



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

May 2026

Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession. (Psalm 2 v 8)



PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Friday 1st May

Give thanks to the Lord for the release of Pastors **Li Jie** and **Han Xiaodong** of **Linfen Covenant Church** at the end of their three-year, eight-month sentences in China in April. Pray for them and their families as they adjust to life outside prison.

Saturday 2nd May

Pray for the Lord's presence with **Pastor Huang Yizi** who faced trial in late April on a charge of "illegal business operations" for selling recordings of sermons. Pastor Huang is a well-known pastor from Wenzhou in China's Zhejiang province.

Sunday 3rd May

Today is **Pastor John Cao**'s 66th birthday. John, who served a seven-year prison sentence in China from 2017 to 2024, was recently hospitalised with severe pain and has been diagnosed with late-stage prostate cancer and a spinal tumour, with cancer cells having spread to his bone marrow. Pray for healing and hope for John who is banned from leaving China.

Monday 4th May

Give thanks that John's wife **Jamie** and their two adult children were able to travel from the USA to visit John in hospital – their first meeting in nine years.

Tuesday 5th May

Christian convert **Said Abdelrazek** has been held in prison in Egypt since last July. He appeared in court in April on charges related to his conversion from Islam – pray for peace for him as he waits for the next court hearing, due on 15 June.

Wednesday 6th May

Pray for wisdom and guidance for our board of trustees meeting later this month to discuss matters including the allocation of funds to our overseas partners.

Thursday 7th May

Give thanks that outline arrangements for our Supporters Day have been confirmed – we look forward to having **Dr Khataza Gondwe** (CSW) joining us at Trinity Church, Dublin on Saturday 19 September to speak about the situation facing Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa including **Sudan**, **Eritrea** and **Nigeria**.

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Sunday 24th May

Pastor Bao Guohua is serving a fourteen-year prison sentence in China, with an expected release date of 2029. Pray that he would be granted early release like his wife **Pastor Xing Wenxiang**, who was released in November 2025.

Monday 25th May

Fu Xuanjuan (pictured), is serving a six-year sentence for selling audio Bible players in China. She has been suffering severe pain from uterine fibroids. Pray that she would be freed before her scheduled release date in July 2026.



Tuesday 26th May

Evangelist and youth leader **Mussie Ezaz** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2008, with no release date set. Pray for good mental, physical and spiritual health for Mussie.

Wednesday 27th May

Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004 for leading a network of banned churches, with no release date set. Pray for good health and medical care for Dr Kiflu, who suffers from hypertension and diabetes.

Thursday 28th May

Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh was sentenced to ten years in prison in October 2025 for his house-church activities in Iran. Previously he spent five years in prison and he had a stroke in March 2025. Pray for improved health and for early release.

Friday 29th May

In October 2025 Iranian house church leader **Joseph Shahbazian** was sentenced to ten years in prison; he had been released early from another ten-year sentence in 2023. Pray for protection, good health and hope for Joseph.

Saturday 30th May

South Korean pastor **Kim Kuk-gi** is serving a life sentence in labour camp in North Korea. Pray for protection, provision and good health for Kim Kuk-gi.

Sunday 31st May

Vietnamese religious freedom activist **Nay Y Blang** is serving a four-and-a-half-year sentence for his religious activities, with an expected release date in November 2027. Ask God to bless Nay Y Blang and keep him safe and well.

Thank you for praying with us!



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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PRAY FOR MALAYSIA

Friday 8th May

Malaysia is a modern, developed country of 33 million people with a vibrant economy. It has been led by **Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim** since 2022. Pray that the government will make wise decisions on behalf of all Malaysians.

Saturday 9th May

Malaysia is divided into two regions by the South China Sea but is also divided between the Malay majority (mainly Muslim) and the Indian and Chinese minorities (mainly non-Muslim). Pray that there will be peace and tolerance between the different communities.



Sunday 10th May

Most of the three million Christians in Malaysia are from the indigenous tribal population and live on the island of Borneo in East Malaysia, while Christians from Chinese and Indian backgrounds mainly live in West Malaysia. Pray for all church leaders that they may lead their churches with faithfulness and wisdom.

Monday 11th May

A recent directive from Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim ordered local councils to deal with unauthorised places of worship and it is feared that this may impact on churches that don't meet in traditional church buildings. Pray that this directive will not result in churches losing their place of worship.

Tuesday 12th May

Christian evangelism among the ethnic Malay majority has long been discouraged and it is illegal for Malays to leave Islam. Pray for great wisdom and creativity for all churches that seek to share the Gospel with Malay people.

Wednesday 13th May

Every ethnic Malay is assumed to be Muslim so if any ethnic Malay converts to Christianity they can face huge pressure from family and community. Pray for great courage and wisdom for all converts and for all Christians who help them.

Thursday 14th May

In 2017, well-known pastor **Raymond Koh** was abducted in a military-style operation. In November 2025, the High Court ruled that police were involved in the abduction and ordered the government to pay compensation to the Koh family. Pray for comfort and strength for Raymond's wife **Susanna** and their grown-up children **Esther**, **Jonathan** and **Elizabeth**.

Friday 15th May

All religious literature in Malaysia requires a government permit and Bibles and Christian literature in the Malay language are restricted. Pray for courage and wisdom for all those involved in printing and distributing Christian literature.

PRAY FOR ERITREA

Saturday 16th May

Eritrea is often referred to as the "North Korea" of Africa because of its isolation from the outside world and the authoritarian rule of **President Isaias Afewerki** since 1993. Pray for a change of heart for Isaias (as he is known by everyone) that he may govern the country for the good of all Eritreans.

Sunday 17th May

In May 2002, all religious groups except the Eritrean Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches and Sunni Islam were banned and have remained so ever since. Pray for all church leaders who seek to care for their people under great restrictions.



Monday 18th May

Thank God for the release of 24 Christian prisoners during April, most of whom had spent over two years in prison. Pray for them as they face the challenges of readjusting to life outside prison.

Tuesday 19th May

One of those recently released had been in prison for over 18 years. He was held in several prisons in remote regions during that time. Give thanks for his release and pray that the Lord will supply all his needs.

Wednesday 20th May

Give thanks to the Lord for the reduction in the number of Christian prisoners in Eritrea – over four hundred were released in the past year. Pray that the Lord will strengthen and help the two hundred Christians who are still imprisoned.

Thursday 21st May

Today, David Franklin (Chairman) and David Turner (Director) will represent Church in Chains at the annual **Protest Vigil at the Eritrean Embassy in London** jointly organised with Christian Solidarity Worldwide and Release Eritrea. Pray that the Embassy will take note of our continuing call for justice.

Friday 22nd May

A church meeting in a house in the town of **Adi Keyh** was recently raided by police who arrested thirteen Christians. Separately, thirty Christians were arrested in a police raid on a home in **Asmara**. Pray for all those arrested – may they know the Lord's presence and strength.

Saturday 23rd May

Thank God for our partnership with **Release Eritrea**. We pray for provision and wisdom for **Dr Berhane Asmelash** and all those they work with to support the families of Christian prisoners and also to support ex-prisoners.