

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Pastor Bao Guohua** and his wife **Xing Wenxiang** have been in prison in China since 2015, serving fourteen and twelve-year sentences respectively. We pray for courage and hope for this couple. We also ask God to bless their adult son **Bao Chenxing**, who himself was persecuted in the past.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

**Pastor Geng Zejun** (pictured) has been in prison since January 2022 for “organising illegal gatherings”. He is not in good health but guards and prisoners have been treating him with respect. Praise God for such good relationships in prison and pray for improved health for him during the remainder of his sentence – he is due for release in April.



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February

**Pastor Y Yich** has been serving a twelve-year sentence in prison in Vietnam since 2013 and has reportedly been beaten and tortured. We pray that God would protect Pastor Yich in prison, that he would receive the medical treatment he needs and for healing that he would recover fully from torture. We pray for blessing for his wife **Amying H'Dom** and their five children.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteab** is an Orthodox priest and physician who has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We ask the Lord to sustain Tekleab during his time in prison and to encourage his wife **Wubie Kahsay** and their three daughters, who have left Eritrea.

As always, thank you for praying with us this month!  
The Lent Prayer Project will begin on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February**  
and will be included in the March Prayer Diary.



## Church in Chains Prayer Diary

### February 2023

*Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

*Romans 8:34*

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

On 2 January a Roman Catholic church in central India was attacked when a mob armed with sticks and iron rods marched into the compound of the church and vandalised various buildings. We pray for those who were affected by the attack, in particular the 1,000 children whose school is in the compound.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Thank God that the new edition of our *Global Guide* was published in January. We pray that many would use it to pray for the persecuted church worldwide.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

The public *Global Guide* launch has been scheduled to take place later this month. We pray for guidance and success with the arrangements for the launch and that many politicians and media will attend the event.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February

**Pastor Frank Mutabaazi** has lost nearly all his vision after an acid attack in December by Muslim extremists in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. Frank can only see dimly out of one eye and has trouble eating and talking due to burns. We pray for relief from pain for Frank and healing from his trauma.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Forty-four Eritrean Christians – thirty-nine women and five men – were arrested while gathering in two private homes at New Year. Please pray for this group which is being held in a prison on the outskirts of the capital, Asmara.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February

For almost eighteen months **Shagufta Kiran** has been in jail waiting for trial under Pakistan's blasphemy law. Please pray for justice, strength, hope and provision for her and her husband **Rafique** and their four children.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Today we pray for the board of trustees of Church in Chains which is meeting this month. We pray for wisdom and guidance especially for the two new trustees.



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## PRAY FOR NEPAL

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

Formerly a Hindu kingdom, Nepal became a secular republic in 2008. Hindu radical groups want Nepal to return to being a Hindu state and are behind most persecution of Christians. We thank God that despite this persecution Christianity has been on the rise over the past decade!

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

The church suffered badly during the pandemic, with many pastors dying from Covid-19 and others facing loss of income when churches closed during lockdown, but local governments allowed Christian charities to distribute aid. We pray for blessing for the church in Nepal!



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

We pray that God would soften the hearts of **President Bidya Devi Bhandari** and members of her government towards Christians and that Nepal's anti-conversion law would not be used to unjustly target Christians.

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

Christian converts from Hinduism are seen as betraying the national religion and face pressure from community and family members, who may expel them from home or even attack them. We pray for courage, hope and provision for these new believers, who are often from Dalit and indigenous communities.

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

Two years ago 26-year-old **Pawan** and his wife (both converts) moved in with his parents after the birth of their son. When they refused to take part in Hindu rituals, their newborn son was temporarily taken from them and they were left homeless for nearly two years. We pray for the Lord to supply all their needs today.

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

**Pastor Keshav Raj Acharya** of Abundant Harvest Church in Pokhara has been released from prison on bail – he had been imprisoned for proselytising. We pray for strength and hope for him and his wife **Junu** and their young children.

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

South Korean pastor **Pang Chang-in** and his wife **Lee Jeong-hee** have overseen the opening of nearly 70 churches during their 20 years in Nepal. Lee Jeong-hee has said, *"We are always working with the anxiety and nervousness we feel from the anti-conversion law. But we can't stop the spread of the gospel because of this fear. We will not stop saving souls."* We pray for peace and protection over this couple and their missionary work.

## PRAY FOR NIGERIA

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

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February presidential elections will take place in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. There are concerns that the elections could lead to the breakup of the country as pressure is building from Islamists in the north, including terrorist groups, for an independent Islamic state. The call for secession is now being echoed by regional ethnic groups in the south. Please pray for peace during and after the elections.

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

Today we pray for healing for "Africa's giant" and for political developments that will help bring an end to the ongoing violence against Christians, especially in the north and the Middle Belt region.

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

Over forty Christians were killed and 53 kidnapped in December attacks in Kaduna State by militant Fulani herdsmen and other armed attackers. We pray for healing and recovery for the survivors of these attacks.

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

We also want to remember the thousands of other victims of similar violent attacks on Christians in the past year. We pray that they will receive the aid and support they need to be able to resume their lives.

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

We lift up the **Stefanos Foundation**, our partner in Nigeria, before the Lord. We are thankful for its rehabilitation and reconstruction work and that it also provides trauma counselling and legal aid. We pray for protection and peace over **Mark Lipdo** and all the staff and for provision for their vital work.

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

**Leah Sharibu** is a 19-year-old girl who has been held captive by Boko Haram since 2018. We pray for strength and health for Leah and that she and her two babies (born in captivity, fathered by a terrorist commander) would be freed soon.

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

Today we pray for the persecutors in Nigeria: Islamist terrorists who are members of Boko Haram or ISWAP and Fulani herdsmen. We pray that their hearts would be transformed by the love of Jesus and that they would end their campaigns of violence.

