# **PRAY FOR PRISONERS**

#### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Asif Pervaiz is a Christian father of four from Pakistan, who has been in prison on a blasphemy charge since 2013. He is currently on death row. We pray that his appeal would be heard soon and Asif would be acquitted and released.

# Wednesday 25th October

Ashfaq Masih (pictured) has been in prison in Pakistan since 2017, also accused of blasphemy. We pray that his death sentence would be overturned and for blessing for his wife and his young daughter.

# Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October

**Rev Haile Naizghe** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray for the miracle that Haile would be released soon and reunited with his family.

# Friday 27th October

In 2005 **Pastor Kidane Weldou** disappeared from the streets of the Eritrean capital, Asmara. We pray for health and strength for Kidane and comfort and hope for his wife **Tirhas** and their four grown-up daughters.

# Saturday 28th October

**Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus** is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and psychiatrist who was arrested in 2004. We ask God to fill Futsum with love, joy, peace and patience every day he remains in prison.

# Sunday 29th October

**Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteab** is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and physician who was arrested in 2004. Today we pray that Dr Tekleab can be a witness for God's love among the other prisoners and guards.

# Monday 30th October

**Y Pum Bya** is a church leader who has been serving a 14-year prison sentence in Vietnam since 2019. We ask the Lord to protect his body, spirit and mind.

# Tuesday 31st October

Vietnamese **Pastor Y Yich** has been serving a 12-year sentence since 2013. We pray for his safety in prison and that he would be released early.

# Thank you for praying with us this month!



#### CHURCH IN CHAINS

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# Church in Chains Prayer Diary October 2023

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

#### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS Sunday 1st October

Praise God that Iranian house-church leader **Joseph Shahbazian** was released from prison after a court granted him a full pardon. We pray for healing and blessing for Joseph, who recently discovered that he was suspected to be suffering from a serious illness.

#### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

The same day that Joseph was released from prison, Iranian pastor **Anooshavan Avedian** was summoned to begin his 10-year sentence. Please pray for protection, courage and strength for Anooshavan.

# Tuesday 3rd October

Please pray for the preparations for the International Day of Prayer which will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> November and that many churches in Ireland will get involved.

# Wednesday 4th October

Thank God that **Pastor An Yankui** of Zion Reformed Church was able to share the Gospel, sing and pray with other detainees during the 30 days he was behind bars this summer.

# Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Thanks to your support we were able to send over  $\in 8,000$  to the victims of the mob attack in Jaranwala (Pakistan). Apart from having their churches and houses destroyed, many Christians in the area were unfairly dismissed from their jobs following the attack. We pray for provision and hope for this community,

# Friday 6th October

Praise God for the encouragement we got from hearing **Berhane Asmelash** and **Twen Theodros** share their testimonies at our annual conference last month. We pray for guidance for them both as they continue to serve the Lord.

# Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October

Thank God that about half of the 103 young singers known as **The Mahalians**, who were arrested in April while making a praise video in Eritrea's capital Asmara, have been released. We pray for comfort and peace for all members of this praise group, especially those who remain in detention.

# **PRAY FOR ALGERIA**

#### Sunday 8th October

Christianity in Algeria dates back to the early church but was wiped out by the Arab conquest of the seventh century. However there has been huge growth in the number of Christians in recent decades, especially among ethnic Berbers, the country's original inhabitants. Praise God for this revival!

# Monday 9th October

Since 2017 the government has conducted a campaign of closing Protestant churches. We ask God to strengthen and encourage these churches which have been forced underground and are mainly made up of first-generation Christians.

#### Tuesday 10th October

We pray that **President Abdelmadjid Tebboune** would feel convicted to end his

government's campaign against Christians and allow more freedom for them.

# Wednesday 11th October

Islamic law means that converts from Islam to Christianity can become the victims of dismissals and forced divorces. We pray for those who have lost their job, their partner or access to their children because of this.

# Thursday 12th October

Praise God that the Gospel in Algeria can be shared by radio, television and the internet. Pray for all those who connect with these programmes and posts and that many will turn into followers of Jesus or be strengthened in their faith.

# Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October

Please pray for sustenance for **Reverend Youssef Ourahmane**, vice president of the Èglise Protestante d'Algérie, whose appeal against a two-year prison sentence for holding an unauthorised religious assembly is due in November.

# Saturday 14th October

Today we pray for our sisters in Algeria: some are beaten and persecuted by their parents if they convert from Islam. Pray that these women will get the help they need, especially those who end up in house-confinement by their families.

# Sunday 15th October

A Christian worker asks for prayer for Algeria's Christians "to be bold, to continue to have that bold witness, but also to intercede with them, adopt them in prayers, lift them to the Lord in prayer so that they will continue to withstand the trials and the difficulties no matter what that will lead to in terms of persecution." We Amen his prayer.



# Monday 16th October

North Korea remains an extremely hostile place for Christians to live. Either they are sent to labour camps as political prisoners or killed on the spot if they are discovered by the authorities. Their families will be sent to labour camp as well. We pray for hope, comfort and strength for our

North Korean brothers and sisters.

# Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October

It is almost impossible for Christians to gather or meet to worship. If they dare to meet together they do so in secrecy – and at enormous risk. We pray for protection and blessing of all secret Christian meetings in North Korea.



# Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October

Please pray for the hearts of the leaders of the North Korean regime to be softened and turned to Jesus. We also pray that this nation would be liberated from the regime's indoctrination and lies.

# Thursday 19th October

According to the Database Center for North Korean Human Rights virtually no one inside North Korea had seen a Bible with their own eyes 20 years ago. By 2016, the number jumped to nearly 8% of the population and in 2020 it was stated that the number continues to increase by 4% annually. Praise God for this amazing development and pray that it would continue!

# Friday 20th October

Our partner VOM Korea is making new connections with underground Christians and distributing Bibles by various means. Please pray for the safety of the underground Christians who are receiving Bibles through these connections.

# Saturday 21st October

We ask God to give Christians wisdom, boldness and discernment to know how to express their faith in society without drawing the attention of the authorities.

# Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Christians imprisoned in labour camps exist under brutal conditions, semi-starved, tortured by the guards and forced into extremely hard labour. We pray for supernatural peace and strength for the approximately 30,000 Christian prisoners in North Korea.

# Monday 23rd October

Pray for the safe word-of-mouth sharing of the VOM Korea radio broadcast amongst North Koreans. They share information from radio broadcasts with their family and friends, but the sharing of Gospel content can be dangerous.

