

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Easter Sunday 20th April

As we remember the day our Lord Jesus rose victorious from the grave, pray that this truth will bring comfort today to all the families of Christians who've been recently martyred in massacres in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Easter Monday 21st April

Pray for ongoing preparations for this year's Church in Chains conference.

Tuesday 22nd April

Continue to pray for progress in making arrangements to present the petition (to end repression of Christians) to the Chinese Embassy in Dublin.

Wednesday 23rd April

Somayeh Rajabi was released from prison in Iran on 8 March after submitting bail equivalent to €36,000. Pray for provision, peace and hope for Somayeh and her family who have had to raise such a large sum of money for her freedom.

Thursday 24th April

Continue to pray for **Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh** in Evin Prison (Iran). He has been on hunger strike for several weeks and there are serious concerns for his health.

Friday 25th April

Today we pray for encouragement, faith and strength for the staff of Church in Chains, who deal with such difficult subject matters on a daily basis.

Saturday 26th April

Pray for provision and protection for **Stefanos Foundation**, our partner in Nigeria.

Sunday 27th April

Pray for guidance as we explore producing a youth video series on persecution.

Monday 28th April

Pray for nine Christians from two prayer groups in Utter Pradesh (India) who were arrested in February for holding Sunday prayer meetings.

Tuesday 29th April

Thank God that two of the three girls who were abducted in Pakistan in January have been rescued and reunited with their families! Pray for recovery from trauma for **Saneha** and **Saba** and that **Ariha** would also be recovered.

Wednesday 30th April

Pray for blessing for **Berhane Asmelash** and his work with **Release Eritrea**.



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

April 2025 - Lent Prayer Project

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. (Philippians 3 v 10)

LENT PRAYER PROJECT: WEEK 4

Haile Naizghe has been in prison in Eritrea since his arrest in May 2004. He worked with World Vision and was a leader of a large Pentecostal network of house churches that the government shut down. He has never been tried or sentenced.

Sunday 30th March

Haile is imprisoned in the notorious maximum-security Wengel Mermera interrogation centre in the capital, Asmara, where many political and military prisoners are incarcerated. Pray for good mental and physical health for Haile.



Monday 31st March

Ask God to encourage Haile and give him hope.

Tuesday 1st April

Pray that Haile would be released soon.

Wednesday 2nd April

It is believed that Haile is being held with a group of senior church leaders who, like him, have never been tried and have been held incommunicado since their arrests, with no release date set. Pray for good fellowship with other Christians in the prison.

Thursday 3rd April

Haile and his wife Rahel have three children, Shalom, Joel and Naher. His wife and children had to flee Eritrea after his arrest and eventually settled in a safe country elsewhere in Africa, where the children were able to go to school. They later moved to North America. His family has not been allowed any contact with him during his imprisonment. Ask God to bless Haile's wife and children.

Friday 4th April

Pray for Haile's witness to other prisoners and guards.

Saturday 5th April

Pray for freedom for all Christians to meet in Eritrea.

Thank you for praying with us this month!



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LENT PRAYER PROJECT: WEEK 5

Fu Xuanjuan (46) is the executive director of Shenzhen Tree of Life Technology Development Company, which sells audio Bible players. Fu is originally from the port city of Beihai in southern China, but lives in Shenzhen in neighbouring Guangdong province. She was arrested in July 2020 and sentenced to a six-year prison sentence for “*illegal business operations*”, with an expected release date of July 2026.

Sunday 6th April

Fu Xuanjuan has developed multiple uterine fibroids while in prison. She was reported to be in pain and vomiting frequently, throwing up all the food and medication she took. In January 2025 her condition was described as “worsening”. Pray for improved health for Fu Xuanjuan.

Monday 7th April

Fu's husband Deng Tianyong applied for parole for her on medical grounds late last year. Pray that Fu would be released early from prison.

Tuesday 8th April

Ask God to encourage Fu and strengthen her faith.

Wednesday 9th April

Pray for her witness to guards and other prisoners.

Thursday 10th April

Deng (who works for the same company as Fu) was released from prison in July 2023 after serving his three-year sentence for selling audio Bible players. Fu and Deng have a young adopted daughter. Ask God to comfort and bless Fu's husband and daughter and give them hope.

Friday 11th April

Pray for wisdom for Fu and Deng's future work and ministry and pray for provision for their family.

Saturday 12th April

Audio Bible players are small digital devices that store and play sermons and hymns as well as Bibles. The players are convenient, simple to operate and have become very popular in China, especially among older Christians. Pray for protection for all who manufacture and sell Bible-players.



LENT PRAYER PROJECT: WEEK 6

Nay Y Blang is a 49-year-old Vietnamese religious freedom activist who was arrested in May 2023 and imprisoned for his affiliation with the unregistered Central Highlands Evangelical Church of Christ and for holding prayer meetings in his home. Nay Y Blang is a Montagnard from Vietnam's Central Highlands and lives in the southeastern coastal province of Phu Yen. He is serving a four-and-a-half year sentence with an expected release date of 18 November 2027.

Sunday 13th April

There has been no news about Nay Y Blang since his conviction and sentencing in January 2024. Pray for good health and protection for him in prison.

Monday 14th April

Pray for hope and spiritual refreshment for Nay Y Blang in prison – pray that he may have access to a Bible.

Tuesday 15th April

Pray for early release for Nay Y Blang.

Wednesday 16th April

Pray for good relationships with guards and fellow-prisoners and for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Thursday 17th April

There is no information available about Nay Y Blang's family. Ask God to bless and comfort his family members and provide for them. Pray that they will be allowed to visit him in prison.

Good Friday 18th April

Many members of the Central Highlands Evangelical Church of Christ have suffered harassment in recent years. Ask God to protect and sustain the members in Nay Y Blang's local church and pray for good faithful leaders who will build the church up.

Saturday 19th April

While many churches in Vietnam have relative freedom to meet, especially in cities, Montagnard Christians are persecuted for their faith (Christianity is seen as a western religion) and for their ethnicity (fear of tribal separatism), and local officials often use tactics such as discrimination, detention, beatings and forced renunciations of faith to try to stop Christianity spreading. Pray for religious freedom for Montagnard Christians.

