

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Tuesday 24th May

Eritrean pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** was arrested in 2004 and has remained in prison ever since. We lift Meron up before the Lord and pray for a daily portion of hope and a future for him.

Wednesday 25th May

Mussie Ezaz (pictured) was an evangelist and youth leader in Eritrea before his arrest in 2008. He has remained in prison since then. We pray for his release.



Thursday 26th May

Rev Haile Naizge has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. Before his arrest he was chair of a network of house churches. We pray for strength and courage for Haile and provision for his wife and four children.

Friday 27th May

Pastor John Cao is serving a 7-year prison sentence in China since 2017. We praise God that John recently shared his vision of life after prison and revealed his strong faith and hope in a letter to his mother.

Saturday 28th May

Since 2015 **Pastor Bao Guohua** and his wife **Xing Wenxiang** have been serving 14-year and 12-year prison sentences in China after refusing to remove the cross from their church roof. We pray for comfort and peace for them in prison.

Sunday 29th May

Online Christian bookseller **Chen Yu** has been in prison in China since 2019 serving a 7-year sentence. We pray that Yu would be well looked after in prison and able to have fellowship with other Christians.

Monday 30th May

Saheb Fadaie, a deacon in the Church of Iran, has been behind bars since 2018, serving a 6-year sentence. In February he was ill during a suspected Covid-19 outbreak in prison, so we pray for full health and strength for him.

Tuesday 31st May

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani is also serving a 6-year sentence in Iran since 2018. We thank God that he was given a five-day temporary release in April and pray for courage for Youcef, his wife Tina and teenage sons Daniel and Joel.



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

May 2022

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. Psalm 5:11

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Sunday 1st May

On Easter Saturday, **Pastor Mao Zhibin** and several members of Trinity Harvest Gospel Church were questioned by Chinese officials during a restaurant lunch following a baptism at a nearby beach. We pray for peace and protection for Pastor Mao and the six Christians who were baptised.

Monday 2nd May

A team from our Scottish partner Steadfast Global is currently on a visit to Iraqi Kurdistan – please pray for protection for them and also for stamina and wisdom as they meet with many persecuted Christians in the region.

Tuesday 3rd May

Today we pray for Church in Chains staff as they work on researching and writing the new edition of our *Global Guide* (to be published later this year).

Wednesday 4th May

In April, Iranian converts **Ahmad Sarparast**, **Morteza Mashoodkari** and **Ayoob Poor-Rezazadeh** were sentenced to five years in prison and fined for their church activities. We pray for peace for our Iranian brothers and their families.

Thursday 5th May

Last month we prayed for **Pastor Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo** from Cuba, who has been detained in a maximum-security prison since last August. He has since been told that he has been sentenced to eight years in prison. Please pray for strength, comfort and hope for him, his wife and teenage son and daughter.

Friday 6th May

Today we pray for the families of the eighty Christians killed and over 150 abducted in Kaduna state in Nigeria's Middle Belt region in March. We echo King David's words from Psalm 68: "May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him".

Saturday 7th May

We thank God that in April, a team from our Nigerian partner Stefanos Foundation was able to travel to Kebbi state to bring aid to Christians who had suffered during recent attacks by Muslim militants.

Thank you for praying with us!



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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PRAY FOR MALAYSIA

Sunday 8th May

Divided into two regions by the South China Sea, Malaysia is also split by culture, language, and ethnicity. We pray for unity between the Malay majority (mainly Muslim) and the Indian and Chinese minorities (mainly non-Muslim).

Monday 9th May

Malaysia is a secular state, but it is forbidden for Christians to share their faith with Muslims. We pray for full religious freedom in the country and for wisdom for Christians as to how to live out their faith.

Tuesday 10th May

We thank God that in 2021 a court ruled it was unconstitutional that Christians were banned from using the widely-used word "Allah" for God in the Malay language. Since 1986 only Muslims had been allowed to use it.

Wednesday 11th May

Since Prime Minister **Ismail Sabri Yaakob** assumed office in August 2021, four new Shariah laws have been being drafted by the federal government, including a bill on control and restrictions on the development of non-Muslim religions. Pray against these laws, which lead to more discrimination and injustice.

Thursday 12th May

Christians from Muslim backgrounds in Malaysia face the worst persecution. If they are discovered, they can face divorce from their spouse, rejection by their family and are banned from official churches. We pray for protection and provision for these new Christians.

Friday 13th May

Today we pray that Christian converts may be strengthened in their new faith and be filled with joy, peace and hope through the Holy Spirit.

Saturday 14th May

In 2017, **Pastor Raymond Koh** was abducted in a military-style operation. To this day his family still does not know what happened to him. We pray for strength and hope for Raymond's wife, Susanna, and their grown-up children **Esther**, **Jonathan** and **Elizabeth**.

Sunday 15th May

Most Christians in Malaysia are treated as second-class citizens in their daily lives. We pray that they would be comforted and encouraged by the truth that they are precious in God's sight.



PRAY FOR PAKISTAN

Monday 16th May

Christians in Pakistan face extreme persecution in their everyday lives. They are considered second-class citizens and most of them can only work in dangerous and dirty jobs, many being victims of bonded labour. We pray for courage and strength for our Pakistani brothers and sisters.

Tuesday 17th May

We pray for God to bless and provide for our partners CLAAS and Release International who provide practical and much-needed aid to Christians in Pakistan.

Wednesday 18th May

In April **Imran Khan** was ousted as Prime Minister. We pray that the new PM **Shehbaz Sharif** and his government would be able to create a fairer and safer Pakistan.



Thursday 19th May

Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are used to target Christians, resulting in many innocent people spending years in prison awaiting trial, while their families are forced into hiding for fear of attack by extremists. We pray that these laws would be abolished or amended soon.

Friday 20th May

We thank God for lawyer **Saiful Malook**, who has taken on blasphemy cases despite the danger that he is putting himself in, and we pray for his protection.

Saturday 21st May

Please pray for safety and protection for the Christian women and girls who are at risk of being abducted, raped and then forced to convert to Islam and marry Muslim men.

Sunday 22nd May

We pray for healing from trauma for those woman and girls who are victims of forced conversion and marriage, especially for those few we know by name: **Mahnoor**, **Arzoo**, **Shakaina**, **Farah**, **Maria**, **Saneha** and **Huma**. We pray for success in the legal procedures that lie ahead and that justice would be upheld. We also pray for freedom for them all and that their lives would be safeguarded.

Monday 23rd May

Released prisoner **Sawan Masih** and his family continue to wait in their safe-house for news of their application to migrate to Scotland. Please pray for protection and peace of mind for them all. We also pray for his children's education, with lessons being delivered online and for comfort for Sawan following the death of his mother in April.