in pleading for God to send more workers to minister with orphans, street children and women. Ask for counselors gifted in helping many find the balm of Jesus to answer the call to serve in Côte d'Ivoire.

Ghana – Praise the Lord for His provision of three couples who have come to Ghana to minister to the Fulani. Pray for them to settle quickly, learn the language easily, adjust to the culture, and build relationships that will bear much gospel fruit.

MAR 19 TUESDAY

Guinea – SIM is launching an initiative to reach the Fulani people in Upper Guinea. Pray for God to provide people of peace who will introduce workers into the Fulani community. Pray for strategic direction in partnerships as they move forward.

MAR 20 WEDNESDAY

Liberia – Missionaries new to Liberia often find unexpected challenges in adjusting to different-sounding versions of English with new meanings for some expressions. Pray they exercise patience and respect in establishing good communication and relationships with Liberians.

Mali – Praise God for a new village that has opened to the gospel. Pray for wisdom, discernment and creativity as SIM hopes to start ministry there soon. Ask the Holy Spirit to send more workers to help the team maximize the many opportunities for ministry in Mali.

MAR 21 THURSDAY

Niger – Praise God for many students coming to the university from remote areas in which missionaries can no longer serve due to the changing security situation. Ask God to provide leadership, vision and workers for the university center.

MAR 22 FRIDAY

Nigeria – Nigeria has at least 1.2 million displaced people, mainly in the northeast. SIM helps as able, but the needs are vast. Ask the Lord to provide food, healthcare, support services and trauma healing for those living in camps or host communities.

MAR 23 SATURDAY

Senegal – Pray for a village friend who can't get enough of God's Word! After reading Genesis, Exodus, and the Psalms, and seeing the Jesus film, he is eager to read the New Testament. May he and others from this unreached people group find Jesus!

MAR 24 SUNDAY

Togo – The number of Christians among people from another religion is growing. Many have received training in reaching their own people. Pray there will be intentional outreach using new and proven methods. Ask God to draw these people to Himself!

MAR 25 MONDAY

West African Missions Office – Praise God for new missionaries joining the WAMO. Ask God to provide them with strong connections with churches to support them prayerfully and financially as they serve worldwide. Ask protection for the WAMO leadership as they travel for meetings and interviews.

EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA

MAR 26 TUESDAY

Ministry Focus, Jon and Kristi Nykamp, Ethiopia - Six boys living on the streets began coming to Mekelle Youth Center last December, and our staff worked to win their trust. One of them, D (age 11), asked for help one day. He had spilled kerosene on himself while shining shoes and it caught fire. Terrible blistering covered most of his leg. With much effort, we obtained medical help for him and a place to stay two nights. Although scarred, D has healed and regained full movement! The boys have begun to trust us now, and are enthusiastic about English and health classes. Pray the Lord will work in hearts as we build relationships.

MAR 27 WEDNESDAY

Angola – The nomadic, desert-dwelling MuCubal are fiercely proud of their traditions and culture, and remain largely untouched by 21st century civilization. Pray hearts and minds open to the gospel message presented to them through both Angolan and expat workers.

MAR 28 THURSDAY

Botswana – The Berman family has a calling to Bolivia. Raising support is a challenge in Botswana, where churches first need to learn to send and support missionaries instead of only receiving them. Pray for open doors and hearts as the Bermans present their future ministry.

East Africa Service Center (EASC) – The EASC needs a new director. Pray God leads the search team to a godly, knowledgeable worker to guide the EASC in serving East African countries sending missionaries to spread the love of Jesus around the world.

MAR 29 FRIDAY

East African Office – Ask God to give the East African team wisdom to foster greater cooperation, love and unity among sending churches. Pray more churches embrace the vision that makes sending missionaries from their congregation a vital approach in spreading the gospel.

MAR 30 SATURDAY

Eritrea – Praise the Lord for five pastors who were released after 10 to 14 years in prison! Continue to pray, as 16 other believers were detained as the pastors were released. Pray for spiritual strongholds to be broken as political relations continue to improve.

MAR 31 SUNDAY

Ethiopia – Praise for the new ministry beginning among refugees in Ethiopia. Pray the SIM workers who recently moved there settle in smoothly and find people of peace who want to know Jesus.

April 2019

APR 01 MONDAY

Kenya – Pray God clearly guides Interim Director Ben Colby and the SIM Kenya leadership. Pray for wisdom, discernment and listening ears for the Director Search committee. Ask the Lord to bring them the person of His choosing to lead SIM Kenya in the future.

APR 02 TUESDAY

Madagascar – The Rabeantoandro family is preparing to return home to Switzerland for reasons of schooling. Pray local Christians will fill the gap left behind and take ownership of this ministry of reaching out to those living and dying without knowing Jesus.

APR 03 WEDNESDAY

Malawi – The Mthenga Wabwino (Good Messenger) outreach teaches pastors how to share the gospel with people of another faith. Ask for wisdom and discernment for Malawians Humphreys and Yunusy as they now spearhead the work without missionary assistance.

Mascarene Islands – The Godins' church is planning an outreach in a sensitive village. Pray the church sees witnessing opportunities and courage to speak out. Ask God to pour out a concern for those who don't know Jesus, a desire to witness, and the strength to meet this great need.

APR 04 THURSDAY

Mozambique – Praise God for the Bible school training local church leaders. Ask God to make these leaders bold to faithfully preach the Word and infect believers with a passion to proclaim the love of Jesus to their families and neighbors.

APR 05 FRIDAY

Namibia – Three new missionaries preparing to serve in Namibia. Pray their preparation time is beneficial for them as they go through training and build their support teams, and for their visa applications to be handled quickly and smoothly.

APR 06 SATURDAY

Southern Africa Service Center (SASC) – The SASC team is adjusting to staffing changes. Their IT and media coordinators are on home assignment, their new media coordinator is renewing support and working from afar, and they are recruiting for two positions. Pray they are refreshed with energy and wisdom.

APR 07 SUNDAY

South Africa – David and Janenne Hay and their daughter Rachel (SIM Australia) work with children at iKhethelo Children's Village. Pray all workers effectively share the love and hope of Jesus Christ with these children who are orphaned, or rescued from danger or neglect.

APR 08 MONDAY

South Sudan & Sudan – Ask for sturdy hearts and long-term endurance so the Sudan team members can keep doing their work. Pray they hear the voice of God speaking as they reach out with truth and compassion to a sea of refugees and a traumatized generation.

APR 09 TUESDAY

Tanzania – The SIM Tanzania team is in the midst of significant personnel transitions, and is experiencing difficulties in gaining visas. Ask God to give them wise guidance and focus in fixing their eyes on our Lord and provider as they rebuild their team.

APR 10 WEDNESDAY

Zambia – Pray for Dee Jones working in rural Zambia with Foundations for Farming. As harvest time approaches pray for good crops and spiritual growth for those with whom she works.

APR 11 THURSDAY

Zimbabwe – Praise for the new Pastors' Book Set ministry. Pray the pastors eagerly learn and use their new tablets loaded with books to enhance effective discipleship in their churches. Ask God to send a new manager for this program, as the current one leaves in October.

WEST & SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

APR 12 FRIDAY

Ministry Focus, SIM Workers, South Asia - Our teammates regularly have been visiting girls being held in a local prison. The authorities took these girls out of the brothels because they are underage. They have no family and have hurting hearts. In December, our team held a Christmas party for them; one member shared the Christmas story and we fed them a delicious meal. Our kids also sang some songs in the local language—a real treat since the girls rarely have visitors. Pray they will come to know Jesus, and for wisdom for us all on how to help them.

APR 13 SATURDAY

Middle East – SIM teams from the wider Middle East region have their SLC between Western and Eastern Easter. Pray for refreshment and perspective as they consider their connection with God, one another, and those they serve – including people displaced and those on the move.

APR 14 SUNDAY

Bangladesh – Five brave Bangladeshi families are planting churches among the unreached through the SIM Indigenous Outreach Workers project. Thank God for the conference SIM just hosted for them. Pray they are encouraged in their work and for indigenous churches to be planted.

India – The India team has a desire to start work in the northern state of Rajasthan and is exploring ways to build relationships. Please pray for favor, clarity and God's choice of people to be based in this state.

APR 15 MONDAY

Nepal – Please pray for J as she works with believing Nepali artists on evangelistic projects focusing on an unreached people group in Nepal. Also pray for a new network of these artists meeting for the purposes of support, encouragement and collaboration.

APR 16 TUESDAY

Pakistan – Please pray for R and L, veteran U.S. missionaries who are training Pakistani pastors and evangelists to communicate effectively with non-literate learners. Pray the Lord will equip many young men and women to be used mightily to reach their generation!.

APR 17 WEDNESDAY

Sri Lanka – Praise God for leaders who are running Trauma Healing groups. Ask God to arrange an Advanced Equipping session to be held this year to develop master and training facilitators to take the ministry forward in adult, child and teen groups.

ASIA-PACIFIC

APR 18 THURSDAY

Ministry Focus, J and L, Southeast Asia - A 13-year-old neighborhood friend, N, surprised us all with firecrackers early one morning! Our boys later joined in the fun. N has asked me to read the Children's Bible with him, and has many questions. Amazingly, he retells the stories in his own words when I ask. Most Sundays he joins us for community worship, but lately he has been attending cram school. His mom won't allow him to join us until he finishes exams. This week we were encouraged when he asked if I would read the Bible with him again. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work and lead him to salvation.

APR 19 FRIDAY

Australia – Angela is beginning a newly created role as SUMMIT Mental Health Coordinator to new refugees and asylum-seekers. Pray she and other cross-cultural workers see the unique gifts of each individual with whom they work, inspiring them to make disciples themselves.

APR 20 SATURDAY

China – Due to changing circumstances workers need to interact thoughtfully with great wisdom. Pray for members' protection and discernment and for them to have favor with authorities to enable them to serve in China long-term. Ask for abundant insight for those in leadership.

Continental & Southeast Asia (CSEA) – Praise for the new finance director serving for an initial two years! Pray the couple transitions smoothly to new roles and culture in Chiang Mai. Please continue to plead for the CSEA service center to grow as staff assist teams working in unreached communities.

APR 21 SUNDAY

East Asia – The eleven-year-old SIM Chinese Diaspora Ministry in Africa seeks to reach some two million Chinese there. Ask God to bring more resources including funding, a director, and more workers to reach these Chinese in Africa.

APR 22 MONDAY

Indonesia – Pray for national leaders elected last week to work in harmony for the betterment of Indonesia. Ask for followers of Jesus to think and act as He would so they reflect God's glory. Plead for visa opportunities for new workers to become easier.

APR 23 TUESDAY

Japan – Pray for all the transitions associated with the beginning of the school, ministry, and business year in Japan in March and April. Ask God to deepen and strengthen relationships between missionaries and Japanese partners in Kanto, Tohoku, and Kyushu.

APR 24 WEDNESDAY

Korea – A lot of migrants from Southeast Asia are entering South Korea. Pray churches will capture this great opportunity to share the gospel with these people who would never hear it in their home countries. Ask the Spirit to work through the churches' love and care.

APR 25 THURSDAY

Mongolia – Working and living long-term in an unsettled environment can be stressful. Praise God for the confidence of His call to serve among this people in this place at this time. Ask God to keep the team sensitive to His leading and close to Him.

APR 26 FRIDAY

Myanmar – Many Myanmar children live apart from their parents to work or to get better schooling, or their parents work in other locations. Ask God to protect these vulnerable children so they come to know God's good news and love Jesus.

New Zealand – SIM New Zealand desires to be a channel to enable God's called people to participate in missions. Ask God to raise up people from all walks of life who love the Lord to partner with SIM in telling the good news of Jesus to those who do not yet know Him.

APR 27 SATURDAY

Philippines – Pray for training and outreach events taking place to reach and disciple with the gospel the least-reached migrant and Muslim communities in the Philippines.

APR 28 SUNDAY

Thailand – Pray for strength and perseverance for SIM's church planters working across Thailand in areas resistant to the gospel. Ask God to soften hearts so people in these areas can come to know and love Jesus.

APR 29 MONDAY

Vietnam – Praise God for new wonderful and faithful training partners! Ask God to guide the ongoing development of clear strategy and tracking for projects. Pray the team works together well to define and plan trainings that will effectively equip workers.

APR 30 TUESDAY

West Malaysia – Praise the Lord for the number of opportunities to minister among the 200,000 refugees in Malaysia from over 46 different nations. Thank the Lord for the schools, medical work, skill development and compassionate care SIM is involved with there.

Thank you for praying.

If you would like to receive these prayer calendars by email, please reply to simusa.byprayer@sim.org. To update your postal address or request to be added or removed from this mailing, call (800) 521-6449.

Because you prayed: Answers to our prayers are what help strengthen our faith, deepen our trust in Jesus and draw us into more fervent prayer. Several entries in this edition celebrate answers. Share answers to your prayers to encourage yourself and others.

"Prayer is not for the enhancement of our comforts, but for the advancement of Christ's kingdom."—John Piper

Praying for Missionaries: It's good to have a wide interest in God's world, but it's hard to pray intelligently for places that are personally unknown. Prayercast provides videos featuring prayer for many individual countries. [« prayercast.com »](http://prayercast.com)

"If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer." 2 Corinthians 1:6 ESV

"Prayer has the power to turn mountains into highways." —Wesley Duewel

"Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good." Peter 4:19 ESV