

WEEK 3 cont.

Friday 25th March

It is believed that Dr Kiflu is being held with several other Christian leaders. Pray for fellowship and mutual encouragement among them in the prison.

Saturday 26th March

Pray for Dr Kiflu's witness to other prisoners and guards and that God will continue to work in him and accomplish His purpose in his life.

WEEK 4

Sunday 27th March

Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh (60) is a convert from Islam who was arrested in 2016 in a raid on a gathering of Christians at an engagement party in Iran. He is serving a ten-year prison sentence. Pray for hope and spiritual encouragement for Naser.



Monday 28th March

Naser began serving his sentence in Evin prison in 2018. Since then his appeal for a retrial has been denied three times and his appeal for parole (to which he should be eligible, having served over one third of his sentence) has been denied twice. Please pray for protection and provision for his needs in prison.

Tuesday 29th March

In 2018 Naser had a severe and very painful gum infection and in 2020 he developed symptoms of Covid-19. Ask God to give Naser good health.

Wednesday 30th March

In January 2022, Iran's Supreme Court finally agreed to review Naser's case, although a date has not been announced. Pray that the Supreme Court would acquit him soon.

Thursday 31st March

Naser is single and before his imprisonment he lived with his elderly mother **Sahab Fazli**, for whom he was the primary carer. Other relatives have stepped in to care for her since his imprisonment. Pray for patience, hope and strength for Sahab.

The remainder of the Lent Prayer Project will follow in the April Prayer Diary!



CHURCH IN CHAINS

PO Box 10447, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland; CHY 15443

T 01-282 5393 E info@churchinchains.ie W www.churchinchains.ie



Church in Chains Prayer Diary March 2022 - Lent Prayer Project

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 1st March

Thank God that Nigerian journalist **Luka Binniyat**, who was detained for 91 days, has been released on bail. We continue to pray for healing for his infected leg and that he would be acquitted when his trial continues.

Wednesday 2nd March

We pray for comfort and strength for the family of **Rev William Siraj** (75) who was shot dead in a targeted killing in Pakistan on Sunday 30 January. Pray in particular for his younger brother Wilson Saraj, who works for Barnabas Fund.

Thursday 3rd March

We pray for many opportunities for us to share about the persecuted church in person again, now that we have entered a different phase of the pandemic.

Friday 4th March

On 9 February, the Eritrean Orthodox Patriarch, **Abune Antonios**, died at the age of 94. We pray that his life would encourage all Eritrean Christians facing hardships and they would be comforted by the fact that he is with Jesus now.

Saturday 5th March

We pray for protection for Christian converts **Mohammad Ali (Davoud) Torabi**, **Mohammad Kayidgap**, **Esmail Narimanpour** and **Alireza Varak-Shah** from Iran, who are being forced to undertake "re-education" classes in the Islamic faith.

LENT PRAYER PROJECT

WEEK 1

Sunday 6th March

Pastor Hao Zhiwei (51) of Egangqiao Church in China has been in detention since July 2019. She was charged with "fraud" for collecting church offerings and was handed an eight-year prison sentence in February 2022. Ask God to protect and encourage Pastor Hao in prison.



Monday 7th March

Pastor Hao is reported to be suffering from poor health in prison. She has had four bouts of acute pancreatitis, which nearly killed her, and has lost over 20kg in weight. Pray for healing and restoration of good health.

WEEK 1 cont.

Tuesday 8th March

Pastor Hao plans to appeal. Pray that the appeal would be heard soon and that she would be acquitted and released.

Wednesday 9th March

Pastor Hao is a widow and has two sons, **Paul** (18) and **Moses** (14). Paul looked after Moses until he went to university in Zhejiang province, leaving Moses in the care of a domestic helper and some women from the church. Ask for peace and hope for Paul and Moses.

Thursday 10th March

In late 2021, Pastor Hao's lawyer reported that Moses was suffering from severe depression, had dropped out of school and had begun locking himself in a room. Pray that **Moses** would recover and return to school.

Friday 11th March

in July 2019 the local government stated that the **Egangqiao Church** building was too close to a power plant, a location that was described as "very dangerous". The church building was subsequently demolished. Ask God to bless and sustain Egangqiao Church.

Saturday 12th March

Today please pray for protection and freedom for China's house churches.

WEEK 2

Sunday 13th March

Pastor Zafar Bhatti (57) has been in prison in Pakistan since 2012, when he was charged with sending blasphemous text messages, a charge he denies. In 2017 he was sentenced to life imprisonment and in January 2022 this was increased to the death sentence. Pray for encouragement and hope for Zafar and his wife Nawab.



Monday 14th March

Zafar's lawyers plan to appeal the death sentence, but his appeal hearings have been adjourned repeatedly, causing great distress to him and Nawab. Pray that Zafar would be acquitted and released soon.

Tuesday 15th March

In prison, **Zafar** has experienced pressure from Muslim prisoners to convert to Islam and has been beaten several times and had his food poisoned. He is kept under high security and is not allowed out of his cell. Ask God to protect Zafar from extremists.

WEEK 2 cont.

Wednesday 16th March

Zafar has developed diabetes, hypertension, headaches and heart disease in prison and has had three heart attacks. **Nawab** is 72 years old and is also in poor health. Please pray for better health for Zafar and Nawab.

Thursday 17th March

In January, when Zafar was given the death sentence, **Nawab** said she was broken by the court's decision. "I could not stop crying and praying – it was hard to take," she said. Ask God to comfort and provide for Nawab.

Friday 18th March

Pray for protection and courage for lawyers and judges as they continue to fight for justice on Zafar's behalf.

Saturday 19th March

Pakistan's blasphemy laws are often misused to settle personal scores, resulting in many innocent people spending years enduring appalling conditions in prison awaiting trial, their families forced into hiding. Pray for reform of these laws.

WEEK 3

Sunday 20th March

Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel (67) has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. The former maths lecturer was seen visiting hospital frequently in 2021 for suspected stress-related hypertension and diabetes. Pray for encouragement and better health for Dr Kiflu.



Monday 21st March

Dr Kiflu is being held in the notorious maximum-security Wengel Mermera interrogation centre in Asmara, a dungeon-like labyrinth of cells. Ask God to protect him and provide for his needs.

Tuesday 22nd March

Dr Kiflu has never been tried and has been held incommunicado since his arrest. Today we pray that Dr Kiflu would be released soon.

Wednesday 23rd March

Ask God to comfort and sustain Dr Kiflu's wife **Elsa**, who has been kept apart from her husband for nearly eighteen years now.

Thursday 24th March

Dr Kiflu and Elsa have four adult children: three sons **Yosias**, **Daniel** and **Senai**; and a daughter **Hermala**, who got married last year. Daniel and Hermala are twins. Please pray for strength and courage for his four children.