

WEEK 4

Sunday 22nd March

Eritrean pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** was arrested in 2004 and has remained in prison ever since. He was a leader in a banned Pentecostal church network, the Rhema Evangelical Church. We ask God to daily protect Pastor Meron in prison and encourage him.



Monday 23rd March

Pastor Meron has never been tried or sentenced and has not had access to a lawyer. We pray that despite this he would be released soon.

Tuesday 24th March

Alongside several other Christian leaders, **Pastor Meron** is incarcerated in Wengel Mermera, a notorious maximum-security prison with dungeon-like labyrinth of cells. We pray for good health in mind and body in this dark place.

Wednesday 25th March

Today we pray for spiritual refreshment for **Pastor Meron** and for his witness to other prisoners and prison guards. We pray that all the Christian prisoners would be allowed to have fellowship together and encourage each other.

Thursday 26th March

We ask the Lord to bless all the other Christians in Wengel Mermera prison. We particularly lift up the Christian leaders known to us before the Lord, **Mussie Ezaz**, **Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel**, **Rev Haile Naizghe** and **Pastor Kidane Weldou**.

Friday 27th March

Today we pray that all these Christian prisoners too would be released soon.

Saturday 28th March

Under the brutal dictatorship of **President Isaias Afewerki**, Eritrea remains effectively an open-air prison. We pray for an end to this oppression and pray for an end to the persecution of Christians in Eritrea.

Week 5 of the Lent Prayer Project will be included in the April Prayer Diary

As always, thank you for praying with us this month!



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

March 2020 (Lent Prayer Project)

WEEK 1

Sunday 1st March

Wang Yi is a 46-year-old pastor of Early Rain Covenant Church, in Chengdu, China. He was arrested in December 2018, and in December 2019 he was given a nine-year prison sentence. Ask God to bless and strengthen Pastor Wang.



Monday 2nd March

Those who attended his trial said **Pastor Wang** looked much thinner but was in a good mental state. We pray that he would be treated well in prison, get enough food and sleep to stay healthy and be released early.

Tuesday 3rd March

Pastor Wang is married to **Jiang Rong**; they have a son **Shu Ya** (12) and an adult daughter, **Ruolin**. He has not seen them since he was detained. Pray that Pastor Wang would be allowed family visits while in prison.

Wednesday 4th March

Jiang Rong was arrested with her husband in December 2018 and released on bail in June 2019. She has been under house arrest since her release. We pray that she would be freed from house arrest.

Thursday 5th March

Shu Ya has been under surveillance since his father was arrested and under house arrest since his mother was released on bail. Pray for hope, protection and blessing for him and his sister **Ruolin**. We also pray that Shu Ya would settle into the new public school as he is no longer allowed to go to the church-run school.

Friday 6th March

Early Rain Covenant Church has been harassed by the authorities for over a year now and at least 150 members were detained at one stage. Ask God to sustain the church and protect its members. We pray especially for those who wrestle with feelings of guilt for confessing or denouncing the church while under duress.

Saturday 7th March

Elder **Qin Defu** (37) of Early Rain Covenant Church was arrested with Pastor Wang in December 2018. In November 2019 he was sentenced to four years in prison. We pray for strength and comfort for Elder Qin in prison and blessing and provision for his wife **Xiao Hongliu** and his two young children.



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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WEEK 2

Sunday 8th March

Leah Sharibu is a 16-year-old Nigerian school girl who is one of a group of 110 girls who were abducted by Boko Haram at their boarding school in 2018. All the other girls were released a month later because they are Muslims but Leah is a Christian and the militants said they would only release her if she converted to Islam, which she refused to do. We ask God to keep Leah healthy and safe from harm.



Monday 9th March

The terrorists have said they will hold **Leah** as "a slave for life". In January, Nigerian media reported that she had given birth to a baby boy, fathered by an ISWAP commander. We pray for good health for Leah and her baby and that they would both be released soon.

Tuesday 10th March

We thank God for Leah's bold witness that has inspired many people around the world. We pray for spiritual encouragement for her in the volatile situation she is in, and for hope as she is facing into the third year of captivity.

Wednesday 11th March

Leah's mother **Rebecca** works as a primary school teacher in Dapchi, while her father **Nathan** works as a civil servant in Yola. She has one brother, **Donald**. Ask for comfort and patience for Rebecca, Nathan and Donald and the wider family.

Thursday 12th March

In 2018 **President Muhammadu Buhari** personally reassured Leah's family about the government's commitment to rescuing their daughter, however as far as we know this commitment has not translated into any action. We ask God for wisdom for the Nigerian government in its negotiations.

Friday 13th March

The terrorists have kidnapped thousands of Nigerians in recent years. We pray for the release of all who are captive. We particularly remember the 112 Chibok girls, who are still unaccounted for, and for UNICEF nurse **Alice Nggadah**, who is being held together with Leah.

Saturday 14th March

More Christians have been martyred in northern and central Nigeria in recent years than anywhere else in the world! Today we join our brothers and sister in Nigeria and pray for an end to this bloodshed. We also pray for a total defeat of Boko Haram and an end to ISWAP terrorism.

WEEK 3

Sunday 15th March

54-year-old South Korean Baptist missionary **Kim Jong Uk** was arrested in North Korea in October 2013 after entering the country with Bibles and other religious materials. He was charged with attempting to overthrow the regime and spying for South Korea. In 2014, he was sentenced to life imprisonment in a labour camp. We ask God to protect him and keep him safe and well in the labour camp.



Monday 16th March

We pray that **Kim Jong Uk** would not be kept prisoner for life, but that he would be released soon and reunited with his family.

Tuesday 17th March

Conditions in North Korean labour camps are brutal; prisoners are semi-starved, cruelly treated by the guards and forced into extremely hard labour. We ask the Lord to fill **Kim Jong Uk** with hope, encouragement and spiritual strength in the face of such adversity.

Wednesday 18th March

For security reasons, no information can be shared about Missionary Kim's family members. He is not allowed any contact with them but they are being cared for. We ask God to comfort and bless his family.

Thursday 19th March

We pray that through God's power **Kim Jong Uk** might be a witness and a blessing to his fellow prisoners and that the Holy Spirit living in him would even win over prison guards to Christ.

Friday 20th March

An estimated 30,000 Christians are imprisoned in labour camps in North Korea. We don't know any of their names, but the Lord knows each one and we want to pray for them: we ask for perseverance, courage and hope for all North Korean Christians imprisoned for their faith.

Saturday 21st March

We pray that **Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un**, who is the main source of the brutal repression in his "Hermit Kingdom", would come to know the Lord Jesus and repent from his evil ways. We long for an end to the persecution of Christians and the mistreatment of so many people in North Korea.