

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Thursday 24th May

Today we want to remember **Pastor Bao Guohua** and his wife **Pastor Xing Wenxiang** serving long sentences in prison in China. We pray that the prison guards would have compassion on them and treat them well.

Friday 25th May

We pray for **Mussie Eyob** (pictured) who since 2011 has been in an Eritrean prison run like a labour camp. We ask the Lord to sustain and help him in these harsh circumstances and lift his spirits.



Saturday 26th May

We lift up Pakistani pastor **Zafar Bhatti** before the Lord. He has been serving a life sentence in prison since 2012 where he has been repeatedly bullied and attacked. We pray for his safety and his release.

Sunday 27th May

We pray for **Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh** in Evin Prison in Iran. He is being denied access to the medical treatment he needs for severe gum infection and his family is worried that he might lose all of his teeth.

Monday 28th May

Today we pray for **Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel**, a former maths lecturer and chairman of the Eritrean Evangelical Alliance. While we haven't had any news of Dr Kiflu for many years, the Lord knows his needs and we ask for His blessing.

Tuesday 29th May

We pray for **Imran Ghafur Masih** serving a life sentence in prison in Pakistan. We pray that a new date for an appeal hearing would be set and kept.

Wednesday 30th May

We intercede for **Mussie Ezaz**, imprisoned in Eritrea since 2008. We pray for strength and hope and that his family would be allowed to contact him.

Thursday 31st May

We pray for Chinese pastor **Zhang Shaojie** who has been tortured since in prison. We pray for an end to the starvation and sleep deprivation he has had to endure and for God's healing of his body and mind.

Thank you for your prayers!



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Church in Chains Prayer Diary

May 2018

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
Colossians 4:2

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 1st May

We pray for the situation of Christians in India who are facing an increasing persecution by Hindu extremists. We pray particularly for **Persis Jacob**, the pastor's wife, who was attacked in Tamil Nadu in March.

Wednesday 2nd May

We thank God that **Hadi Asgari** was released on bail in April after 20 months in prison in Iran. We pray that his appeal against his ten-year sentence would be heard on 8 May as planned and would be successful.

Thursday 3rd May

Today we pray for Christians in Henan Province, China, where persecution has increased in the past few weeks and the authorities have taken more control of religious activity. We pray for special protection over house churches.

Friday 4th May

We thank God that Church in Chains was able to address the Oireachtas Foreign Affairs Committee about the rise of persecution in India in April. We pray that action will be taken to improve the situation of our Indian brothers and sisters. And we are still praying for a meeting with the Indian Ambassador.

Saturday 5th May

We want to stand with **Andrew Brunson** whose trial started on 16 April, but was postponed for three weeks. We pray that the lies in this case would be exposed and Andrew would not be convicted as a terrorist or political or military spy.

Sunday 6th May

Father, we pray for the 32 Christians arrested in Asmara in March including a newlywed couple. We pray that those who are still in prison would not disappear in the prison system, but be released in due course.

Monday 7th May

We thank the Lord that **Slimane Bouhafis** has been released from prison in Algeria. We pray that he would recover physically, emotionally and spiritually from his hardships and his family would be blessed as they are reunited.

PRAY FOR IRAQ

Tuesday 8th May

We pray for Iraq - a county ravaged by war. We know the situation is very uncertain especially for Christians. We pray for reconciliation, restoration and enduring peace.

Wednesday 9th May

We pray for the Lord to continue to provide for and bless the micro-loan initiatives which are helping people out of poverty and dependency.

Thursday 10th May

Today we pray for the release of the remaining slaves. We pray that they would be reunited with their families and for healing from their trauma.

Friday 11th May

We pray for the persecutors in Iraq. We pray that they would be brought out from darkness into light. We pray that they would turn from violence and destruction and come to know God.

Saturday 12th May

Today general elections are taking place in Iraq. We ask God for positive change so that Christians can move from distributing food and fuel to contributing towards real development in Iraq.

Sunday 13th May

We pray for **Malcolm Macleod** and the work of Steadfast Global. We pray for wisdom, strength, encouragement and safety for the staff as they bring aid. We pray that all necessary visas will be granted for the upcoming trip in August.

Monday 14th May

Praise the Lord for church leaders who are joining forces and leading the rebuilding work in the Nineveh Plains. We pray that there will be sufficient jobs and training so the young people can stay and have a future there.

Tuesday 15th May

We pray especially for the project in Kurdistan, that abandoned houses owned by Christians who have emigrated can be "recycled" for the use of Christians whose own homes have been completely destroyed and who want to remain. We pray that the logistics of this project can be worked out soon.



PRAY FOR ERITREA

Wednesday 16th May

We want to lift up this broken country before the Lord. Eritrea is considered the most repressive state in Africa. We want to see an end to extremism, corruption, torture, imprisonment and suffering.

Thursday 17th May

We ask for the Lord's blessing on the annual Prayer & Protest Vigil being held today at the Eritrean Embassy in London. We pray that, as Church in Chains joins CSW, Release Eritrea and other organisations, the event would send a clear message of continued united concern for Eritrea's persecuted Christians.



Friday 18th May

We want to pray for President **Isaias Afewerki**. He has committed so many crimes against humanity since he came to power in 1993. We pray that his heart would be softened towards God, all Eritreans and especially Christians.

Saturday 19th May

We want to remember the many Christians who are incarcerated in horrific conditions, that God's strength would sustain them day by day. We pray that they would be given specific sentences and not be kept captive indefinitely.

Sunday 20th May

We pray for three Orthodox priests, **Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus**, **Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteb** and **Gebremedhin Gebregiorsis**, all part of a renewal movement within their church. They have all been in prison since 2004. May they be safe, treated kindly by the prison guards and released soon.

Monday 21st May

Today we pray for the many refugees who have fled Eritrea due to persecution or indefinite military service. We pray that they would receive comfort and support in their new homes and be able to live and believe in safety.

Tuesday 22nd May

Pray for protection for the many house churches meeting in secret. We pray that the Lord would bless and grow them and keep them safe from raids.

Wednesday 23rd May

We thank God for **Sheila Keetharuth**, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Eritrea. We pray for the Lord's blessing on her work and that she would be able to report on the situation without any hindrances.