

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteab** is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and physician who has been behind bars since 2004. We pray that the Father of compassion will comfort Tekleab and provide for all his needs.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

**Futsum Gebrenegus** (pictured), an Eritrean Orthodox priest and psychiatrist, has been in prison since 2004. Ask God to restore his physical, mental, and emotional health. May He strengthen him with the knowledge that he is loved and not forgotten



Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February

**Rev Gebremedhin Gebregjorsis** is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and expert theologian who is also in prison since 2004. We pray that God would fill him with hope and peace in his difficult circumstances.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February

South Korean missionary **Kim Jong Uk** has been serving a life sentence in a North Korean labour camp since 2013. We pray for hope and strength for him while remains in the camp and we also pray for his release.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February

South Korean pastor **Kim Kuk-gi** has been serving a life sentence in labour camp in North Korea since 2014. Based on Ephesians 3 v 16, we ask the Lord that "out of His glorious riches He may strengthen Pastor Kim with power through His Spirit in his inner being", so he can be a shining light for others.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February

In 2014 **Jang Moon Seok** was sentenced to fifteen years in prison in North Korea for his ministry to North Koreans in China. We pray that God would sustain and give him courage for each day he has to spend in prison.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

**Alimujiang Yimili** is a Uighur Christian who has been in prison since 2008, serving a 15-year sentence. We thank God that Alimujiang is in a peaceful state and pray that He would continue to strengthen his body, mind and soul.

**Thank you for praying with us this month!**



## Church in Chains Prayer Diary

### February 2022

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*ROMANS 15:5-6*

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

14-year-old **Mahnoor Ashraf** was abducted on 4 January in Pakistan by her Muslim neighbour Muhammad Ghauri (45), forced to convert to Islam and to marry him. We pray for strength for her family and for Mahnoor's release!

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

We thank God that 14-year-old **Arzoo Raja** is back with her family in Pakistan. She spent the last year in a women's refuge after she was abducted, forcibly converted and married to a Muslim man. We pray for continued healing for her.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

**Luka Binniyat** is an award-winning Nigerian journalist who regularly reported on attacks by Muslim Fulani militants on Christians and has been detained since early November. We pray for healing for his leg, which is badly infected.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February

Please pray for guidance for Church in Chains staff as they work on preparations for the 2022 Lent Prayer Project and the upcoming Spring magazine.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Pray for Iranian **Pastor Matthias Haghnejad** and his family as they cope with the shock of him being returned to prison just two weeks after he was released.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February

On 3 January 2022, a Pakistani court ruled that a death sentence be imposed on **Zafar Bhatti**. His wife Nawab was broken by the court decision and has asked Christians everywhere to pray for Zafar. We pray for a successful appeal of the verdict and for strength and hope for Zafar and Nawab.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Church in Chains together with Scottish partner Steadfast Global is providing for **Sawan Masih** and his family in a safe house in Pakistan – pray for efforts being made to persuade the UK government to allow the family to come to Scotland (where they have relatives).



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## PRAY FOR ERITREA

### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Human rights are routinely violated by the Eritrean government and thousands of Eritreans continue to flee the country. An estimated half a million Eritreans now live as refugees – more than 10% of the population. We pray that Eritrea would be transformed into a country where people are safe to stay and live freely.

### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February

The Eritrean army has been involved in widespread human rights violations in the conflict in the Tigray region of neighbouring Ethiopia, including mass rape, looting, massacres, and the forced return of Eritrean refugees. Pray for an end to the violence, that those responsible for atrocities are held accountable and for special protection for Eritrean Christian refugees.



### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Pray for the estimated 160 Christians thought to be in prison in Eritrea. We pray that God will sustain them while they are behind bars and for a way for them to be released before long.

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February

We pray that God would convict **President Isaias Afewerki** of the many crimes he has committed against his compatriots during his nearly 30-year reign. We pray for a righteous and just government to rule in Eritrea.

### Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Sixteen years ago, the patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Church, **Abune Antonios**, was illegally removed from office and placed under house arrest. He is now 94 years old and has health issues. We pray that Patriarch Antonios would be strengthened by God and would soon be free to leave his house again.

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February

We pray for blessing and protection for **Berhane Asmelash** in his work with Release Eritrea this year. Pray also for wisdom for Berhane and his colleagues as they seek to help the families of Christian prisoners inside Eritrea and to support former prisoners also.

### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Today we pray for the 15 Christians who were rearrested in raids on their homes in Asmara last year. The Christians are men and women aged from their late 20s to their 60s, members of different churches, and all have previously been imprisoned for their faith. We pray for hope, perseverance and freedom!

## PRAY FOR KAZAKHSTAN

### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Between 2-11 January widespread protests against corruption, poverty and inequality were brutally suppressed by the government with the aid of Russian troops. The crackdown led to 225 deaths and over 10,000 arrests in Kazakhstan. We sympathise with Kazakhs longing for a better, fairer life and pray for hope and healing for the ninth largest country in the world.

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February

During the protests President **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** personally gave the order to security forces and army to use lethal force against protesters he called “bandits and terrorists”. We pray for a change of heart for the president.

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February

President Tokayev also recently signed into law amendments to the Religion Law that make holding religious events away from state-registered places of worship more difficult. We pray for hope and courage for churches and church leaders including those of churches who have it impossible to register with the state.



### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

It is said that “to be Kazakh is to be Muslim” and most Kazakhs follow a folk Islam influenced by shamanistic practices. We pray for strength and protection for Christians from Muslim backgrounds who bear the brunt of persecution at the hands of authorities, families, friends and communities.

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Today we continue to pray for converts who are or have been locked up by their families, beaten and may be expelled from their communities. We pray for blessing, healing and a future for them.

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Police frequently raid unregistered church meetings, detain leaders and members and impose large fines. We pray that Christians who are facing these problems will stay strong in their faith and experience the Lord's presence.

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February

We ask God to raise up well-trained, godly leaders despite most Bible schools and seminaries being closed. Pray that the church in Kazakhstan would not be crushed, destroyed or in despair, despite the fact that it is hard pressed on every side, perplexed, persecuted and struck down (2 Corinthians 4 v 8-9)