



PRAYER DIARY

Praying in Christ's Name for His Suffering Church

February – March 2025



Jesus said,
"You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

John 14:14

February

SATURDAY 1 FEB • SYRIA (1)

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. Psalm 33:20

In late November and early December 2024, Islamist militants from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) moved swiftly across Syria, capturing all the major cities in ten days. It was largely peaceful “yet, people are afraid!” wrote a Syrian Christian to TBF Trust a day after the fall of Damascus, the capital. President Bashar al-Assad had protected Christians and other minorities, and now he was ousted. The HTS leaders were evasive in public statements about whether or not they planned to enforce certain aspects of sharia (Islamic law). By January 2025 Christians saw that many things were being Islamised and felt that their country was turning into an Islamic state. Pray for freedom and justice for all in Syria and that our Christian brothers and sisters will take heart, remembering that Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33).

“ *All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.* Julian of Norwich, England (1342–1416 or later)

SUNDAY 2 FEB • SYRIA (2)

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. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

Syria’s modern history is remarkable for the way in which the Muslim majority used to respect non-Muslims as equals. At present a new constitution is being drafted, due to be completed in March 2025. Pray that this document will enshrine equality for the many religious and ethnic groups in Syria and will not establish an Islamic state with non-Muslims treated as second-class. Christians and other minorities have been alarmed at the way that HTS fighters at checkpoints have been asking everyone what their religion is and that some Christians have been told to cover their heads. Ask the Lord Jesus to act in power to bring miraculous deliverance for His people and for all innocent civilians in Syria.

“ *God has a bottle and a book for his people’s tears. What was sown as a tear will come up as a pearl.* Matthew Henry, Wales (1662-1714), referring to Psalm 56:8

MONDAY 3 FEB • LEBANON

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon. Psalm 92:12

Christians in Lebanon were generally pleased with the January election of Joseph Aoun as new president for their country, which had been leaderless for over two years. During this period, its terrible economic crisis continued and there was 13 months of armed conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, a Shia Muslim group which was almost like a parallel state and army within Lebanon. At the time of writing the country is more or less at peace and the power of Hezbollah

has been greatly diminished. Thank the Lord for these hopeful signs and pray that the Lord's good hand will be over Lebanon. Ask that Lebanese Christians, after such a testing time over the last few years, will come forth as gold, with their faith strengthened and purified (Job 23:10).

“ *Let the light of Christ guide our thoughts, words and actions. Let it inspire us to serve one another with love, to stand boldly for truth and justice, and to extend the peace of God to all who cross our path.* Bishop Hovakim Manukyan, Armenia (born 1976)

TUESDAY 4 FEB • IRAQ

And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:15

It is now over a decade since Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists swept across Iraq in 2014. ISIS was officially declared defeated by Iraqi forces in 2017 but there are “sleeper cells” of ISIS fighters, who launch occasional attacks. As ISIS advanced in 2014 thousands of Iraqi Christians fled from the Plains of Nineveh and Mosul to safety in nearby Iraqi Kurdistan. Most of them are still there, fearing to return to their old homes because of hostility stirred up by ISIS. Pray for continued peace, and that the Christians may feel settled and at home in the place to which the Lord has brought them.

“ *There is a Redeemer; Jesus, God's own Son; Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.* Melody Green, USA (1946-)

WEDNESDAY 5 FEB • TURKEY

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings— what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 2 Timothy 3:10-11

The remnants of the historic Christian communities in Turkey find that life for them under President Erdogan is currently easier than ever before in their lives. They are descendants of Armenians and Assyrians who survived an anti-Christian genocide that peaked in 1915 and remained in their homeland despite a century of discrimination and harassment. Thank the Lord with them for the freedoms they now have, including to teach Syriac (Aramaic, the language of the Lord Jesus) and to train leaders for Christian ministry. Pray that they will make good use of this liberty.

“ *Do not weep for me, brethren, but glorify our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose aid I am finishing my course and overcoming the enemy.* Theodotus of Ancyra, Galatia (modern Ankara in Turkey) as he went to his martyrdom in the early fourth century

THURSDAY 6 FEB • KOSOVO

For you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. Malachi 4:2

Kosovo, which declared its independence in 2008, has a majority of Albanian Muslims and a minority of Serbian Christians. Many Muslim religious sites were destroyed in

the 1998-99 conflict and afterwards many Christian religious sites were destroyed. The 2008 constitution granted local self-government to the Serb communities and supposedly protected Serbian cultural and religious (Christian) sites but this protection does not seem to be a reality. The Christians of Kosovo feel under increasing pressure from the central government, which is anti-Serb and anti-Christian. The Assembly (parliament) has 120 seats of which ten are for Serbs, ten for other minorities and 100 are distributed according to proportional representation. Elections for the assembly are to be held on 9 February. Pray that those who are elected deputies on Sunday will ensure the rights of Serbian Christians are protected and their churches and other Christian sites are safeguarded.

“ *Though deprived of all material strength the Church is always victorious in sacrifice.* Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008)

FRIDAY 7 FEB • ERITREA

Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat. Revelation 7:16

The government of Eritrea often arrests Christians from banned denominations. They are imprisoned in appalling conditions, typically with beatings, torture, extreme temperatures, forced labour and insufficient food and water. Many are held for years without being charged let alone tried and sentenced. The more they are involved in Christian

ministry the worse they are treated. Pray that Eritrean believers will stand firm, that their faith will not fail, and that their time in prison will be fruitful for the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“ *Hope, the scarlet cord That binds me to You. Satan's fury cannot break A silken thread Soaked in crimson blood Of Your undying covenant love.* Patrick Sookhdeo, Guyana (1947-)

SATURDAY 8 FEB • ETHIOPIA

In all their distress He too was distressed. Isaiah 63:9

Islam is becoming more visible and active in this traditional stronghold of Christianity. The Muslim community is about a third of the population, and includes many young people who are deeply pious but reject the ultra-strict forms of Islam. The country as a whole continues to be wracked by armed conflict and hunger. January saw an earthquake, an erupting volcano, the re-opening of the Ethiopian Stock Exchange, and the restoration of diplomatic relations with Ethiopia's strongly Islamic neighbour Somalia. In this tumult, pray that Christians may have the mind of Christ, and will live Christ-like lives that bring Him glory.

“ *To be a Christian is not to be a hero to make history for oneself. A Christian goes as a lamb to be slaughtered only when he/she knows that this is in complete accord with the will of God who has called him to his service.* Gudina Tumsa, Ethiopia (1929-79), written a week before his kidnapping and martyrdom

SUNDAY 9 FEB • SOMALIA

I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

Somali Christians are almost all converts from Islam; they face great danger from family, community and zealous Muslims if their faith in Christ is known. Many have been martyred. Somalia is enduring its worst drought for a decade and facing the prospect of famine. It is the home of a very active Islamist militant group called Al Shabaab who have often launched attacks in neighbouring Kenya. Pray that our Lord Jesus will give Somali Christians courage, discernment and perseverance.

“ *My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my Guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.* An African Martyr’s Prayer, 20th century

MONDAY 10 FEB • SOMALILAND

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. Revelation 2:10

Somaliland broke away from Somalia in 1991. It has not been recognised internationally as a state, but there is some expectation that the USA, under President Trump, may now recognise it. Somaliland has been more stable than conflict-ridden Somalia and has had governments and democratic elections. However, Somaliland is a

very hard place for Christians. Islam is the state religion and promoting any other religion is forbidden. All laws must be grounded on sharia (Islamic law). There is no recognition that a Muslim could choose to change their beliefs and some have been imprisoned for converting to Christianity. Pray that the Almighty God will bless and keep His children in Somalia, will make His face shine upon them and be gracious to them (Numbers 6:24-25)

“ *It is difficult for you, but think of how it was for the Saviour on the Cross. The end is near; life passes quickly. We are guests on earth, migratory birds.* Seraphim (Sobolev) of Bogucharsk, Bulgaria (1881-1950)

TUESDAY 11 FEB • KYRGYZSTAN (1)

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

Some of the churches in Kyrgyzstan held Christmas celebrations every day from 22 to 29 December. It is their habit each year to invite non-believers to these services and usually find that many of them turn to the Lord. Pray for those who heard the Gospel message at Christmas services a few weeks ago that they may put their trust in Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

“ *In perfect light He guideth Me, and makes Himself reality. The Word is real, O soul, rejoice! It is my blessed Saviour’s voice!* Maria Woodworth-Etter, USA (1844-1924)

WEDNESDAY 12 FEB • KYRGYZSTAN (2)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9

Join Christians in Kyrgyzstan to thank the Lord that, despite an extremely tense situation in their country with mass protests, there is no war or bloodshed. The winter cold causes great suffering for the poor who have no work and no means of subsistence. Prices are rising and the authorities are confiscating land and houses from private individuals. Christians ask prayer that the Lord will give wisdom to their government to prevent bloodshed and will meet the practical needs of the poor across the country. Pray that Christians, although a despised and persecuted minority in Kyrgyzstan, will be peacemakers in their nation.

“ By your prayers you can bring down the rain of mercy. Charbel Makhlouf, Lebanon (1828-98)

THURSDAY 13 FEB • KYRGYZSTAN (3)

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

The Church is growing in Kyrgyzstan but those who leave Islam to follow Christ often face persecution. Many young people from Muslim families have put their trust in Jesus as Saviour and Lord and have had to endure much because of this decision. Praise God for their testimonies at a conference last year, telling how the Lord helped them to stand firm in their new faith. This strengthened and encouraged other young people who were currently enduring persecution

themselves. Praise God that these young people, who are also young in faith, are willing to suffer for Christ. Pray that their lives will bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God.

“ The Lord has saved me with His limitless love and given me eternal life and sonship. I cannot receive His grace in vain or despise His salvation ... I will willingly give my youth and my entire life to the work of evangelism. Liu Haitao, martyred in China at the age of 21 (1979-2000)

FRIDAY 14 FEB • KAZAKHSTAN

I trust in God, so why should I be afraid? What can mere mortals do to me? Psalm 56:11 (NLT)

Kazakhstan is about 25% Christian, mainly Russians and Ukrainians but including some converts from Islam. In November 2024 Christian leaders were appalled to discover that a longstanding convert from Islam called “Timur” had been in the pay of the state security service for a year. His task was to discredit the church and its pastor, if possible to find enough against the pastor to get him taken to court and imprisoned. Timur met with new church members and tried to persuade them not to attend church gatherings. He secretly entered the homes of the church's outreach workers, searching for Christian literature and planting bugs to listen to their conversations. He took the phone of one outreach worker and photographed all the leadership group chats so that the details of their missionary work became known to the state security service. Please pray for

wisdom, courage, peace and guidance as the church leaders and outreach workers respond to this situation.

'' *The Church shall never perish! Her dear Lord, to defend, to guide, sustain and cherish Is with her to end. Tho' there be those that hate her and false sons in her pale, Against the foe or traitor, She ever shall prevail.* Samuel John Stone, England (1839-1900)

SATURDAY 15 FEB • UZBEKISTAN

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Since April 2023 Uzbekistan has been defined in its constitution as a “secular state” in which the state must not interfere with the activities of religious organisations. On the other hand, a 2021 law is still in place, requiring all religious groups to register. Without registration their activities are illegal, but churches find registration very difficult to obtain. Citizens are allowed to choose their faith but no one is allowed to try to convert someone else. This confusing legal framework exists in a country whose population is overwhelmingly Muslim, and where Islamic practices are becoming more visible. Converts to Christianity can face persecution at a community level. Pray that the Lord will guide His people in this complex and dangerous context

'' *Show me Thy face - the heaviest Cross, will then seem light to bear. There will be gain in every loss, and peace with every care.* Author unknown (1881)

SUNDAY 16 FEB • TURKMENISTAN

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 1 Peter 4:12-13

Turkmenistan is about 90% Muslim but in a sense the real “religion” of Turkmenistan is the personality cult surrounding President Berdymukhamedov and his predecessor. It is a strongly authoritarian state and the Christian minority of about 7% (mainly Armenians and Russians) live with surveillance, restrictions, scarcity of Christian literature, insufficient church buildings for legally permitted worship, arrests, fines, imprisonment with beatings and semi-starvation. As well as these difficulties from the authorities, there can be pressure from the Muslim community, especially on the small number of converts from Islam. Pray that the challenges facing Christians in Turkmenistan may draw them closer to the Lord and to each other, and that they may grow in faith, knowledge, love and Christ-likeness.

'' *The sight of any trouble strikes terror into the heart of those who do not have faith, but those who trust Him say, “Here comes my food!”* Watchman Nee, China (1903-72)

MONDAY 17 FEB • RUSSIA

If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered

for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. 1 Peter 2:20-21

The Russian government focuses on nationalist ideology. In general, religious liberty is tolerated, though some Christians can face obstructions, persecution and imprisonment, especially when speaking out on ethical issues. Pray that believers in the Lord Jesus Christ will continue to do good despite any obstacles in their way.

“*Each one of us must crucify himself with Christ.* Tikhon of Moscow (1865-1925)

TUESDAY 18 FEB • LAOS

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. Mark 10:29-30

Laos has around 150,000 Christians. The laws of Laos grant them freedom to worship and to preach and to keep in touch with Christians outside of Laos. But these laws are not always enforced in rural areas, where the village leaders or other local authorities often harass them, for example evicting them from their homes and banning them from their fields. Pray that they will remain faithful to the Lord Jesus, despite all that they may be called on to suffer for His Name.

“*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of*

God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. Frances Jane Crosby (1820-99)

WEDNESDAY 19 FEB • INDONESIA

A new command I give you: Love one another. John 13:34

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population and a substantial Christian minority. The treatment of Christians varies across the nation, being harshest in Aceh, the westernmost province, where sharia (Islamic law) is in force. In Papua, the easternmost province, Christians are numerically strong but they are desperately poor and often attacked by the Indonesian military. A new president, Prabowo Subianto, was sworn in on 20 October 2024. His predecessor had done much to help Indonesian Christians during his 10-year presidency. Pray that President Subianto will continue this trend. Pray that the peaceful, respectful and equal co-existence of religions in Indonesia, which older Indonesians still remember, will be re-established.

“*Living together full of love, compassionate love leads us through the world. Come and establish our hearts, don't let our brotherhood be broken. Only with love, with love, with love we will be one.* Welly R Sopotan, Indonesia, 2001

THURSDAY 20 FEB • MYANMAR

God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

The government of Myanmar has been persecuting Christians for the

last 60 years. Most of the Christians are from the ethnic minorities, so they are targeted for being non-Buddhist and also for being non-Bamar (non-Burman). Most of the persecution is in the form of violent attacks on Christian villages by the country's military. Many Christians now live in camps for displaced people. Some prefer the jungle, feeling safer there because the trees give them cover. Pray that they will have perseverance to endure, grace to forgive their persecutors and that the government will abandon its policy of persecuting its own people just because they are not Buddhists and not of the Bamar ethnicity.

*“ Stand up, stand up for Jesus;
Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you; Ye
dare not trust your own. George
Duffield, USA (1818-88)*

FRIDAY 21 FEB • VIETNAM

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:19

Vietnam has a communist government and views Christianity as a Western faith, therefore even more unwelcome than other religions. The level of persecution of Christians varies across the country, often depending on the whim of local or provincial officials. In some areas, Christians experience surveillance and arbitrary detention. Another form of persecution is denying Christians the registration documents or identity cards they need to access healthcare or schooling. Pray that the lives of Vietnamese

believers will shine with the love of Christ, whether or not they are persecuted, drawing others to their Saviour.

“ Because of His death on the Cross, all sinners are saved. He was hung on the Cross, He bore intense suffering. He paid the price for our sins with His blood on the Cross. His precious blood flowed like a spring. His blood washed our sins and covered our transgressions. Why should I not sing praises to Him? Prem Bhaghat, Pakistan (1910-82)

SATURDAY 22 FEB • NIGERIA

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44-45 (NRSV)

Christian communities in Middle Belt and northern Nigeria are targeted in deadly assaults by Boko Haram, Islamic State West Africa Province, and Fulani extremists. Around 45,000 Christians have been killed in this way since 2009. Abductions of Christians are also common. Pray for the works of the enemy to fail and for the government to protect vulnerable Christian communities in these parts of Nigeria.

“ Never did the church prosper and so truly thrive as when she was baptised in the blood. The ship of the church never sails so gloriously along as when the bloody spray of her martyrs falls on her deck. We must suffer and we must die, if we are ever to conquer this world for Christ. Charles Spurgeon, England (1834-92)

SUNDAY 23 FEB • CHAD

We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 4:18

Christians in Chad face discrimination and violence from the Muslim majority as well as persecution from the followers of the African Traditional Religions. Chad suffers increasingly from extremes of heat, drought and flooding and is one of the poorest countries in the world. Pray that these difficulties will draw Christians together in unity and that the Church will grow in faith and numbers in the midst of their suffering.

“ Jesus give me your strength; so that I might be just. Forgive me my sins; so I can live in eternity with you. Jesus call me to follow you; you have put your Word in me; I announce your Word to the whole world; to kings and to the people. Elie Ndoubayidi (this hymn was written in Chad around 1974)

MONDAY 24 FEB • GUINEA BISSAU

You are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14

Guinea-Bissau, an impoverished country in West Africa, is 46% Muslim, 31% followers of traditional African religions and 19% Christian. The constitution separates religion and state, and protects freedom of conscience and freedom of worship. It states that all citizens are equal under the law, and allows religious groups to teach their faith. Praise God for this example of religious equality and tolerance. Pray that the frequent

deaths due to violent witchcraft will cease and that the Islamist extremism filtering into the country will not shake the harmonious coexistence that Guinea-Bissau's leaders are working hard to maintain. Pray that Christians will be a source of peace, light and truth.

“ Use me then, my Saviour, for whatever purpose, and in whatever way, you may require. Dwight L Moody, USA (1837-99)

TUESDAY 25 FEB • THE GAMBIA

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Romans 12:14

Over 90% of the Gambian population are Muslims. But a coastal fishing community called “Ghana Town” is predominantly Christian. It was established when Ghanaian fishermen migrated there in the early 1960s. Although many in Ghana Town were born in The Gambia, descendants of the original Ghanaian migrants, they cannot get ID documents. This restricts their rights and makes them vulnerable, with their distinctive names always revealing their background. The United Nations is supporting some Gambian organisations trying to find pathways to Gambian citizenship for the inhabitants of Ghana Town. Pray that the Lord will grant them favour with the authorities and success in their efforts to help our brothers and sisters, who are citizens of heaven even if stateless on earth.

“ Nothing surpasses the full knowledge that God is with you! Ernest Agyemang Yeboah, Ghana

WEDNESDAY 26 FEB • MALI

My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will. Matthew 26:39

Mali is a Muslim-majority country with a constitution that upholds religious freedom, affirms that all Malians are equal and bans religious discrimination. Muslim leaders have spoken against extremist interpretations of sharia (Islamic law). But the nation is afflicted by the activities of many jihadist groups, which control swathes of territory in the north, which they rule according to sharia (Islamic law). The Christian minority of about 2% live mainly in the south but suffer attacks and kidnappings from time to time. Pray that they will be filled with the love, joy, hope and peace of the Lord, knowing that He is in control.

“ *This is our God, the Servant King. He calls us now to follow Him, to bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.*
Graham Kendrick (1950-)

THURSDAY 27 FEB • IRAN

Peace I leave you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

Changes are afoot in Iran, the world's leading Shia Muslim country. Some women are now seen in the streets with their heads uncovered or without a male relative accompanying them. Such things have not happened in Iran since the 1979 revolution which established it as a strict Islamic Republic, governed according to sharia (Islamic law). Although the

Iranian authorities have been so hostile to Christians, the general public have been very open to the Gospel and many Muslims have become Christians. Deciding to follow Jesus often results in harassment or persecution and there is always the possibility of execution for apostasy (as happened to one convert pastor in 1990). Pray that all Christians in Iran, whether converts or from the historic Assyrian and Armenian Christian minorities, will continue to stand firm. Pray that their love for the Lord will sustain them and enable them to keep singing. Recently some Christians have been released early from long prison sentences.

“ *Living water of my being, Jesus, my God. I want to be in your presence, hear your voice. Forgive my selfishness, my Saviour, Jesus. Guide me, my beloved Jesus, I come to you tired of this world. Bless me with a new existence. Fill me up with your Spirit, my beloved Jesus.* Iranian Christian song (translated from the Farsi original)

FRIDAY 28 FEB • PAKISTAN (1)

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Pakistan's Christian community are generally despised. Discrimination forces them into the lowest paid, dirtiest and most dangerous jobs. Christian women and girls are often kidnapped, forcibly converted to Islam and forced to marry Muslims. Pakistan's "blasphemy laws" – one of which has a mandatory death

sentence and another a mandatory life sentence in prison – are used to make false accusations to settle personal grudges. Christians are particularly vulnerable to such false accusations, which are often followed by mob violence against the Christian neighbourhood where the accused lives. Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Pakistan that they will not lose heart. Ask the Lord to change the attitudes of the majority population so that they respect Christians as equals.

“ I was accused because of the name of Jesus and I knew I would be freed because of Jesus. Aasia Bibi, Pakistan (born 1965), after spending nearly eight years on death row in Pakistan, accused of “blasphemy” and then being acquitted

March

SATURDAY 1 MAR • PAKISTAN (2)

I am the LORD, who heals you. Exodus 15:26

Six-year-old Minhail was sexually assaulted by her school security guard on 31 October 2024 in Lahore, Pakistan. During a break period the Christian child was lured into nearby bushes by the 18-year-old guard, who offered her chocolate. The guard was soon arrested. Such attacks by Muslim men on non-Muslim women and girls occur frequently in Pakistan but it is rare that the victim is so young. Pray that Minhail and all women and girls who have been attacked in this way

will be fully healed, physically and emotionally from their ordeals. Pray for an end to the belief amongst a section of the Muslim community of Pakistan that Christian and Hindu women and girls are valid targets for such behaviour.

“ *Salvation is given in Jesus’ name. Peace is given in Jesus’ name. Jesus is the Ocean of Grace: You are majestic, Lord. Jesus. You were born in a manger [made of wood]. You were crucified on the Cross [made of wood]. For the remission of our sins, Jesus has been sacrificed on the Cross. By shedding Your blood on the Cross, You paid the full price for our sins. “Mukti Dilaya” (“He Saves”), Hindi/ Urdu Christian song*

SUNDAY 2 MAR • AFGHANISTAN

You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. Matthew 10:22

The ultra-strict Islamist rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan has brought stability but also a desperate humanitarian crisis. There is severe hunger, millions lack safe water, maternal and neonatal mortality are the highest in the world, and many healthcare facilities have closed. Women are restricted far beyond the requirements of sharia (Islamic law). In December 2024 a ban was suddenly announced on women training to be nurses or midwives – this was the only form of tertiary education that women had been allowed. In the midst of this are Afghan converts from Islam to Christianity, who mostly live as secret

believers. They face the possibility of death, either from the authorities or from zealous individual Muslims. Pray for the whole suffering population of Afghanistan and especially for our Christian brothers and sisters.

“ O God, our refuge and strength, who art a very present help in time of trouble: have mercy upon thy Church in its hour of persecution from tyranny and oppression; save them from the dangers that beset them; and restore to them the blessings of freedom and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MONDAY 3 MAR • SAUDI ARABIA

If God is for us, who can be against us?
Romans 8:31

Saudi Arabia is strictly Islamic, with the widespread application of sharia (Islamic law) including execution by beheading. The sharia punishments of amputation and flogging were used well into the 21st century but seem now to have been abandoned. There is a large community of Christian migrant workers, especially from Asia and Africa, typically enduring very harsh conditions in their Saudi workplaces. There are also Saudi converts from Islam to Christianity, but most are secret believers because they could be killed for leaving Islam. The centuries-old ban on church buildings remains but in recent years a blind eye has been turned on Christians gathering together in private homes to worship. Various rules for society in general are being relaxed. Seven years ago cinemas reopened and now there is an international film festival in Jeddah.

Pray that this trend will extend to freedom of religion and that the Saudi authorities will allow each individual to decide for themselves which faith they will follow, without fear of punishment.

“ I am precious in His sight, He will hold me fast; Those He saves are His delight, He will hold me fast.
Ada Habershon, England (1861-1918)

TUESDAY 4 MAR • QATAR

I am the resurrection and the life. John 11:25

In the early centuries AD, Qatar (then called by its Syriac/Aramaic name Beth Qatraye) became a strong centre of Christianity. That is probably why it was a main target of the Islamic advance in the seventh century AD. Under this pressure, Christianity rapidly declined and was eventually eliminated. Today's Qatar has a Christian community who have come from many continents to work there. In 2005 several denominations joined together to lease some land from the Qatar government on which they were allowed to construct church buildings, the first church buildings in Qatar for many centuries. They are now 20 years through the 50-year lease. Pray that those seeking God in Qatar will find the Lord Jesus Christ.

“ We face a humanity that is too precious to neglect. We know a remedy for the ills of the world too wonderful to withhold. We have a Christ too glorious to hide. We have an adventure that is too thrilling to miss. Theodore Williams, India (1935-2009)

WEDNESDAY 5 MAR • YEMEN

He shall speak peace to the nations.
Zechariah 9:10

Christians are a tiny minority in hungry, war-torn Yemen. Islam is the state religion and conversion from Islam is technically punishable by death although there are no known modern instances of this. Foreign (non-Yemeni) Christians can worship together, but some have been arrested for sharing their faith with Muslims which is illegal. An insurgency by Houthi rebels began in 2004 and became a civil war in 2014 when the Houthis seized control of Sanaa, the capital city. The conflict has created severe food insecurity with nearly half the population now unable to meet their basic food needs. Pray for peace in Yemen and a measure of prosperity so that the terrible hunger will end. Pray that believers will stand firm in their faith and be a channel of God's blessings to Yemen.

“ Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Francis of Assisi, Italy (1182-1226)

THURSDAY 6 MAR • CUBA

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8

On 20 November 2024 the Alliance of Christians in Cuba issued a declaration signed by 63 Cuban Christian leaders, condemning the communist Cuban government's continued violations of religious liberty. They mentioned particularly the government's refusal to allow unregistered places of worship to be registered and thus become legal. Another issue they raised

was the heavy fines imposed on church ministers. Together the lack of premises and the lack of money were crippling the churches' ability to provide practical help to their local communities at a time when Cuba was in the grip of a terrible economic crisis, with shortages of food, fuel and medicines. Pray for church leaders in Cuba that they may continue to speak out courageously and that their words will have a positive impact on President Miguel Díaz-Canel and his government.

“ *Jesus is alive! He is our King and He has the amazing power to change your life, right now! Let him enter and you will be truly free!*
Wilber Zaldivar Cruz, Cuba

FRIDAY 7 MAR • NICARAGUA

As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'
Matthew 10:7

A Nicaraguan civil rights lawyer, now in exile in the USA, documented 737 acts of aggression against Christians in Nicaragua from April 2018 to August 2023, including arrests, imprisonment, loss of citizenship, freezing of bank accounts, seizing of assets, desecrations, increased police and parapolic surveillance, and the banning of Christian processions. Church ministers are one of the main targets of this persecution by the left-wing Sandinista government. In 2024 the government announced the closure of many charities and Christian schools and the deportation of 19 foreign Christian workers. Pray that the government will stop its attacks on those who bear the name of Christ.

“ In times of exhaustion and sorrow, in times of joy and honour. I hasten to you, for I know the door is always open for me. My only beloved, in this world I only have you. All my pride is in You, You are my honour. I have You, I desire no one, You are my reason and my companion. O my dear Lover, I give you my life. O gracious Lord, happy is the day that I join You. O Good Shepherd, I will always rest in You. Hassan Dehqani-Tafti, Iran (1920-2008)

SATURDAY 8 MAR • BHUTAN

Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man [the king]. Nehemiah 1:11

This small Buddhist kingdom in the Himalayas does not give legal recognition to Christians or other non-Buddhists, so all Christian activities are illegal, except worshipping in private homes. It is also illegal for Christians to be buried in Bhutan and this is one of the main problems facing the Church. At the moment deceased Christians are usually taken to India for burial or buried in the jungle. Thank the Lord that the discrimination which Christians used to face from wider society has greatly reduced, although Christian converts from Buddhism face a lot of pressure to return to Buddhism, especially if they are women. Efforts to register Christian organisations with the Bhutanese authorities, so as to make their activities legal, have not succeeded. Pray that the Lord will give Christians favour in the eyes of the

Bhutanese government so that their activities, including burying their dead, will be legalised.

“ When the need is greatest, God is nearest. Justine Schmidt

SUNDAY 9 MAR • NEPAL (1)

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him. James 1:12

Nepal's population is about 85% Hindu but the Church has been growing fast since the 1950s – praise God. There is a lot of pressure on Christians who are active in sharing their faith with Hindus and Buddhists. A vaguely-worded law passed in 2018 makes it easy for the authorities to take Christians to court for almost any public Christian activity. Pray that our brothers and sisters will know the Lord's guidance, strength and peace as they worship and witness. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to bring people in Nepal to repentance and faith in Jesus.

“ Let us sing together the Lord's song. When I walk through the valley of death. I am not afraid of the dangers for I hold His staff and He gives me peace. Nepali hymn, translated by Tanka Subedi

MONDAY 10 MAR • NEPAL (2)

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

TBF Trust is providing goats for poor and marginalised Christian families in

remote areas of Nepal. The families will also receive training in how to care for their goats. Pray that the goats will thrive so that the families are empowered economically and can make enough income to cover food, healthcare and educational costs for their children. Pray also that their faith will be strengthened and their trust in the Lord Jesus deepened as they receive these life-changing animals from fellow Christians who have donated to TBF Trust.

“ Yes, by your fruits the world is to know you, walking in love as children of day; follow your Guide, He passed on before you, leading to realms of glorious day. Knowles Shaw, USA (1834-78)

TUESDAY 11 MAR • BANGLADESH

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

After violent mass protests, Bangladesh's long-serving Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted in August 2024. Sheikh Hasina had done much to protect and help Christians and other non-Muslim minorities. She was replaced by Muhammad Yunus (aged 84), a banker who received a Nobel prize in 2006 for his work on microcredit and microfinance. Mr Yunus's government has appointed a commission to revise the country's constitution. The present constitution makes Islam the state religion of Bangladesh but gives equal rights to all religions. Pray that the revised constitution will maintain the equality and freedoms of all in Bangladesh. Many Bangladeshi Christians are very

poor and have not had opportunity for education. There is a little anti-Christian violence, mainly against converts from Islam or Christians who evangelise Muslims. Pray that Christians will not be intimidated or fearful but will keep trusting the Lord, ready for whatever the future may bring,

“ It is a blessed mark of their belonging to God, when they are honoured to suffer for Him. George Whitefield, England (1714-70)

WEDNESDAY 12 MAR • MALDIVES

I have learnt to be content whatever the circumstances. Philippians 4:11

The Maldivian constitution makes Islam the state religion and has no mention of religious liberty. It permits laws that limit rights and freedoms in order to “protect and maintain the tenets of Islam.” Non-Muslims are not allowed to become Maldivian citizens. The penal code contains certain sharia (Islamic law) punishments such as flogging, stoning and amputation. By law the government and people must protect religious unity. Non-Muslims living in or visiting the Maldives can be imprisoned or fined if they express their beliefs openly. No church buildings are allowed. Even Muslims are strictly regulated, with the government controlling mosques and sermons. Cyber-bullying and other threats are common against individuals accused of not being sufficiently Islamic. Leaving Islam is forbidden. Praise God that, despite all this, “the wind blows wherever it pleases” (John 3:8) and the Holy

Spirit has brought Maldivian Muslims to Christ. Pray that they and Christian migrant workers may be able to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

“ I am content! My Jesus lives again, in whom my heart is pleased. He has fulfilled the law of God for me, God’s wrath He has appeased. Since He in death could perish never, I also shall not die forever. I am content! I am content! Johann Joachim Möller, Germany (1659-1733)

THURSDAY 13 MAR • CHINA

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Isaiah 26:3

In this huge country of 1.4 billion people, 9 million square km and five time zones, there is wide variation in the treatment of Christians. Some churches are officially registered, meaning they have more surveillance but less harassment. Other churches prefer the freedom of being unregistered, although this makes persecution more likely. The communist government is particularly suspicious of churches with Western links. Nevertheless the churches continue to grow – praise God. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide Chinese Christians into all truth, even as their government tries to guide them into communism.

“ To be a truly-loving person, to fully do God’s will, to sacrifice all, and to desire an absolutely selfless life, one must focus wholeheartedly on the Cross. Yu Chenhua, China (1901-56)

FRIDAY 14 MAR • NORTH KOREA

I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.” Matthew 10:34-36

This communist country is so hostile to Christianity that Christians have been executed just for owning a Bible. Only the Lord knows how many have been put in prison cells or political labour camps, where they are abused, tortured and worked to death. Children are encouraged to report their Christian parents if they see them praying. Pray that the Holy Spirit will wonderfully sustain believers in the land which is probably the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian.

“ How you live that life is the thing that matters, not how long. The life is Christ’s. Alfonso Gaspar Taqueban Makil (1927-63), Filipino missionary Bible translator in Vietnam who was killed during the Vietnam War

SATURDAY 15 MAR • LIBYA

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Mark 8:34

The Christian community in Libya is mostly migrant workers from sub-Saharan Africa. Other African Christians are passing through Libya, attempting to cross to Europe and earn money to send back to their needy families; they are often subject to severe abuse while they wait in Libya. There is also a small number of Libyan converts from Islam – only the

Lord knows how many. The country is chaotic, violent and strongly Islamic. It is one of the few 21st century nations which has an official death penalty for apostasy from Islam. Pray for the protection of our very vulnerable brothers and sisters.

“ Lord, what a change within us one short hour Spent in Thy presence will prevail to make ... We kneel, how weak; we rise, how full of power! Richard Chenevix Trench, Ireland (1807-1886)

SUNDAY 16 MAR • EGYPT

Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? James 2:5

Egypt has an estimated 10 million Christians. Under President al-Sisi, their situation has significantly improved, although extremists in this Muslim-majority country are still hostile so Christians suffer frequent discrimination and occasional violence. Al-Sisi's government has granted licences to over 3,000 church buildings, making it legal to worship in them, and the president is quick to give verbal and financial support for Christians whenever anti-Christian violence occurs. Pray for the protection of Christians especially in rural areas where they are more vulnerable. Pray that the Lord will enable them to earn a living despite the discrimination they often face. Ask that they will hold on to the Lord Jesus, in the land where He Himself was a refugee and where the Christian faith has been handed down

through the generations for almost 2,000 years.

“ Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns. Clement of Alexandria, Egypt (died 215)

MONDAY 17 MAR • ALGERIA

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? Psalm 42:2

Algeria is about 98% Muslim. The Christian community is mainly from the ethnic Berber minority, who are the indigenous people of the land, not from the Arab majority. Most of the Christians are first-, second- or third-generation converts from Islam. Christians who evangelise Muslims risk a jail sentence but there is no penalty for choosing to leave Islam. Many congregations have had their church buildings forcibly closed by the authorities. Pray that church buildings will reopen, in the Lord's perfect timing, so Christians can meet for worship in larger numbers, and that full religious freedom will be granted.

“ When Thou art our strength, it is strength indeed, but when our strength is our own it is only weakness. Augustine of Hippo (modern Annaba, Algeria) (354-430)

TUESDAY 18 MAR • MOROCCO

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Romans 12:1

Officially all Moroccan citizens are Muslims, so the only Christians in the

country are supposedly foreigners. Thank the Lord that for many years the Moroccan authorities have turned a blind eye to Moroccan Christians (converts from Islam and their children) who practise their faith discreetly. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give wisdom and grace to His people as they live for Him in this North African country.

“ ... although we may have much to suffer, we are greatly comforted in the Lord. Daniel, from Spain, and his Italian companions, in a letter written from prison in Ceuta to the Christian merchants outside the city walls, before they were martyred in 1227

WEDNESDAY 19 MAR • MAURITANIA

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. Hebrews 10:36

Praise God for the faith and courage of Mauriticians who have left Islam to follow Christ. The Mauritanian population is almost 100% Muslim and apostasy from Islam is officially punishable by death under its penal code, although no known executions have taken place in recent years. They face much harassment, persecution and danger. Pray that they will be delivered from evil and that they will know the joy, peace and love of the Lord as they follow Him.

“ *As I follow the Lord, I do not turn back; As I accept the Lord, I do not regret. Though the road is rocky, I have no complaint; Though tears are rolling down my face, my heart is filled with joy. Serving the Lord is no, is not under the shade of green. Serving the Lord is not, is not in*

the greenhouse. We may be jailed. We may go through the valleys of sorrow. We must go through Marah to reach Elim. Lu Xiaomin (born 1970), a Chinese Christian from the mainly-Muslim Hui ethnic group

THURSDAY 20 MAR • AZERBAIJAN

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: fear Him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into Hell.

Luke 12:4-5

Within Muslim-majority Azerbaijan lies an enclave called Nagorno-Karabakh where Armenian Christians lived for many centuries. It is full of ancient church buildings and other Christian sites. In recent decades the enclave has been much fought over by Azerbaijan and Armenia, and in September 2023 it finally fell to Azerbaijan. Almost the entire population of 120,000 Armenian Christians immediately fled to Armenia. They did not want to live under Azerbaijani rule, aware of anti-Armenian feelings in Azerbaijan and remembering how hundreds of thousands of Armenians were violently forced out of Nagorno-Karabakh 1988-1990. The inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh are famous amongst Armenians for their resilience, but strengthen them still further with your prayers.

“ *Be thou only, O Lord, my portion, As thou wast for Paul, who loved thee, That I may not exchange thee for any creature, Not even under different kinds of torments.* Nerses Shnorhali, Armenian (1102-1173)

FRIDAY 21 MAR • ARMENIA

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Luke 4:18-19

Armenians have a history of suffering for their faith, most notably in the genocide under the Ottoman Empire which lasted about 30 years, the worst year being 1915. Pray for the Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh in 2025 as they continue to settle into a new life in Armenia. They are grieving for their beloved homeland and its Christian heritage which is so precious to them. They need to find ways to support themselves, having left behind their farms, businesses and other jobs. Pray also for some Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh who are held as hostages in prison in Azerbaijan. Armenia is bracing itself for a possible invasion by Azerbaijan; pray that the Lord Almighty will not permit this to happen.

“ *Christ's birth was a declaration that God is with us, bringing hope to the poor, dignity to the outcast, and peace to those longing for justice.* Bishop Hovakim Manukyan (born 1976)

SATURDAY 22 MAR • GEORGIA

They will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. Malachi 3:18

The Georgian flag has five crosses on it, a reminder of how important the

Christian faith is to this nation, which officially adopted Christianity in the fourth century. A former footballer called Mikheil Kavelashvili, who at one time played for Manchester City, was elected president of Georgia in December 2024 - he was the only candidate on the ballot paper. In this period of turmoil and instability, pray that the Christian community will remain strong in their faith.

“ *The Lord alone knows the sincerity of our will and comforts us in our righteous afflictions.* Martyrs of Kvabtakhevi Monastery, Kartli, Georgia, 1386, responding to an ultimatum to renounce Jesus Christ or be forced into the church building and burned alive

SUNDAY 23 MAR • MOZAMBIQUE

I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God. Job 19:25-26

Christians in the northern province of Cabo Delgado are one of the main targets of a particularly brutal Islamist militant group, who sometimes dismember them or skin those they kill. It is estimated that around 1,800 Christians have been killed by this group, which goes by many names. Pray for peace and stability to return to northern Mozambique. Pray for the men of violence that they will have a life-changing encounter with the Prince of Peace.

“ *Live today as if you were going to die a martyr this evening.* Charles de Foucauld, France (1858-1916), martyred in Algeria

MONDAY 24 MAR • COMOROS

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

This archipelago, off the coast of East Africa, has a constitution based on the Shafi'i school of Sunni Islam, which is seen as the basis of national identity and unity. At the same time, the constitution proclaims equal rights and obligations for all. It is illegal to promote any religion except Sunni Islam or to engage in public worship except Sunni Islam. Christians and Shia Muslims are therefore very discreet in the practice of their beliefs. Many Comorians have migrated to nearby Mayotte because babies born on Mayotte are French citizens. Anyone who converts from Islam to Christianity or from Sunni Islam to Shia Islam is liable to be shunned by their local community. In this very difficult context, pray that Christians will know how to be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16).

“ Long is the way, and very steep the slope, Strengthen me once again, O God of Hope. Amy Carmichael, Northern Ireland (1867-1951)

TUESDAY 25 MAR • MAYOTTE

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

Mayotte, in the Indian Ocean, is a pair of islands shaped like a sea-horse. As an overseas department of France, it is part of the European Union. The population is about 97% Muslim, but alongside Islamic knowledge people

strive to attain knowledge of astrology and of spirit possession. The name “Mayotte” is believed to come from the Arabic “Jazīrat al-Mawt” meaning “island of death” – perhaps a reference to the coral reefs around it which were a danger to Arab sailors of long ago. On 14 December 2024 the worst cyclone for 90 years swept across Mayotte, killing hundreds of people, flattening thousands of makeshift homes, and leaving most of the survivors without food or water. Pray for all who have suffered from this cyclone. Pray that the small Christian minority (3%) will not be discriminated against in the distribution of aid and that their faith in the Lord Jesus will enable them to know the reality of Jesus’ promise of life in all its fullness.

“ O love that wilt not let me go; I rest my weary soul in thee. I give thee back the life I owe; that in thine ocean depths its flow; may richer fuller be. George Matheson, Scotland (1842-1906)

WEDNESDAY 26 MAR • UGANDA (1)

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then ... I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. Philippians 1:27-28

Christianity is the majority faith in Uganda, but the Muslim minority is dominant in business, politics and many other spheres. Pray for Ugandan Christians to be active in ensuring there is a Christian presence and Christ-like thinking in every part of their society. Ugandan Christians

are at risk from occasional Islamist terrorist attacks. Ask the Lord to give courage and hope to those Christians living in the danger areas and wisdom and perseverance to those involved in Ugandan politics.

“ *God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, Hallelujah! We are asking for your Holy Spirit, Descend on us and lead us on. We acknowledge that we are your children. O Lord, we pray you lead us on. We have heard your voice, O Lord calling us.* Ugandan Christian song

THURSDAY 27 MAR • UGANDA (2)

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103

Bee-keeping is an excellent way to achieve a sustainable income in south-west Uganda. Bees are less sensitive to extreme weather changes than are traditional crops and can thrive where the soil is unsuitable for farming. TBF Trust is funding a project to provide needy Christian families in the area with five bee-hives as well as other necessary equipment and training. Other families also get work by making the hives or processing the honey into other products. Praise God for His blessing on this thriving project and the hope and thankfulness of the beneficiaries.

“ *How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear! It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.* John Newton, England (1725-1807)

FRIDAY 28 MAR • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. Psalm 27:3

Christians in North Kivu and Ituri provinces are frequently targeted by Islamist terrorists. Islamic State (ISIS) focuses its attacks on the Congolese army and on Christian civilians. Here are some of the Christian civilian deaths last year, claimed by ISIS late last year: 21 October, 2 beheaded in one village and 8 in another; 22 October, 8 beheaded; 23 October, 12 shot; 26 October, 1 beheaded; 28 October, 4 killed; 29 October, 5 killed; 11 November, 2 killed; 20 November, 3 machine-gunned; 26 November, 3 beheaded. We know only the name of the believer beheaded on 26 October, who was called Makazini. But the Lord knows each one who died and He knows those who mourn for them. He knows the hundreds of Christian villagers whose houses were burned down or possessions stolen in these attacks. Pray that they will know the peace of God that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7 AV) and the provision of the God who owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10).

“ *Father, hear the prayer we offer: not for ease that prayer shall be; but for strength, that we may ever live our lives courageously.* Love M Willis, USA (1824-1908)

SATURDAY 29 MAR • CAMEROON

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. Psalm 118:8-9

Christianity is the majority faith in Cameroon. The 20% Muslim minority mostly live in the Far North and rural Christian communities in that part of the country are vulnerable to attacks from jihadist groups such as Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province. In these attacks, many homes and shops are destroyed. Property such as livestock and motorcycles are stolen and sometimes people are killed. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and protect our brothers and sisters in Far North Cameroon, and to bring hope in the midst of hopelessness.

“ *Is there a heart o'erbound by sorrow? Is there a life weighed down by care? Come to the Cross each burden bearing. All your anxiety, leave it there.* Edward H Joy, England (1871-1949)

SUNDAY 30 MAR • SUDAN (1)

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.
Psalm 95:1-2

Sudan (formerly North Sudan) is in the grip of a terrible humanitarian disaster caused by fighting, which began in 2023, between government armed forces and a paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces. Floods and droughts add to the suffering. Christians (3% of the Sudanese population) endured decades of severe and violent persecution by a strongly Islamist government until it was overthrown in April 2019, but turmoil resumed following a military coup in 2021. In the midst of this, pastors are concentrating on enabling their flocks

to meet for worship and to tell fellow-Christians about the ordeals they have been through. Pray that this will bring healing, comfort and strength to our brothers and sisters.

“ *Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.* Helen H. Lemmel, USA (1863-1961)

MONDAY 31 MAR • SUDAN (2)

Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
Revelation 22:12-13

Darfur is one of the areas of Sudan where Christians suffer particularly severe persecution. Many therefore keep their Christian faith secret. Their situation became significantly worse after the current conflict erupted in April 2023 and they are in constant danger. The food crisis in Darfur is so severe that In August 2024 the UN declared there to be a famine in the Darfur region with both adults and children dying. In this desperate situation, pray that Darfur's Christians will find hope in Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, who is coming soon.

“ *Lo! he comes with clouds descending, Once for favoured sinners slain! Thousand, thousand saints attending, Swell the triumph of his train. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on Earth to reign.* Charles Wesley, England (1707-1788)



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