

## **Prayer Guide for the week of January 28, 2024**

### **Sunday - Our Families, Congregation and Community**

Continue to pray this week for members of own church family who are marking sad anniversaries or dealing with the fresh grief of losing a family member to death. Pray for the children who have said goodbye to parents, siblings who have lost brothers or sisters, husbands and wives who are parted from their life companions. Pray for God's comfort and strength as these grieving survivors move along the process of adjustment. Pray for our ministry to each of our hurting sisters and brothers. Pray we will be used by God to provide support through long days of dealing with the details of services and travel and financial matters. Pray we will be able to graciously listen to family stories and talk with confidence about the promise of heaven.

### **Monday - Our Supported Workers of the Week – Nisin and Joanna – Serving in a Restricted Area**

Pray for Nisin and Joanna to encourage students and meet those who might be interested in doing study abroad in the UAE. Pray for funding and for the Lord to provide additional needs, as the budget has increased. Pray for students to keep their eyes on Jesus. Pray for them to keep faithfully attending church. Pray for the team as they return after a break into a busy semester. Pray for Nisin and Joanna's church, that members will mature and grow in Christ. Pray that they will put on holiness and walk faithfully with Jesus.

### **Tuesday – Our Essential Workers and First Responders**

Pray this week for the men and women in our area who serve our communities as police officers and sheriffs' deputies. Their responsibilities often put them at personal risk and frequently demands skill in working with individuals or groups who are angry or distraught. Pray for God's physical protection and spiritual wisdom. Pray for discernment and clear communication to calm people in crisis. Pray for growing trust in God's power and love.

### **Wednesday – Our Elected Leaders and Public Officials**

Pray this week for the candidates for political office who must win primary contests to qualify for general election. Pray that God would protect our communities and our nation from individuals or groups who would put their own interests above their responsibility to always do what is best for the people they serve. Pray for honesty and fairness in campaign rhetoric. Pray political debate will not become an excuse for hatred or violence.

### **Thursday – Our Fellow Believers in Danger**

Open Door's 2024 list of the fifty most dangerous countries for Christians to live and work has just been released. North Korea still leads the world in its hatred of believers. Their history of brutality has been common knowledge for many years but in 2023 the government made international news when an entire family, including young children, were sentenced to hard labor for being Christians. Pray this week for this family of brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for the children to be protected from the government's attempts to force them to renounce their faith. Pray for North Korea to be revolutionized by Christianity.

**Unreached People Group - Lashari Baloch in Pakistan:** Pronounced, "lah-SHAR-ee bah-LOACH", the Lashari Baloch people group have a population of around 211,000 in Pakistan. They live in the southern area within Pakistan and most of them follow Islam as Sunni Muslims, although few claim to be Shia Muslims. They hold fast to their tribal traditions and customs. Because their identity is so engrained within their religion and traditions, it is very challenging for the Lashari Baloch people to be open to other beliefs and faiths. This creates a barrier to the gospel. Pray for the Lashari Baloch people, that they would begin to question their Muslim beliefs. Pray that they would seek the truth of the gospel. Pray for Christian believers in Pakistan to reach out to this lost people group. Pray for the Balochi translation of the New Testament to help many Lashari Baloch people put their trust in Christ.

### **Friday – Our Local Ministry Partners:**

**Local Presbytery:** Second Street Presbyterian Church – Albemarle, NC – Pastor John Black

**Local Ministry – Metanoia Prison Ministries:** Pray for Metanoia Prison Ministries, an organization dedicated to engage, educate, and equip the body of Christ to disciple, mentor, and reintegrate prisoners across America. Continue prayers for Shelly Marshall as she trusts in the Lord in the midst of her battle with cancer. Pray for Tim Busch in his work as Mentoring Ministry Facilitator. There are mentoring locations in 4 prisons in Georgia and South Carolina. Pray for an open door for a mentoring program in Texas. Pray for the ministry staff. Pray for volunteers who are needed to help support ministry efforts. Pray for the new Director, Lowell Ivey. Pray as he travels this month and pray for his wife, Mae, who is expecting their sixth child in August. Pray for their family as they adjust to life in Georgia.

#### **Saturday - Our Servant Leaders**

Pray this week for Pastor Mike Miller and his team of staff and volunteers as they manage all of the details of our upcoming Missions Conference. Pray for speakers, supported workers, and guests who will travel here to tell us about their work. Pray for our congregation to respond with generosity to the challenge of faith promise giving in support of international ministries. Pray too, that God would call members of our congregation to vocations in missions. Praise God for the career mission workers and short-term mission team members who are a part of our church family. Pray we would grow in our determination to be a part of the Great Commission wherever God would ask us to serve.

*Your pastors and staff are praying for you! Send your confidential prayer requests to [prayer@christcovenant.org](mailto:prayer@christcovenant.org).*