

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December

**Pastor Hao Zhiwei** has been in prison in China since 2019, serving an 8-year-sentence. We pray for strength and hope for her and her teenage sons.

CHRISTMAS DAY (Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December)

Chinese pastor **Zhang Shaojie** (pictured) has been serving a 12-year sentence since 2013. We pray that God Emmanuel would comfort him today as he spends another Christmas behind bars.



ST STEPHEN'S DAY (Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December)

Online Christian bookseller **Chen Yu** has been in prison in China since 2019, serving a 7-year sentence. We ask God to reassure him and his family of His presence with them today.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December

**Rev Haile Naizghe** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We ask the Lord to bless him physically, mentally and spiritually and we pray for his release.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December

Pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray for perseverance and good health for Meron.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December

**Mussie Ezaz**, an evangelist and youth leader, has been in an Eritrean prison since 2008. We ask God to provide for Mussie's needs and bless his wife **Frewrini** and their three sons, **Yoel**, **Hananiel** and **Basaliel**.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December

**Zafar Bhatti** has been in jail in Pakistan since 2012 and is under sentence of death. We thank God that lawyer **Saiful Malook** has taken up Zafar's case and has filed an application for bail. We pray that the appeal would be heard soon and Zafar freed on bail.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December

**Ashfaq Masih** has been in prison in Pakistan since 2017 and on death row since July 2022. We ask the Lord to strength Ashfaq in his inner being in this dark place and that we pray that his appeal would be heard soon.

————— Thank you for praying with us and blessings for 2023! —————



### CHURCH IN CHAINS

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## Church in Chains Prayer Diary

December 2022



Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December

We pray that the three Catholic priests, **Abune Fikremariam Hagos**, **Abba Abraham Habtom Gebremariam**, and **Father Mihretab Stefanos**, who were detained in Eritrea in October, would be released soon!

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

We pray for protection over **Wang Qiang**, a staff member of Linfen Covenant Church in China, who was detained in November. We ask God to strengthen him and his wife **Wen Huijuan**, who is pregnant and has been left to care for their young daughter alone.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Thank God that the text of the new edition of the *Global Guide* is written – please pray that the editing process would go smoothly and also for the arrangements for the launch.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Today as we celebrate the second Sunday in Advent, please pray for protection for Christians in the persecuted church during their Christmas celebrations.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Please pray for wisdom for our 2022 conference speaker **Mansour Borji** as he speaks out for human rights and religious freedom in Iran.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

Please lift up the wife and eight children of **Pastor Seetoud** to the Lord in prayer! He was found dead on 23 October at the edge of a forest near his home village in Laos. His body had been badly beaten.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

Today is the last official date to post Christmas cards to Christian prisoners in China, Iran and Pakistan. We pray that **Pastor Wang Yi**, **Sara Ahmadi**, her husband **Homayoun Zhavah** and **Zafar Bhatti** would receive the cards that are sent and be greatly encouraged.

## PRAY FOR BHUTAN

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December

Bhutan is a small, mountainous kingdom sandwiched between India and China. It is very proud of its national culture and its Buddhist identity and avoids foreign influence by restricting the number of tourists. We pray for a breakthrough in Bhutan and that many people would come to faith in Jesus!

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Christianity is viewed as being only for foreigners and no churches have been allowed to register in Bhutan. The small Christian minority is allowed to meet in private. We pray for protection of these house churches, which tend to meet late at night to avoid discovery!



Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December

We ask the Lord to provide new opportunities for Christians to gather and share their faith with others, and pray that He would encourage and inspire church leaders in their difficult ministries.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Today we want to pray for **King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**. Like many members of the royal household he was educated abroad and would have come into contact with Christians in the past. We pray that he would remember the truths he heard and start putting his trust in Jesus.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December

We pray for courage and strength for Christian converts from Buddhism who are often expelled from their family home and sometimes even their villages. They face discrimination in areas such as employment and property and accessing government services and are closely monitored by the government.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

We also pray for new believers who have been rejected by their families that they would find new communities that offer them love, hope and a new family.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Christian children are forced to receive Buddhist religious education and participate in Buddhist religious ceremonies. We pray for blessing and guidance for Christian families in this situation.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

We pray for provision and safety for all the NGOs that are working to support Christians facing persecution in Bhutan.

## PRAY FOR YEMEN

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

The UN-brokered ceasefire from April – October 2022 has given the greatest hope of leading to an end to the 7-year-long civil war in Yemen between government forces and Houthi rebels. Over 350,000 people have died (directly or indirectly), over 4 million have been displaced and over 20 million people need aid in what the UN has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. We pray for stability and peace!

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Yemeni Christians are doubly vulnerable in this crisis, as emergency relief is mostly distributed through local Muslim leaders and local mosques. We pray for a removal of all obstacles to Christians accessing aid.



Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Most expatriates, including Christians, have left Yemen and the church is composed mainly of a few thousand Christian converts from Islam and their children. They cannot meet openly in church buildings and gather together in small groups and house churches. We pray for protection for Yemeni churches.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December

The culture in Yemen is very tribal and some Christian converts have fled the country as a result of persecution from their own families and tribes. We pray for hope, comfort and strength for them as they start over elsewhere.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

We ask God to give Christian converts, whether they live in Yemen or abroad, courage and wisdom so that they would know how best to live out their faith.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

We thank God for Christian television, radio and internet programmes that broadcast to Yemen. We pray for all people who are secretly searching for truth.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

We pray for provision and protection for Christian aid organisations that are helping those suffering from thirst and starvation.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

A Yemeni Christian stated: "We, the believers, carry hope that helps us with the certainty that tomorrow will be better and that by the will of our Lord, we will pass through this and all the anxieties and fears surrounding us." We pray that this hope would be fulfilled - in Jesus Name, Amen!