

WEEK 5

Sunday 21st March

Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteab is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and physician who was arrested in November 2004 because of his leadership in the Medhane Alem (“Saviour of the World”) Bible study group, a renewal movement within the Eritrean Orthodox Church. He has been held incommunicado ever since and has never been tried. Ask God to strengthen and encourage Dr Tekleab.



Monday 22nd March

Dr Tekleab is an insulin-dependent diabetic and has reportedly suffered from hypertension. Pray that his diabetes would continue to be well managed (he receives regular insulin) and that he would be well.

Tuesday 23rd March

Dr Tekleab’s wife **Wubie Kahsay** and their daughters have left Eritrea for security. They have not seen or spoken to him for 16 years. Ask God to sustain Wubie and give her hope.

Wednesday 24th March

When he was arrested, his daughter **Hana** was six, **Sesayit** was four and **Regiet** was one. Ask God to bless and encourage these young women.

Thursday 25th March

Dr Tekleab is imprisoned in the notorious maximum-security Wengel Mermera Central Criminal Investigation interrogation centre in Asmara, where many prominent political and military prisoners are held as well as Christian leaders. He is believed to be in a cell with six other Christians. Pray for the six Christians imprisoned with Dr Tekleab and for them all to be released.

Friday 26th March

Pray for Dr Tekleab’s witness to other prisoners and guards.

Saturday 27th March

We praise God that over a hundred Christian prisoners have been released in 2020 and 2021. Pray for an end to persecution of Christians in Eritrea.

Week 6 of the Lent Prayer Project will be included in the April Prayer Diary



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Church in Chains Prayer Diary

March 2021 (Lent Prayer Project)

WEEK 2

Sunday 28th February

Asif Pervaiz (37) is a Christian from Lahore (Pakistan) who was sentenced to death in September 2020 and is waiting for his appeal to be heard. He has been in prison since 2013, when a Muslim accused him of sending blasphemous text messages. Pray for protection and good health for Asif.



Monday 1st March

Ask God to encourage **Asif** and give him hope. We pray that the Lord's presence would be real to him every day while he is behind bars.

Tuesday 2nd March

In October 2020, **Asif** was moved over 120 km to Faisalabad Jail, where nobody except his wife can visit and where he feels lonely and isolated. **Marilyn** travels once a month to visit him, which is very difficult, and she has applied to have him transferred back to Lahore. Pray for him to be allowed to be transferred back.

Wednesday 3rd March

Asif and his wife **Marilyn** have three sons and a daughter. After Asif was sentenced to death Marilyn and the children had to go into hiding to avoid extremist attacks. They have now moved to a secure location. Pray for protection and provision for Marilyn and the children.

Thursday 4th March

Pray for blessing and good education for the children, who stopped attending school when they went into hiding.

Friday 5th March

Asif's lawyer **Saiful Malook**, who also represented Asia Bibi, has said there was no evidence to justify the charges and has filed an appeal at the Lahore High Court. Pray that the appeal would be heard and **Asif** would be acquitted and released soon.

Saturday 6th March

Ask God for courage and protection for **Saiful Malook** and the other lawyers involved and judges.

WEEK 3

Sunday 7th March

Leah Sharibu (17) was abducted in 2018 in a terrorist raid on her school. She was offered release if she converted to Islam, but she refused and is being held as a “slave for life”. In January 2020, it was reported that Leah has given birth to a baby boy, fathered by a terrorist. Pray for protection and good health for Leah and her baby.



Monday 8th March

Pray that **Leah** and her baby would be released soon and reunited with their family.

Tuesday 9th March

We praise God for **Leah's** steadfastness and ask Him to encourage and sustain her in her Christian faith. Pray that Leah would be able to cast her anxiety on the Lord, because He cares for her. (1 Peter 5:7)

Wednesday 10th March

Leah's mother **Rebecca Sharibu** is a primary school teacher in Dapchi, while her father **Nathan Sharibu** works as a civil servant in Yola. She has one brother, **Donald**. They are members of the Evangelical Church Winning All denomination. According to news reports, a distraught Rebecca fell ill on Christmas Day 2020, just as she had at Christmas 2018 and 2019, and was hospitalised for observation. Pray for comfort and hope for Rebecca, Nathan and Donald.

Thursday 11th March

A UNICEF nurse **Alice Nggadah** (a Christian who was abducted in March 2018) is also being kept as “*slave for life*” alongside Leah. Pray for protection and release for Alice and blessing of her two young children.

Friday 12th March

Boko Haram has kidnapped thousands of women and children in recent years, forcing Christian girls to marry their captors. Ask for the release of the terrorists' many other captives.

Saturday 13th March

Since Leah's abduction the Nigerian government and security forces have been heavily criticised for failing to rescue her. Ask God to grant the Nigerian government wisdom and a renewed determination to rescue Leah and the other captives.

WEEK 4

Sunday 14th March

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani (44) began serving a six-year prison sentence in 2018 after being arrested at a house church meeting. He is a former Muslim who became a Christian aged 19 and is a leader of the non-Trinitarian Church of Iran (other members are with him in prison). Ask God to keep Youcef safe and well in prison.



Monday 15th March

Youcef looks after eleven members of his church who are also in Evin prison. Today we pray for encouragement and hope for him and his friends.

Tuesday 16th March

We thank God that his 10-year prison sentence was reduced to six years at his retrial in May 2020. We pray that **Youcef** would be released early.

Wednesday 17th March

Youcef and his wife Fatemeh Pasandideh (known as Tina) have two sons, Daniel (19) and Joel (16). Ask God to bless and sustain **Tina, Daniel** and **Joel** and comfort them during this difficult time of their family being separated and Iran being badly hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thursday 18th March

Daniel is working in a local market to support the family but the authorities are threatening him with military conscription. **Joel's** school is closed because of Covid restrictions but the educational authorities have not registered him for online learning. Ask that both boys would be able to access and complete their education.

Friday 19th March

Praise God for the phenomenal growth of Christianity in Iran and pray that the Church of Iran would follow the God of the Bible (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

Saturday 20th March

Iran's underground churches are often raided and their leaders and members arrested and given long prison sentences for "*crimes against national security*". Pray for protection and freedom for these house churches.