



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

May 2023

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James 1:2-3

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Monday 1st May

103 young Eritrean Christians, some from Eritrea Institute of Technology at Mai-Nefhi, were recently arrested when they gathered to record worship music. We pray that they would be treated well in prison and released soon.

Tuesday 2nd May

Eritrean Christians are mourning the death of **Pastor Tesfay Seyoum** who was imprisoned for ten years for belonging to a banned church. He suffered from a brain tumour and died on 9 April. We pray for comfort, strength and healing for his family and friends who experienced difficulties arranging his burial.

Wednesday 3rd May

On 15 April, over 200 Muslim Fulani militants descended on Runji, a predominantly-Christian village in southern Kaduna state, leaving 33 Christians dead. We pray for help, healing and hope for the victims of this terrible attack.

Thursday 4th May

Pray for wisdom for Church in Chains board members as they meet later this month to discuss the ongoing work of the charity and consider future plans.

Friday 5th May

On Easter Sunday, police violently raided the Council of Churches Baptist congregation in Karshi (Uzbekistan) during the morning worship meeting. We pray for blessing for this church, especially the ten church members who were detained for several hours.

Saturday 6th May

Thank God that recently Iran's Supreme Court has granted a retrial of the cases of Christian prisoners **Joseph Shahbazian**, **Sara Ahmadi** and **Homayoun Zhaveh**. We pray that they will all be acquitted and released soon.

Sunday 7th May

Pray for encouragement for Church in Chains staff (David, Virginia and Susanne) in their daily work and for wisdom as they regularly tackle complex issues.

PRAY FOR CHINA

Monday 8th May

This week we want to focus our prayers on the 110 million Christians who are experiencing ever-increasing persecution from the Chinese Communist Party. We pray for, hope, a future and courage for our growing Chinese church family.

Tuesday 9th May

Officially-registered churches are very tightly controlled: congregations must sing patriotic songs, fly the national flag, install surveillance cameras and include quotes from the president's speeches in sermons. We pray for guidance and wisdom for the leaders of these churches as they navigate the difficult situation they are in.



Wednesday 10th May

Today we pray for the many unregistered house churches as they face constant threats and harassment for their refusal to register or stop meeting. We pray for protection and perseverance for them.

Thursday 11th May

Thank God that **Alimujiang Yimiti**, **Elder Qin Defu** and **Geng Zejun** were released from prison in recent months at the end of their sentences. We pray for blessing for their families as they adjust and reacquaint themselves with each other.

Friday 12th May

In April, 59 members of Shenzhen Holy Reformed Church, known as the Mayflower Church, arrived in Texas, USA to begin a new life. The church had fled persecution in China in 2019 and were previously refused asylum in South Korea and Thailand. We pray that they would settle quickly into their new lives.

Saturday 13th May

Over one million of the predominantly-Muslim Uighurs, as well as members of other ethnic groups, have been detained without charge in “re-education camps” in Xinjiang province since 2017. We pray for their freedom and an end to these camps.

Sunday 14th May

Today we lift up in prayer our partner ChinaAid, which continues to expose the systematic persecution of Christians in China. We pray that God would bless and protect its director **Bob Fu** and provide for its work.

Monday 15th May

Jesus tells us to pray for those who persecute us, so out of obedience to Him we pray for **President Xi Jinping**. We pray that he would come to faith in Jesus and bring about change and freedom in China.

PRAY FOR UGANDA

Tuesday 16th May

Uganda is a largely Christian nation with 84% of its population being Christian. However in recent years reports of anti-Christian violence in Muslim-majority areas have greatly increased. Radical Islamists attack Christian evangelists while converts from Islam to Christianity are often attacked by family members. We pray for protection for all who choose to follow Christ, despite the dangers.

Wednesday 17th May

We pray for wisdom, discernment and guidance for Ugandan Christians, especially those who reach out or minister to Muslims or converts from Islam.

Thursday 18th May

We thank God that under **President Yoweri Museveni** the country has experienced relative stability and prosperity. We pray that peace would prevail in Uganda.



Friday 19th May

Pastor Frank Mutabaazi lost nearly all his vision after Muslim extremists ambushed him in Kampala and sprayed him with acid in December 2022. We pray for healing and relief from pain for Frank and hope and strength for him and his family.

Saturday 20th May

Converts from Muslim backgrounds are often at risk of attack if they own Christian literature or discuss their faith with family or community members. We pray for protection and safety for all new believers.

Sunday 21st May

In March **Pastor Adinani Bulwa** was killed by Muslim relatives in northern Uganda. We pray for comfort and provision for his widow, **Zabiina Newumbwe**, and their five children aged between 4 and 16.

Monday 22nd May

We pray for peace and hope for the congregation of NABI Pentecostal church in Biguli. On Good Friday Muslim extremists exploded a fuel bomb during an evening church service, which damaged part of the building and some vehicles and left Christians in the area shocked.

Tuesday 23rd May

Praise God for the Christian NGOs working in Uganda such as Fields of Life and World Vision. We pray for blessing on their work as they build schools, provide clean water, and promote health education.

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Wednesday 24th May

Chinese Christian **Jang Moon Seok** has been serving a 15-year sentence in prison in North Korea since 2014. We pray for hope and strength for him today,

Thursday 25th May

South Korean missionary **Kim Jong Uk** (pictured) has been serving a life sentence in a North Korean labour camp since 2013. We pray that God would keep him safe and sane in this difficult place.



Friday 26th May

South Korean **Pastor Kim Kuk-gi** has been serving a life sentence in labour camp in North Korea since 2014. We ask the Lord to protect his body, spirit and mind.

Saturday 27th May

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

Sunday 28th May

Eritrean pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** has been in prison since 2004. We pray that the Holy Spirit would fill him with joy and peace today.

Monday 29th May

Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray that God would bless Dr Kiflu and in particular for good health as he has been suffering from suspected stress-related hypertension and diabetes. We also pray for his wife **Elsa** and their four adult children.

Tuesday 30th May

Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and psychiatrist who has also been in prison since 2004. We pray that Futsum would be released from prison soon!

Wednesday 31st May

Mussie Ezaz was an evangelist and youth leader in Asmara, before his arrest in 2008. We pray that the Lord would provide for Mussie's needs today and also for his wife **Frewrini** and their three sons, Yoel, Hananiel and Basaniel.

Thank you for praying with us!



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