

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Saturday 25th May

Chinese **Pastor Zhang Shaojie** has been serving a twelve-year sentence since 2013. We pray that he continues to be at peace with his situation and that God uses him to bring other prisoners to faith in Christ.

Sunday 26th May

Elder Zhang Chunlei (pictured) has been detained in China for over three years. We pray he would soon be told the verdict of his trial held in November 2022 and for hope and courage for him and his wife **Yang Aiqing**, who is advocating for him. The judge recently told her that the case is "still being considered".



Monday 27th May

Pastor Bao Guohua and his wife **Xing Wenxiang** have been serving 14 and twelve year prison sentences respectively in prison in China since 2016. We ask the Lord to protect their mental, spiritual and physical health.

Tuesday 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.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 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!

Friday 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 and also for his wife **Frewrini** and their three sons, **Yoel**, **Hananuel** and **Basaliel**.



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

May 2024

In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. 1 Thessalonians 3:4

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Wednesday 1st May

Pastor Ramesh Ahirwar and his wife **Sakshi** were sentenced to two years in prison after Hindu extremists accused them of "forcible conversion" in India. We pray that they will be freed and reunited with their three children. Their appeal was due to be heard yesterday (30 April).

Thursday 2nd May

Church in Chains recently sent aid to help 35 families of pastors in Uttar Pradesh (India) whose churches were closed down by Hindu extremists. We pray for continued provision for these families who are in a precarious financial situation since they were totally dependent on the Sunday congregational collections.

Friday 3rd May

We pray for wisdom and guidance for our board of trustees as it meets this month to decide on matters of finance, strategy and governance.

Saturday 4th May

18-year-old Christian student **Ashbeel Ghauri** spent a week in solitary confinement on a blasphemy charge in Pakistan before obtaining bail. We pray that Ashbeel would recover from his ordeal and be able to resume his studies.

Sunday 5th May

Pray for Christian convert **Laleh Saati** who has been sentenced to two years in prison in Iran. Photographs of her Christian activities and baptism while living in Malaysia were brought before the court as evidence of her "crime".

Monday 6th May

Please pray for the preparations of the summer magazine which will be focusing on China and is due to be published in late June.

Tuesday 7th May

Praise God that in April Chinese bookseller **Chen Yu** was granted parole two years and five months early. He had been in prison since September 2019 and was serving a seven-year prison sentence. We pray for direction from God for Chen Yu regarding his life, especially his business.

Thank you for praying with us!



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PRAY FOR SRI LANKA

Wednesday 8th May

Typically Christian persecution in Sri Lanka stems from radical Buddhist and Hindu groups that harass and discriminate against converts to Christianity. We pray against hatred and violence and for tolerance among religious groups.

Thursday 9th May

Pastors in Sri Lanka are regularly beaten, threatened, arrested and bullied by the authorities. Pray for their protection from violence and verbal assault, and wisdom when responding to questions and accusations.

Friday 10th May

We pray that **President Ranil Wickremesinghe** would set a good example by upholding and defending freedom of religion which is guaranteed in the Sri Lankan Constitution.



Saturday 11th May

On Easter Sunday 2019, Sri Lanka was shocked when 269 people were killed in coordinated attacks on churches and hotels by Islamic militants. We pray for comfort, strength and healing for all those who were affected by the attacks and that full compensation would be paid to them soon.

Sunday 12th May

Sri Lankan Christian leader **Godfrey Yogarajah** is the Ambassador for Religious Freedom in the World Evangelical Alliance. He frequently trains Christian leaders in other countries on strategies to respond to persecution (based on his own experience in Sri Lanka). We ask God to bless Godfrey in his work.

Monday 13th May

Converts from a Buddhist or Hindu background face the strongest persecution. They are subjected to harassment and discrimination by their families and communities. We pray that God would help them to withstand the pressure to recant Christianity and protect them from harm.

Tuesday 14th May

Pastor Chandrapala has repeatedly faced angry mobs led by Buddhist monks in his village trying to discourage him from his church work. We pray for protection, hope and fellowship for him, his wife and children.

Wednesday 15th May

Today we pray for blessing and support for Christian teachers who provide education to children forced out of state schools because of their faith.

PRAY FOR ERITREA

Thursday 16th May

Eritrea is considered the most repressive state in Africa and effectively an open air prison. We pray for an end to oppression, imprisonment and suffering.

Friday 17th May

We pray for courage, strength and sustenance for the underground church in Eritrea, especially church leaders. We also pray that they can meet and encourage one another in safety.

Saturday 18th May

We pray that God would convict **President Isaias Aferwerki** of the many cruel injustices his regime has committed during his thirty-year rule. We pray for a righteous and just government in Eritrea.



Sunday 19th May

Rev Haile Naizghe has been in prison in Eritrea for twenty years since May 2004. We pray that the Lord would be Haile's refuge and provide for all his needs.

Monday 20th May

Today we want to remember all Eritrean Christian refugees living in Ethiopia and other countries. We pray that they would be welcomed and treated well.

Tuesday 21st May

On 20 January, over thirty Christians were arrested when they gathered together in the capital, Asmara, to celebrate the first birthday of a child from an evangelical family. We pray that all those who remain in detention would be released soon.

Wednesday 22nd May

We are very thankful for our partnership with **Release Eritrea**. We pray for protection for **Dr Berhane Asmelash** and everyone who works for this organisation and for continued provision for its work.

Thursday 23rd May

The annual Prayer and Protest Vigil at the Eritrean Embassy in London will be held next Thursday (30th May). We pray that, as Church in Chains joins CSW, Release Eritrea and other organisations, the event will send a clear message of continued united concern for Eritrea's persecuted Christians.

Friday 24th May

Today is Eritrean Independence Day – one of the most important public holidays for Eritreans. We pray that celebrations would remain peaceful as there is a history of clashes between pro-government and anti-government groups, especially in the diaspora.