

# By Prayer

## September-October 2019

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### Prayer Focus:

#### **Theological training, Bible studies and courses, and Christian Education in or through churches**

In Jesus's last words to His disciples He commanded them to make disciples, baptize them, and *teach them to obey* all He taught. He ended with the reassurance that He would be with them. We know this obedience is only possible through the presence and empowering of the Holy Spirit. We can pray for and encourage many ways of teaching how to follow the gospel, but the presence of the Holy Spirit within every student is essential to understand, trust and respond in obedience. As we read and pray through this edition, ask for a pouring out of the Spirit of God through theological training, Bible studies and all forms of Christian education as we encourage obedience to God's teaching *by prayer*.

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## September 2019

### SEP 01 SUNDAY

**International Leadership & Services** – Pray for wisdom and capacity for the SIM International People Development and Care team as they work to provide resources for the planning and implementing of Spiritual Life Conferences, usually an annual event for SIM country teams around the world.

### SEP 02 MONDAY

**Sports Friends** – Hundreds of coaches from local churches are trained each year. Pray they understand what discipleship looks like so they can faithfully display God's love to youth through relationships on the sports field.

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## THE AMERICAS

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### SEP 03 TUESDAY

**Ministry Focus, Kep and Debbie James, Bolivia** – We serve Latin American pastors/church leaders with ESI/Equipping Servants training to equip them in character, Bible, and ministry skill. In Brazil's Registro region, pastor Reuel invited us to train his pastors, and all 127 joined our 3-year discipleship. God is working in their hearts! Reuel's assistant pastor excitedly took ESI to Sao Paolo, where 30 have joined. Then the leaders of Foz wanted to take part, and 60 were trained as facilitators in June. Pray this training results in genuine Biblical friendships so they won't have to walk alone.

**Bolivia** – Sara Hart and Bolivian partners work to prepare Christian educational guides about world religions. The guides will be used in Christian settings and public schools for religious education classes. Ask God to send funds for printing and His blessing in their use.

### SEP 04 WEDNESDAY

**Canada** – Pray for coaches helping churches develop newcomer ministries with God's insight into the needs of congregations in unique neighborhoods. Ask the Lord Jesus to teach local churches how to commit their time and love their newcomer neighbors as He loved us.

### SEP 05 THURSDAY

**Chile** – Through the Theological Education Assistance fund, nine students are studying this year in various seminaries in Chile. Pray for an excellent year of preparation as well as personal growth and transformation as the majority prepare for intercultural ministry.

### SEP 06 FRIDAY

**Ecuador** – Pray for the formation of 11 new Equipping Servants groups in Ecuador during 2019. The first four began in August. Pray the pastors and leaders who are invited would make a firm commitment to the 2 ½-year training.

### SEP 07 SATURDAY

**Latinoamérica** – Please pray for more workers to come from Latin America to work among the least reached. Many are content to mobilize and pray, but few are going. Ask God to awaken those He is calling to respond and go.

#### SEP 08 SUNDAY

**Paraguay** – Jonathan and Christine Winarske are new short-term coordinators. Franz and Hannah Hohler are short-term workers from Germany to serve at CEI Christian School September 26 through December 1st. Pray for both these couples to be encouraged through this experience.

**Peru** – Pray for the establishment of solid, evangelical, theological institutions where pastors, theologians, and missionaries can receive equipping they need to faithfully follow their calling. Pray specifically for the new leadership of the seminary in Arequipa.

#### SEP 09 MONDAY

**United States** – Pray for the women from various mission agencies gathering at SIM USA for a time of learning and refreshment in collaboration with Missio Nexus. Pray each participant would grow in their relationships with God and be an encouragement to each other.

#### SEP 10 TUESDAY

**Uruguay** – Pray for vision, wisdom and increased interpersonal skills for the young adult group led by Uruguayan members of two partnering churches. Pray God guides the leaders to capitalize on the gift of great attendance to create sustainable and meaningful experiences.

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### EUROPE, NORTH & WEST AFRICA

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#### SEP 11 WEDNESDAY

**Ministry Focus, Rick Creighton, Nigeria** – A student, “John,” arrived at seminary deeply ensnared by pornography. Although a committed, active Christian, no one knew about this addiction and he didn’t know how to seek help. He was disheartened and close to leaving the faith. We provided John with confidential counselling in a safe, trusted environment, and he was able to fight his way to freedom from pornography with our support and care. He now testifies to his freedom and counsels others to bring their sin into the light to receive prayer, counsel and encouragement to overcome it.

#### SEP 12 THURSDAY

**France** – Philippe and Morgane just arrived in Central Africa for a two-year mission. Philippe will work alongside churches to help them grow spiritually by training future leaders. Please pray for wisdom as they settle down in the country and create relationships.

#### SEP 13 FRIDAY

**Switzerland** – Switzerland’s personnel director is visiting many SIM ministry areas this year. More workers are needed almost everywhere. Please pray the Lord calls many workers for the harvest, especially those willing to serve long term.

#### SEP 14 SATURDAY

**United Kingdom** – Pray for UK Ministry Director Tim McMahon as he prepares training events and material for the UK Cross-cultural Ministry project that will enable pastors to better engage their churches in cross-cultural mission – both locally and globally.

#### SEP 15 SUNDAY

**North Africa** – The Church across North Africa is small and scattered. Pray for those among them who teach right doctrine. Ask for unity among believers, and for God’s strength as people suffer for their faith at the hands of their families.

#### SEP 16 MONDAY

**Benin** – In October the Sinendé Bible Institute will be adding another level to their program by launching a Bachelor of Theology studies. Pray for the full support of the UEEB (SIM-related church), good beginnings, qualified students and capable professors.

#### SEP 17 TUESDAY

**Burkina Faso** – Ask God to give David Anderson wisdom as he provides theological and leadership training for pastors of a developing Church among a southwestern people group. Please pray a door will open for the pastors to be able to visit the capital for regular training.

#### SEP 18 WEDNESDAY

**Côte d'Ivoire** – The Balons and Benjamin both teach rising church leaders in different institutions. The Seri's church is leading discipleship classes. Pray God's deep wisdom for these leaders, and for students to bear and multiply much fruit from what they learn.

#### SEP 19 THURSDAY

**Ghana** – Leaders are in ongoing discussions regarding the future direction and ministries for Maranatha University College. Pray they seek godly advice and prayerfully seek God's guidance to formulate a sharp and dynamic vision for Maranatha's long-term direction.

**Guinea** – Spiritual vitality is based in the unlimited sufficiency of God for every opportunity and need. As SIM Guinea begins new ministries, ask God to help the team live and work in this reality and share it with others.

#### SEP 20 FRIDAY

**Liberia** – The Evangelical Seminary of West Africa received accreditation from the Liberian government to begin classes. Praise God ESWA is able to open doors to student pastors to receive theological training to equip leaders for His Church.

#### SEP 21 SATURDAY

**Mali** – The Transformational Leadership Course has given birth to an evening Bible school with more than 45 students. Unfortunately, Alain, the coordinator, had a fall during one of the sessions and broke his hip, creating a setback. Pray for his quick recovery.

#### SEP 22 SUNDAY

**Niger** – Praise God for His provision for a dormitory at Guesheme Bible School! After years of repairing mud huts damaged during the rains, there is now a cement building with a good roof. Pray many faithful workers continue to be trained there!

#### SEP 23 MONDAY

**Nigeria** – Randy Wildman meets regularly with a group of church elders for discipleship and has completed the first book of Equipping the Saints. Some are now ready to begin discipling others! Please pray for effective follow-up as new groups are formed.

#### SEP 24 TUESDAY

**Senegal** – Praise God for the Finstad (business) and McLean (church training/evangelism) families who are preparing to join the SIM Senegal team. Pray for God's provision of their supporting partners and His putting together of all the details and timing of their arrival.

#### SEP 25 WEDNESDAY

**Togo** – ECWA-Togo started its own Bible Institute last year. As the nine students continue into year two, ask God to grow them into godly shepherds of His flock. Ask God to provide more professors to teach while the director furthers his own Bible education.

**West African Missions Office** – Fifteen new missionary doctors, pastors or disciple makers are ready to serve in places where Jesus is least known. Ask God to supply their finances to go. Pray more churches partner to send workers from West Africa wherever people don't know Jesus.

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### EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA

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#### SEP 26 THURSDAY

**Ministry Focus, Michael Knight, Namibia** – Prisoner Timothy heard of an opportunity to pass time by taking a correspondence course through Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary (NETS). As he studied, he realized his need of a Savior and trusted in Jesus. He was released early and enrolled full-time at NETS. After earning his degree, he planted a church in his home village. His church also started a Christian preschool as an outreach. Now Timothy is becoming a leader in his denomination. Please pray for NETS as we continue to equip Gospel ministers to impact communities throughout Namibia.

#### SEP 27 FRIDAY

**Angola** – Praise God for Clarice Mauricio, a key church leader developing Sunday school materials and training teachers. Pray God sustains her through this rigorous schedule of work, her second year of a master's degree in Christian education at ISTEEL, and family life.

#### SEP 28 SATURDAY

**Botswana** – Paul leads Alpha and trains leaders. A volunteer in a nearby refugee camp is learning to lead Alpha for the people there. Paul also has offered to lead the Alpha course in a local church. Pray God uses these courses to increase understanding of His mission.

#### SEP 29 SUNDAY

**East Africa Service Center (EASC)** – Pray for spiritual and professional growth for leaders involved in Regional Leader Development. Pray for the design team who will implement intentional growth planning for SIM leaders and emerging leaders.

#### SEP 30 MONDAY

**East African Office** – The East Africa office is encouraging staff and missionaries to engage in theological studies in their areas of interest. Pray many will decide to pursue education that will help them enhance their ministry and local churches in a variety of ways.

## October 2019

#### OCT 01 TUESDAY

**Eritrea** – The recent open border makes connection with churches in Eritrea possible. Encouragement, theological and trauma training was shared, relieving the sense of isolation. Pray pathways remain open, protection for those traveling, and momentum to grow.

#### OCT 02 WEDNESDAY

**Ethiopia** – Ethiopia now has the largest number of internally displaced people in the world. Pray many in the Church actively reach out and model reconciliation, love and healing that foster peace between people groups.

**Kenya** – Theological Education by Extension (TEE) targets anyone who wants to deepen their Bible knowledge and faith. TEE classes are in four locations with 68 students. Ask for God's guidance in opening more centers since seven other towns have requested centers, too.

#### OCT 03 THURSDAY

**Madagascar** – Mamifeno is academic dean and administrative director of the Evangelical Training Center for the Islands of the Indian Ocean (CEFOI). Pray the Lord raises people to take one or both of these roles so Mamifeno can concentrate on teaching and discipling students.

#### OCT 04 FRIDAY

**Malawi** – The Evangelical Bible College of Malawi equips pastors. Pray its director wisely administers, and teaching staff, including three SIM missionaries, teach and mentor students with loving care. Pray for the financial needs of the college to be abundantly met.

#### OCT 05 SATURDAY

**Mascarene Islands** – The Godins started a course to help youth understand the Bible better. Pray this study sparks an excitement and call in them to commit their lives to godly service and ministry. Well-grounded, principled preachers and passionate worship pastors are sorely needed.

#### OCT 06 SUNDAY

**Mozambique** – Please pray for the upcoming elections in Mozambique taking place on October 15. Please also pray for the 21 students at INTEL – Instituto Teologico de Lichinga – as they study finances and evangelism during their second full semester of classes.

#### OCT 07 MONDAY

**Namibia** – Namibia has been experiencing an exceptionally dry season. Pray October rains come in right amounts to break the drought and water the land for abundant crops. Pray also for favor with the government and speed in obtaining employment permits for the team.

#### OCT 08 TUESDAY

**Southern Africa Service Center (SASC)** – Pray for the ministry and staff of SASC as it continues to strive for excellence in serving the people and ministries it supports and as it seeks people to fill key ministry roles.

#### OCT 09 WEDNESDAY

**South Africa** – Pray for theological education students Eugene (Durban, through Wheaton College), Francisco (Rustenburg), Chantal (Baptist Seminary, Cape Town), Christiaan (Moody Bible Institute, Chicago), and for others studying at various levels, in and outside of South Africa.

#### OCT 10 THURSDAY

**South Sudan & Sudan** – South Sudan leaders desperately need theological training. Ask God for educators to teach theological education by extension to equip the Sudan Church with godly, biblically grounded, gifted and caring pastors and leaders able to proclaim Jesus and train believers.

**Tanzania** – Praise the Father for open doors at government schools to teach Bible story lessons to the children. Plead for the release of sufficient funds to complete the longtime dream of building the first Christian primary school in Lindi.

#### OCT 11 FRIDAY

**Zambia** – Lecturers are needed at both Bible schools. Ask God to send gifted teachers to caringly equip students well. Pray for fruitful ministry and mentoring relationships between church members and students as they work with local churches as part of their training.

#### OCT 12 SATURDAY

**Zimbabwe** – Zimbabwe is in a currency transition. Pray the fundamentals of this change are established and the economy stabilizes quickly. Pray transfers of funds for ministries and missionaries continue to go smoothly so they can continue to operate without interruption.

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### WEST & SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

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#### OCT 13 SUNDAY

**Ministry Focus, SIM worker, South Asia** – “Wives in my culture are often beaten by their husbands and in-laws,” explains a 23-year-old wife who married at age 15. “My first years of marriage to my husband were difficult. But he changed when he started attending daily Bible studies at the SIM project, and got to know your Jesus. Now I see that he loves me, and he has started teaching me the Bible too. He even helps with chores and changes diapers,” she smiles, “but don’t tell his buddies that—they will laugh!” Ask the Lord to send a worker with training gifts, to open a Bible Training Center here.

**Middle East** – Give thanks for the impact Perry and Karen made on theological training in the Middle East with the Arab Baptist Seminary. Since they’ve moved on now, pray with the team as they look for others who will take the long road to teach in Arabic.

#### OCT 14 MONDAY

**Bangladesh** – Pray for S, who comes from an unreached people group. He recently became a believer and is studying a correspondence discipleship course with a SIM missionary. Next year he may enroll in an on-site module course. Pray for disciples to multiply.

#### OCT 15 TUESDAY

**India** – SIM partners with the Ezra project to provide theological training. Pray the faculty teaches well-grounded biblical truth with passion and concern. Pray also for fruitful mentoring relationships with the students. Ask God for more teaching staff and mentors.

#### OCT 16 WEDNESDAY

**Nepal** – The cross-cultural training center is in immediate need of ESL teachers. Pray for wisdom since the training center location, and country of origin and destination countries of students makes visa situations difficult and complicated.

#### OCT 17 THURSDAY

**Pakistan** – Give thanks for the ministry of the Open Theological Seminary (OTS), which grew out of SIM’s ministry in Pakistan. Please pray OTS would continue to strengthen and equip Pakistani Christians to live and work for the glory of Jesus.

#### OCT 18 FRIDAY

**Sri Lanka** – Kumar is training 33 future lay workers in the Anglican Diocese in Bible and practical topics, including starting new Bible studies and churches. Pray for grace, wisdom, strength, good relationships and much fruit. Pray all the students learn and serve well.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

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### OCT 19 SATURDAY

**Ministry Focus, SIM worker, East Asia** – Restrictions on religious activity in Asian countries have increased, resulting in closer monitoring of citizens doing religious study abroad. This has made local theological education even more important. A major Asian country now has two house-based seminaries where students study surreptitiously, learning theology, crisis management, and how Jesus would respond to difficult times. On weekends students serve among churches throughout the country. Pray these students continue to grow under pressure, and have resources needed to continue their studies.

### OCT 20 SUNDAY

**Australia** – Pray Christian Special Religious Education in public schools will flourish with biblically sound doctrine. Pray Bible colleges, churches and mission organizations continue partnering strongly to provide quality training for Christian missionaries and lay workers.

**China** – Thank the Lord for opportunities for local believers to be trained in how to reach a specific unreached people group. Please ask the Lord to multiply the fruit of their labor as they put into practice what they have learned.

### OCT 21 MONDAY

**Continental & Southeast Asia (CSEA)** – Praise God for 16+ years the CSEA office supported and developed countries in Continental and Southeast Asia. Praise for the progress SIM leaders in these countries made to take on these services. Pray new arrangements flourish, especially in smaller countries.

### OCT 22 TUESDAY

**East Asia** – Pray for journey mercy and wisdom as pastors-at-large visit and minister to workers scattered around the world. Pray SIM seminary lecturers seize opportunities to disciple or mentor students, and students eagerly engage and grow through these relationships.

### OCT 23 WEDNESDAY

**Indonesia** – SIM workers teach in three seminaries. Pray for effective teaching both in and outside classes. Ask God to create a vision among students for reaching those living and dying without Jesus the Christ.

### OCT 24 THURSDAY

**Japan** – Asian Access Japan is in the process of redesigning its leadership development program, which has encouraged leaders throughout Japan since 1983. Pray the next generation of this program would effectively identify, develop, and multiply Christ-like leaders in Japan.

### OCT 25 FRIDAY

**Korea** – Praise God for SIM Korea's opportunities to introduce SIM to some seminaries and theological colleges this year. Pray it would network with more theological colleges and seminaries so many young students may be challenged for global mission.

### OCT 26 SATURDAY

**Mongolia** – The university and school year recently began with new teachers and long-term workers. Pray they build cohesive, community-building teams that honor Jesus Christ within each school or university. Pray students learn well and encounter Jesus through their love.

### OCT 27 SUNDAY

**Myanmar** – Ask God to raise up men and women in the churches of Myanmar who desire to reach out to the lost in their own country – especially to those who are of different ethnic origin. Pray also for churches to love children and to teach them according to the Scriptures.

### OCT 28 MONDAY

**New Zealand** – The 15 Days of Prayer for the Hindu world ends October 3. Thank God for His mighty works among 1.5 billion followers of the Hindu faith. Ask for workers to interact with Hindu people and answer their questions so these days of focused prayer will bear much fruit.

**OCT 29 TUESDAY**

**Philippines** – Please pray for the mentoring and discipleship ministries of SIM workers, especially among new believers. Pray also for each worker to have at least one mentor. Pray God would send people gifted in mentoring to invest in SIM PH.

**OCT 30 WEDNESDAY**

**Thailand** – Please pray the online course modules and upcoming workshop of the SIM field leadership development program would equip and encourage participants to grow spiritually, build strong ministry teams, and lead with boldness, effectiveness, and wisdom.

**Vietnam** – Thank God for the marriage and family training that is being received with joy and enthusiasm throughout Vietnam. Pray students learn, put into practice, and then teach others so truths from God's Word become a living testimony among husbands, wives and children.

**OCT 31 THURSDAY**

**West Malaysia** – Praise God for healthy growth of West Malaysian theological institutes. Regular Bible courses train Malaysians and those with limited access to Christian education. Pray for open doors to enter Malaysia so more of God's workers can be equipped at these institutes.

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**Thank you for praying.**

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

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*"Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins...He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out his wonderful plan of love." —Eric Liddell*

Because you prayed: *In February SIM USA prays for teachers and heard an amazing story about a young woman who just walked onto Bingham Academy's campus asking about teaching there. This young woman is now one of the teachers God provided for the school.*

Praying for Missionaries: Many mission families are separated, with children in boarding school while parents are often in remote areas sharing the good news of Jesus. Pray God's comfort and community for these separated families.

*"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."* Psalm 25:5 NIV

CSEA initiated, grew, graduated and supported new ministries and countries in Continental and Southeast Asia. Discontinuing the CSEA office now encourages each country to better growth.

*Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."* John 14:23 NIV