

OCTOBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Prayer calendar sponsored by: Ken Weaver In memory of June Marie Weaver, a prayer warrior for missions.</p>						
4 Pray for William "Bill" Eberly, pastor at Powhatan Mennonite Church, Powhatan, Va., as he begins his first lead pastor role. Also lift up the Powhatan church in this time of learning and growing together.	5 A VMissions couple in South Asia is working with a group of Muslims to translate Old and New Testament passages into a more understandable language. Pray for this incredible witnessing opportunity.	6 Ask God to continue meeting the fundraising needs of Brent and Alisha Justice in miraculous ways as they prepare for a five-year term of service in Uganda.	7 Pray for Kathleen Lichti, chaplain at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, and member of Charlottesville Mennonite Church, as she guides and nurtures women on their spiritual journeys.	8 Give thanks for the children's Sunday School program that Laura Campbell is leading in Montenegro. Pray that these children will grow in knowledge and love of God.	9 Pray for the second generation believers in the South Asian city where Jacob and Hosanna serve. Pray that they will put God's kingdom first as they grow in following Jesus.	10 Pray for God's hand on Katrina Schmid as she teaches math and earth science in her second year at the Lezha Academic Center, Albania.
11 Pray for Nevin Mast, pastor at Mt. Pleasant Mennonite Church, Chesapeake, Va., as he continues to provide leadership to the congregation in his first year as lead pastor.	12 Pray for the staff of VMissions as they learn more about how to best engage Muslims. Ask God to produce much Kingdom fruit through this training.	13 Give thanks for the new baby that Adam and Jeanette Strode are expecting in February. Pray for health and strength for Jeanette and for God's protection over this little life.	14 Pray for Rene Hostetter, pastor at Big Spring Mennonite Church, Luray, Va., as she provides leadership in her first lead pastor role.	15 Pray for Raleigh and Opel* as they continue to find the new rhythms of life in North Africa. Ask God to remind them of His unchanging grace and love for them. *pseudonyms	16 Richard and Elsie Bowman return to Albania today to spend another year teaching at the Lezha Academic Center. Ask for God's blessings on their health, relationships, and witness.	17 Pray that the upcoming process for dual citizenship and naturalization for Rebekka Stutzman will go smoothly. She is on home assignment from service in Germany with her husband Dave and three children.
18 Pray for Matthew Bucher, pastor at Immanuel Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va., as he begins his first lead pastor role.	19 Ask God to awaken the hearts of Isaan young people to God's love and power to save. Pray for Steve and Bethany Horst as they minister to these young people in Bangkok.	20 Ask for God's favor as Shawn and Laura Green work to pass the drivers' license exams to get their Italian permits, which will be a huge blessing to their ministry in southern Italy.	21 Ask God to intervene in deepening the Campbells' discipleship relationships in Montenegro, especially with their friends Darko, Dejan, Vladimir, and Marijana.	22 Pray for Jacob and Hosanna as they return today to South Asia as a family of five. Ask God to guide their steps both for travel and for their next term of ministry.	23 Pray for MaryBeth Moore, pastor at Signs of Life, a Deaf ministry in Staunton, Va., as she provides creative leadership in this congregation.	24 Pray for God's light to surround Michael and Ruth's four young children in South Asia. Pray for their protection and growth as young disciples.
25 Pray for Faith and Life Commission of Virginia Mennonite Conference as they call a new chairperson for the commission. May this commission serve effectively and faithfully through the transition of leadership.	26 Pray for a Belizean man that Nancy Marshall is encouraging to make wise choices and serve God with his whole heart.	27 Pray for health and strength for Sid, Bradie, and Justin Ramella, sons of Vince and Lavonne, as they play, learn and live in Kosovo. The Ramellas plant seeds of faith and respond to ministry needs in their Istog community.	28 Give thanks for the childcare helper who will be caring for Robbie and Anna* in North Africa while their parents study language. Pray God's blessing on these times with the children. *pseudonyms	29 Give thanks for the many immigrant and refugee families that live in transSender Sarah K's neighborhood. Pray that meeting Jesus will become a significant part of their stories.	30 Pray that Anjali Horst, daughter to Steve and Bethany in Thailand, will keep growing in her ability to communicate in Thai, providing more opportunities for friendships and playmates.	31 Ask God to be at work in many hearts raising up new workers for the Kingdom, for "the harvest is plentiful!"
<p>3 Pray for God's provision for VMissions' Kids Club programs in Harrisonburg, VA and Joshua Center ministries in Albania. Donate your coins at the VA Relief Sale today to contribute to these ministries.</p>						
<p>1 Ask God to continue stirring His disciples' hearts following Dr. Gunder's teaching on "Missional Church" this week in Harrisonburg. Pray that the church will be inspired and convicted to join in God's mission.</p>						
<p>2 Give thanks for the many ways God has used Jonathan Cranston's gifts and grown his ministry over the last year in the Philippines. Pray for adjustment and discernment for next steps as he returns to the States.</p>						



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Connections

October 2015

Come and enjoy the 49th annual **Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale**, October 2-3. The sale offers a little bit of everything—quilts, artwork, homemade food, antiques, crafts, music and activities for the whole family, and all proceeds go to Mennonite Central Committee. Learn more at vareliefsale.com

Come join **friends of Highland Retreat** at the **Annual Banquet** on Tuesday, October 27, 6:15-8 p.m. in the dining hall of Eastern Mennonite School. Enjoy a delicious meal followed by an enjoyable program. Child care (ages 4-12), a homework room, and pizza dinner is provided. A freewill offering will be taken to support Highland Retreat. For information and reservations, visit highlandretreat.org, call (540) 705-0554, or send e-mail to info@highlandretreat.org by Oct 19.

“Our Stories, God’s Story,” Mennonite Women of Virginia’s Fall Retreat, is October 30 to November 1 at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, Harrisonburg, Va. Speaker Sharon Clymer Landis, spiritual director and co-author of *The Spacious Heart: Room for Spiritual Awakening* will provide input. Music will be led by a team from Harrisonburg Mennonite Church. There are scholarships available and day-only registration is available. Register by October 5. Contact Sylvia Yoder at (540) 337-8660 or sylvia@crossroadsflooring.com

Blue Ridge Ministries is offering their annual leadership luncheon on October 15 at Traditions Restaurant with conversation

around the book, *The Spacious Heart: Room for Spiritual Awakening*. Authors Don Clymer and his sister Sharon Clymer Landis will share their insights and stories as pastors and lay leaders from various denominations dialogue around the table on the topic. Come join others in the conversation. Contact blueridgeministries@yahoo.com or call (540) 560-1605.

Credentialed leaders: a **VMC Pastoral Leadership Consultation** on “Same-Gender Attraction, Relationship, Lifestyle,” will be November 9-11 at Lindale Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, Va. Cost is \$40 for all three days. To encourage and cut costs for our pastors from farther away, host families have volunteered to lodge these participants at no charge. RSVP: (540) 434-9727 or anieta.mccracken@virginiaconference.org

Save the date: The **VMC Ministry Retreat** will be February 26-28 at Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center. The speaker will be Dr. John Roth, professor of history at Goshen College. More details and a registration form will be forthcoming.

Registration is now open for the upcoming **Nazareth/Bethlehem Work Group** (May 6-23, 2016) sponsored by VMissions as a *Partners in Mission* program. The work group will engage in work projects at Nazareth Village (Nazareth, Israel) and at Diyar Consortium, a ministry of Christmas Lutheran Church (Bethlehem, Palestine). The group will be co-led by Dorothy Jean Weaver



Can you sponsor a student at the Joshua Center?
 Your gift of \$40 per month can help provide Christian early-childhood education for Roma children in

Lezhe, Albania. Select and support a child online at vmmissions.org/school/joshua-center or contact Janet Blosser: (540) 434-9727 or janet.blosser@vmmissions.org

(Eastern Mennonite Seminary) and Lee Martin (Mount Clinton Mennonite Church). Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact Dorothy Jean Weaver at (540) 432-4276 or at weaverdj@emu.edu

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