



PRAYER DIARY

Praying in Christ's Name for His Suffering Church

April - May 2025



Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

April

TUESDAY 1 APR • SYRIA (1)

His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day. Psalm 91:4-5

“Christians are living in total fear,” said a Syrian Christian to TBF Trust in March. Since December Syria has been under the control of HTS Islamist militants. At one level life is strictly organised with a hierarchy of extremist Muslim amirs or sheikhs controlling every town, village and city neighbourhood. At the same time there is lawlessness and chaos. Dozens of groups of Islamist fighters are at large on the streets, their main target being Alawites. But Christians and Alawites often live in the same areas and therefore Christians share in the terror aimed at the Alawites. They hear the shooting as bullets fly in the streets. Sometimes their homes are broken into and their property destroyed. A few have been killed. Pray that Christians will know the Lord to be their shield and rampart.

“Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head. William Cowper, England (1731-1800)

WEDNESDAY 2 APR • SYRIA (2)

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. Psalm 31:3

According to the World Christian Council for Peace (WCCP), Christians now make up less than 3% of the population of Syria. If emigration were

to continue at the same rate, Syria would be empty of Christians by 2045, says the WCCP. The WCCP notes that “massacres, scenes of horrific violence, and repression that Syria has witnessed ... home invasions, killings, thefts, and torture”, which escalated in March, will make more Christians want to leave. But emigration has become very difficult since HTS took power. Pray for Christians in Syria seeking the Lord’s guidance, asking that each will know His will for them personally – to stay or go.

“Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. William Williams, Wales (1717-1791)

THURSDAY 3 APR • SYRIA (3)

They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. John 15:21

“Why? We Christians don’t own weapons and we don’t kill,” replied a Syrian church leader to Islamist militants who were pressing him to accompany them as they ransacked Christian homes, ostensibly looking for weapons, in reality helping themselves to anything they wanted. Christians dare not speak up about such incidents, knowing that any complaints would make them a major target of the Islamist militants instead of a minor target. There are frequent efforts to try to convert Christians to Islam. Pray that Syrian Christians will remain strong in their faith and love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Forgive all who hate and maltreat us and let not one of them perish

because of us, but may all be saved by your grace, O God, the all-bountiful. Eastern Orthodox prayer

FRIDAY 4 APR • IRAQ

I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever. Psalm 52:8

The greatest need of Christians in Iraq is stability, said a church leader recently. In barely a generation about three-quarters of the Iraqi Christian community have emigrated, fleeing in waves as conflict after conflict rocked their nation. In 2014 the trigger was the militants of Islamic State (IS or ISIS) seizing control of large swathes of the country, including the traditional Christian heartlands near Mosul. IS were later forced out but few Christians have dared to return. Pray for a continuing Christian presence and witness in Iraq. This is the land to which Jonah was sent and where the people of Nineveh (modern Mosul) repented (Jonah 3).

“ No words can describe what we experienced 10 years ago. The IS wanted to obliterate us but it failed ... the people here in the Nineveh Plain are like olive trees. They may be cut down and burnt, but after 10 or 20 years they will bear fruit again ... We stayed and we will stay and as a Church we will do all we can to spread hope. A church leader in Iraq, 2024

SATURDAY 5 APR • LEBANON

I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27

Christians in Lebanon are cautiously optimistic for their country under its

new government, which has stopped the downwards spiral of suffering. A future where extremist religion plays no part in politics looks possible. At the time of writing, however, Lebanon has come under bombardment again. Jesus visited the area that is being bombed and performed a miracle there (Mark 7:24-30). Ask Jesus for another miracle: peace, stability and economic recovery in Lebanon and that the Christian presence will continue.

“ With chains of hope You bind me. Wrestle as I might, I cannot be free. Patrick Sookhdeo, Guyana (born 1947)

SUNDAY 6 APR • GABON

Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. Psalm 119:2

Most of Gabon's population identify as Christian but many are probably also involved in the local Bwiti religion. Bwiti originated among Pygmy people and involves animism, ancestor worship and the consumption of hallucinogenic roots. Pray that Christians in Gabon will cling to sound doctrine. Only 10% of the population is Muslim but the country was ruled by Muslim presidents (father and son) from 1973 until 2023. Since the overthrow of President Ali Bongo in 2023 a transitional leader has been in place and now a presidential election is scheduled for 12 April. Pray for peaceful, free and fair elections resulting in a president who will lead the country with justice and wisdom.

“ There are three things that preserve the Church... firstly, to teach faithfully; secondly, to pray constantly; thirdly, to

suffer reverently. Martin Luther,
Germany (1483-1536)

MONDAY 7 APR • MALI

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

Christians are just 2% of Muslim-majority Mali. The Malian constitution upholds religious freedom, affirms that all citizens 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 jihadi groups, which control territory in the north and rule it according to sharia. Christians suffer attacks and kidnappings from time to time. Pray that their lives may be full of love, peace and forgiveness, demonstrating to the jihadists a different way to live.

“If I say, ‘Yes I forgive, but I cannot forget,’ as though God, who twice a day washes all the sands on all the shores of all the world, could not wash such memories from my mind, then I know nothing of Calvary love. Amy Carmichael, Northern Ireland (1867-1951)

**TUESDAY 8 APR • DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)**

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. Romans 8:26

“We don’t know what to do or how to pray; we’ve had enough of massacres. May God’s will alone be done,” said an elder from the Evangelical Community of Central Africa denomination. His comment was made after the beheaded bodies of about 70 Christians were found in a church building in Kasanga,

North Kivu province. The Christians had been captured from their village by an Islamist militant group on 13 February. This tragedy was the latest of many attacks by Islamist militants in eastern DRC, who are increasingly targeting Christian leaders and their families and church buildings. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide the Christians of DRC as they pray about the terrible situation in which they live.

“O joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain That morn shall tearless be. George Matheson, Scotland (1842-1906)

WEDNESDAY 9 APR • RUSSIA

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

Many Russian men have returned from the war with Ukraine sick, maimed, disabled or with post-war trauma. Russian Christians are seeking the Lord’s guidance for how to help them and many churches have started to provide special programmes to meet this new need. These efforts are causing city authorities in Russia to look favourably on the evangelical churches which are running the programmes. Pray to our loving Lord, who delights to bring good out of evil, that the churches will be able to help the returned soldiers in body, mind and spirit. Pray also for continuing favour of the Russian authorities towards the churches involved. Evangelical churches in Russia are usually frowned upon by the authorities and the community.

” *What a friend we have in
Jesus, All our sins and griefs to
bear! What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!*
Joseph Medlicott Scriven, Ireland
(1819-1886)

THURSDAY 10 APR • UKRAINE

*You must go to everyone I send you to and
say whatever I command you.* Jeremiah 1:7

Believers in Ukraine praise the Lord that His Church has continued to grow despite three years of war. During this time the number of churches in Ukraine has increased, seminaries have continued to function and a new area of ministry has developed: chaplains. The chaplains serve in hospitals, at the frontline and amongst returning soldiers. Church buildings have become centres of humanitarian and psychological help for a nation devastated by war. Join Ukrainian Christians in praying for peace. Pray for pastors willing to serve in the east of the country where the people are in greatest need of support and faith. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give to the newly trained chaplains the right words to reach the hearts of people and impart faith and peace despite the danger.

” *Help me, my God, to understand
the love That was proved to us
on the cross. Only then will I be
able to follow You Through the
storms and suffering on this earth!*
Traditional Ukrainian hymn

FRIDAY 11 APR • CHINA

*I pray also for those who will believe in me
through their message, that all of them may
be one.* John 17:20-21

Christians in China have become divided over the Russia-Ukraine war. They request prayer for unity and cooperation between churches and individual believers. There are other big differences in the Christian community of at least 100 million believers spread across the vast expanse of China. One is between those who choose to register with the authorities for greater security and submit to their pro-communist regulations (the “three-self churches”) and those who choose to operate illegally so that they can do whatever they want but run the risk of persecution (the “house churches”). Pray for the Lord’s guidance for every congregation and every disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

” *In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, charity.* Quoted in “The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church” 2012. Origin obscure.

SATURDAY 12 APR • NORTH KOREA

*Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters
that what has happened to me has actually
served to advance the gospel. As a result, it
has become clear throughout the whole palace
guard and to everyone else that I am in
chains for Christ.* Philippians 1:12-13

Three South Korean missionaries have been in prison in North Korea since 2014. Choi Chun-gil (aged 65), Kim Jong-uk (59) and Kim Kuk-gi (61) have been sentenced to life imprisonment in labour camps. On 12 March 2025 the UN stated that the three had been deprived of their liberty “for reasons of discriminatory intent against them, because they were foreign nationals and because of

their religious and humanitarian work as Christian missionaries". The South Korean government has called for the release of its citizens. Please aid them with your prayers. Pray also for North Korean Christians in labour camps without a foreign government calling for their release.

“ *Suffering saints are living seed.*
C H Spurgeon, England (1834-92)

SUNDAY 13 APR • INDONESIA

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
Romans 16:20

Only a few decades ago followers of different religions co-existed peacefully and with respect and equality, even though Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world. Pray for a return to this situation. The treatment of Christians today 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 very poor economically and are often attacked by the Indonesian military.

“ *The trials that afflict you, the sorrows you endure: what are they but the testing that makes your calling sure?* John Mason Neale, England (1818-66)

MONDAY 14 APR • PHILIPPINES

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

There is a community of about six million Muslims on the island of Mindanao in the southern part of the

Philippines. In recent years some of them have decided to follow the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Most of the converts keep a low profile and do not draw attention to their Christian faith; this is probably why they are not suffering much harassment or persecution. Pray that they may grow in knowledge and love of the Lord and that He will continue to add to their number.

“ *I am not afraid because I know Jesus is powerful and He will not forsake me.* Mayang, widow of Mario Acidre, a Filipino convert from Islam who was martyred in Jolo, a mainly-Muslim island, in August 2011. Mayang said this after the shooting of her husband, who had been bold in sharing the Gospel.

TUESDAY 15 APR • PAKISTAN (1)

I will never leave you nor forsake you.
Joshua 1:5

Saba Shafique (aged 12) was abducted from outside her home in Lahore by a Muslim neighbour called Muhammad Ali (aged 35) on 5 January. He made fake documents showing that Saba had converted to Islam and married her. “Ali then forced me to record a video saying that I had converted to Islam and married him of my free will,” said Saba afterwards. “I was also forced to state that I’m 18 years old, and that my parents should not take any action against us.” But the truth was that she was beaten, raped and kept locked up. She cried for her parents and pleaded to be allowed to go home. On 5 March, police raided a village outhouse and rescued Saba. Muhammad Ali was arrested. Praise God that the police acted instead of turning a blind eye.

Pray for healing of body and mind for Saba and the many other Christians and Hindus who have suffered like this.

“ *Our faith was strengthened because tests are a part of life, and God never lets His people down.* Shakeela, after her husband was killed in a bomb attack on All Saints Church, Peshawar, Pakistan in 2013

WEDNESDAY 16 APR • PAKISTAN (2)

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. John 14:18

While Saba (see above) was held in captivity, two other Christian girls were abducted by Muslims. On 9 January Saneha (14) was lured out of her house, bundled into a van and driven away. She was rescued by police on 19 February. Ariha (12) was seized at gunpoint when three men burst into the family home and dragged her away. Ariha's mother screamed for help and neighbours rushed over, but Ariha was already in a car which sped away. Ariha's family are the only Christians on their street. Her abductors and her would-be rescuers were all Muslims. Pray that the authorities will be proactive in seeking to restore Ariha to her parents.

“ *I have a strong faith in Jesus, because He said, 'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.'* Christina, after a bomb attack on All Saints Church, Peshawar, Pakistan on 22 September 2013 in which her husband was killed and her 4-year-old daughter injured.

THURSDAY 17 APR • PAKISTAN (3)

He is a God of justice. Psalm 50:6

A judge at the Islamabad High Court has advised Pakistan's government to establish a commission to investigate alleged collusion between the Federal Investigation Agency and Islamist clerics to entrap innocent people by false accusations of “blasphemy” (Section 295 of the Pakistan Penal Code). This is very dangerous to the falsely accused individuals because there is a mandatory death sentence for defiling the name of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, although this has never yet been put into practice. People of any religion can be falsely accused under Section 295 but Christians and Hindus are more vulnerable than Muslims and their voice is less likely to be believed in court. Pray for courage and determination for the members of the commission. Many people who have tried to highlight the injustice of this law have been threatened or killed by zealous Islamists.

“ *It is not only the perpetrators of evil who commit sin, but those who stand by, seeing and knowing – but who do not condemn it or try to avert it.* Bishop Parkev Martirosyan, speaking in Nagorno-Karabakh in the early 1990s when it was being attacked daily by missiles from Azerbaijan.

FRIDAY 18 APR • GOOD FRIDAY

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. Luke 23:34

As we remember the agony of our Lord Jesus on the cross, when He died to take away the sins of the world, pray for Christians whose loved ones have died because they were His followers, or whose homes, livelihoods and

church buildings have been deliberately destroyed. Many have suffered like this in Nigeria where an estimated 45,000 Christians have been killed by Islamists since 2009. The anti-Christian violence is now spilling out to other countries of West Africa. Ask that the Lord will give our brothers and sisters grace to forgive and not retaliate.

“ *My daughter is a martyr; I am proud of her and I forgive the culprits since this is the message of my faith. Jesus on the cross said, “Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing.”* Mr Samuel, after his young daughter died in the bomb attack on All Saints Church, Peshawar, Pakistan in 2013

SATURDAY 19 APR • TURKEY

Hold on to what you have until I come. To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations. Revelation 2:25-26 (the words of Jesus to the Church in Thyatira, which is Akhisar in modern Turkey)

Turkey’s Christian minority was about 20% before the Armenian, Assyrian, Syriac and Greek genocide in the early 20th century, but now it is about 0.2%. President Erdogan, a strict Muslim, has recently given warm words of affirmation to the remnants of the historic Christian communities. Christians rejoice that they are now allowed to train church ministers and open new churches. At the time of writing, there is huge instability in Turkey with huge street protests against President Erdogan for imprisoning the mayor of Istanbul, expected to be his main rival in Turkey’s next presidential elections. Pray that the Lord will work

out His purposes for Turkey and for His people there.

“ *How precious the gift of the cross! The fruit of this tree is not death but life. This tree does not cast us out of paradise but opens the way for our return. This was the tree on which Christ destroyed the Devil, the Lord of Death, and freed the human race from his tyranny. This was the tree upon which the Lord, like a brave warrior wounded in His hands, feet and side, healed the wounds of sin. A tree once caused our death, but now a tree brings life. By the cross, death was slain.* Theodore of Stoudios (759-826) who was born and died in Constantinople (modern Istanbul, Turkey)

SUNDAY 20 APR • EASTER DAY

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: “He has risen from the dead...” Matthew 28:5-7

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed – Alleluia! Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world, disciples of the risen Christ, who are spending this Easter in prison, in pain, in mourning, in hunger or in fear. Ask that they will be touched afresh with the good news of the wonderful Easter message that Christ has risen from the dead. Pray that they will be enabled to rejoice, even if there are no other Christians to rejoice with them. Pray that Christ’s resurrection power will strengthen them to face whatever is in store for them, as it strengthened His first disciples.

“ *Sometimes I cannot believe that this is my life: these four metal walls, all*

of us corralled like cattle, the pain, the hunger, the fear. All because of my belief in a God who has risen, who charges me to share my faith with those who do not yet know him, and who I am forbidden to worship.

Helen Berhane, Eritrea (born c. 1974), imprisoned 2004-2006

MONDAY 21 APR • REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

The Republic of Congo (often called Congo-Brazzaville after its capital city) is predominantly Christian but the influence of traditional African religions is very strong. Many people therefore live in fear of occult powers. It is one of sub-Saharan Africa's main oil-producers and has a higher literacy rate than many countries of sub-Saharan Africa, yet poverty is widespread. Repeated internal conflicts have afflicted the country since it became independent from France in 1960. The current government is very authoritarian. Pray that believers in Congo will be a channel of blessing to society around them and that the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ will protect His people from all harm.

“ Worship Him with joy, our Lord Jesus won the battle. Praise Him with joy, our Lord Jesus won the battle. Glorify Him with joy, our Lord Jesus won the battle. Sing for Him with joy, our Lord Jesus won the battle. Dance for Him with joy, our Lord Jesus won the battle.

English translation of “Netola ye na Esengo Kolo Yesu Alongi Etumba”, a Congolese hymn in the national language Lingala

TUESDAY 22 APR • NIGER

This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him... Isaiah 45:1

Although extremely poor, Niger used to be politically stable and safe, with freedom of religion. But the Islamist violence that is spreading across West Africa has reached Niger. The tiny Christian community is often targeted by Islamist militants, who also attack moderate Muslims, for example in a savage attack on a mosque on 21 March in which 44 people died. On 26 March General Tchiani was sworn in as president for a transitional period of five years. He had been leading the country since 2023 when the elected president was ousted in a military coup, staged partly as a response to the president's inability to halt the jihadi attacks. Ask the Lord, who used unbelieving Cyrus as a channel of blessing to God's people, that He will work through General Tchiani to restore peace and security for all in Niger.

“ From your tears comes our joy, From your death our life shall spring, by your resurrection power we shall rise. Graham Kendrick, England (born 1950)

WEDNESDAY 23 APR • SUDAN

And he shall be their peace. Micah 5:5

Civil war continues to rage in Sudan as government armed forces struggle against a paramilitary group called

Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Both sides have been accused of shelling civilians. Millions have fled their homes. Hunger is severe and widespread. On 26 March the government army regained control of the capital Khartoum. Darfur, where Christians have suffered persecution for years, is now suffering greatly at the hands of both sides in the civil war. The RSF has been accused of ethnic cleansing and genocide in an apparent campaign to rid the area of non-Arab people-groups whether Muslim or Christian. There is evidence that they rape non-Arab women and have murdered thousands of civilians. Pray that Christians in Khartoum and Darfur will be a source of peace and hope to all around them.

“ Fence me about, O Lord, with the power of thine honourable and life-giving cross, and preserve me from every evil. Eastern Orthodox prayer

THURSDAY 24 APR • ARMENIA (1)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

Today is Armenian Genocide Memorial Day, remembering the genocide of Christian minorities under Ottoman rule. An estimated 3.75 million Christians perished, the majority being Armenians. Some were killed outright; others were sent on forced marches and perished on the way from hunger, exposure or violent attacks. The worst year was 1915 when approximately 800,000 Armenian Christians died. On 24 April 1915 there began a roundup of Armenian intellectuals and leaders in Constantinople (Istanbul). Thousands of

Armenian doctors, teachers, journalists, poets, lawyers, activists, MPs and others were seized and later killed. Pray that more governments today will recognise this genocide and that the remembrance of these atrocities will prevent such things ever occurring again.

“ Guard us, O Christ our God, in peace under the shadow of your holy and venerable cross. Deliver us from the visible and invisible enemy. Make us worthy to give you thanks and to glorify you together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always unto the ages of ages. An Armenian Church prayer

FRIDAY 25 APR • ARMENIA (2)

God is love. 1 John 4:8

About 120,000 Armenian Christians used to live in Nagorno-Karabakh, a Christian enclave within Muslim-majority Azerbaijan. In September 2023 almost all of them fled to Armenia, when Azerbaijan's military took control of Nagorno-Karabakh. Pray that the Christians of Nagorno-Karabakh, who do not want to live like second-class citizens under Islamic rule in their beloved homeland, will be able to find livelihoods to support themselves in Armenia.

“ We have a Gospel of love. Whatever demonic forces are at work, not only in this war but anywhere else in the world, we must never hate; we must still love. We must always love. Bishop Parkev Martirosyan, speaking in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh, in the early 1990s when it was being attacked every day by missiles from

Azerbaijan. His own home had been destroyed by a missile that morning.

SATURDAY 26 APR • IRAN (1)

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Galatians 6:14

On 8 March Somayeh Rajabi (aged 42) was released on bail from prison in Iran. She had been arrested on 6 February when a large gathering of Christians in a private garden was raided by the Revolutionary Guards. The Guards seized Bibles, musical instruments and communication devices. Anyone wearing a cross necklace was body-searched, and the cross forcibly torn from their neck. Pray that the charges against Somayeh will be dropped.

“ The Cross will abide as the supreme revelation of God, through which all creation will come to an understanding of His holiness and His love, the deepest and truest things of His being. G Campbell Morgan, England (1863-1945)

SUNDAY 27 APR • IRAN (2)

Whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. Luke 12:8

According to a recent report, 96 Christians were sentenced to a combined 263 years in prison in Iran in 2024. This was a huge increase compared with 2023 (22 Christians, with their sentences totalling 43½ years). “Making financial donations, charitable offerings, or paying tithes to support church activities are standard practices for Christians worldwide, but such activities have been criminalised

by Iran’s Revolutionary Courts,” said the report. Other Christian activities commonly treated as crimes in Iran include singing worship songs, preaching in church, performing baptisms, celebrating Christmas, attending house-churches, conducting worship services at home and getting theological education. Pray that the Body of Christ in Iran will be filled with His grace to endure their situation with joy and thankfulness for as long as He wills.

“ Cover the way with flowers, clap your hands. Jesus Christ is on the way! Dance together and be kind to each other. Jesus Christ is on the way! Iranian Christian song, translated from Farsi

MONDAY 28 APR • NEPAL (1)

They will no longer be plundered by the nations, nor will wild animals devour them ... and they will no longer be victims of famine... Ezekiel 34:28-29

Baisu’s life is “a powerful testimony of faith, endurance, and transformation” wrote TBF Trust’s project partners in Nepal. At the age of 14 she made a decision to leave Hinduism to follow Christ. She also got married. At 15 she became a mother and, with her husband working away from home, found herself and her daughter living in a rickety house near the jungle, at constant risk from wild animals. But her commitment to the Lord was unshaken and made her resilient. Recently she was given a goat, funded by TBF Trust, which has improved her economic situation. Pray for Baisu and other Christians suffering great hardship who have received goats through this project.

“ *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.* Translation of a Nepali hymn

TUESDAY 29 APR • NEPAL (2)

This God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end. Psalm 48:14

Seventeen Americans and one Indian citizen were arrested and briefly detained in Nepal in February. According to the Nepalese authorities, the Americans had entered the country on 15-day tourist visas which they had violated by using their time to help construct a church building. They were also accused of trying to convert local people to Christianity in this Hindu-majority country. Pray for wisdom for all seeking to make known the Gospel in Nepal, where vaguely worded laws mean that almost any public Christian activity is potentially illegal.

“ *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me save that thou art. Thou my best thought by day and by night; Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.* Dallán Forgaill, Ireland (6th century), translated by Mary E Byrne and made into verse by Eleanor H Hull

WEDNESDAY 30 APR • AFGHANISTAN

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. Romans 8:18

Restrictions on the daily lives of ordinary people in Afghanistan continue to increase. Some of the latest changes make it easier for the authorities to gather information

about people and where they are. All this creates more stress and fear for the general population, especially for Afghan believers who live with the constant possibility of being killed for their decision to leave Islam. There is a severe lack of food and safe water. Pray for the whole suffering population of Afghanistan and especially for our Christian brothers and sisters.

“ *Underneath me, all around me Is the current of His love— Leading onward, leading homeward To His glorious rest above.* S. Trevor Francis, England (1834-1925)

May

THURSDAY 1 MAY • PAKISTAN (4)

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. Psalm 119:18

Many Christians who work in brick-kilns cannot read or write. Some have been making bricks since childhood and never had opportunity to go to school. Illiteracy makes them vulnerable to exploitation. TBF Trust is supporting Christian-run adult literacy programmes in the brick-kiln communities. The teachers are also from the brick-kiln communities - Christian women who have had some education and then been trained to teach adult literacy. They also teach their students to do simple sums and build up their faith with Bible verses and Gospel songs. Thank the Lord for the encouragement that this work brings to the teachers and the hope, joy and strength it brings to the students.

“ *Come and celebrate now, come and celebrate now, Sing your*

praises to Jesus with joy, joy, joy. Jesus came to earth for me, my Lord Jesus lived for me. Jesus came to die for me, my Lord Jesus loves me. English translation of an Urdu hymn “Khushi Khushi Manao”

FRIDAY 2 MAY • BHUTAN

My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

All Christian activities in this Buddhist nation are illegal, except worshipping in private homes. It is even illegal for Christians to be buried in Bhutan. Despite these government restrictions, society has grown more accepting of Christians who find they do not face as much discrimination as they used to. But Christian converts from Buddhism face a lot of pressure to return to Buddhism. Pray that Christians will succeed in their efforts to register some Christian organisations with the government, thus making their activities legal. Pray also that they will be allowed to bury their dead.

“ Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you will be our hiding place whatever happens. Corrie ten Boom, Netherlands (1892-1983)

SATURDAY 3 MAY • SRI LANKA

But God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish. Psalm 9:18

Sri Lanka is predominantly Buddhist, with Christian, Hindu and Muslim minorities. Christians can face hostility and violence from Buddhist extremists, Hindu extremists and Muslim extremists. Many Christians are very poor and suffered greatly during

Covid times and the economic crisis which Sri Lanka has passed through recently. Praise God that Christians are represented in both the main ethnic groups of Sri Lanka - Sinhala majority and Tamil minority - and pray that they will be a blessing to their country.

“ If you want me to die, I'm ready, but I'd prefer not, because I have work to do here. But if I die, I want to write on the wall with my blood, “Jesus is alive.” Lalani, widow of Lionel Jayasinghe. She continued to serve the Lord in Sri Lanka after her husband was murdered in 1988 apparently because of his Christian ministry

SUNDAY 4 MAY • BANGLADESH

I will fear no evil for you are with me.

Psalm 23:4

Bijli was born into a Hindu family but decided to follow Jesus. Her husband is away most of the time trying to earn money to send back to Bijli and their two sons, aged 12 and 10. The family have no land so Bijli used to work as an agricultural labourer. It was gruelling work under the hot sun, and she was often abused by the landowner and by male co-workers. Bijli is one of 20 very poor Christian women in Bangladesh who have been helped by a weaving project funded by TBF Trust. After training, the women were given looms and can now earn a living in safety and dignity by weaving jute floor mats. “I am very happy to join this handloom project,” says Bijli. “and hope this project will bring blessing to us.” Pray that the women will find plenty of customers to buy their mats and be strengthened in their faith.

*“ I am weak but Thou art strong.
Jesus, keep me from all wrong. I'll
be satisfied as long As I walk, let me
walk close to Thee. Anonymous*

MONDAY 5 MAY • MYANMAR (1)

*It is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves;
for the battle is the Lord's. 1 Samuel 17:47*

A cathedral in Kachin state was reduced to charred ruins after it was reportedly set ablaze by the Myanmar military on Sunday 16 March. Other church-owned premises nearby had been burnt by the military on 26 February. They also destroyed another church in Kachin state on 3 March, while in Chin state a church was damaged by an airstrike from the military on 6 February. The Kachin and Chin ethnic groups both have a large proportion of Christians. Pray for an end to the persecution of Christians and Muslims in Myanmar.

*“ Force may subdue, but love gains:
And he that forgives first, wins the
laurel. William Penn, England and
USA (1644-1718)*

TUESDAY 6 MAY • MYANMAR (2)

*My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen
me according to your word. Psalm 119:28*

For most of the last 60 years, Christians in Myanmar have been targeted with extreme violence and persecution by their own government. Not only are they a religious minority in this mainly Buddhist country but also most of them belong to ethnic minorities rather than the dominant Bamar (Burman) ethnic group. Now the situation is getting more complicated as various militias, trying to resist the government forces, are also causing civilian suffering. The

violence had already created huge humanitarian needs, when on 28 March a magnitude 7.7. earthquake hit central Myanmar, causing widescale death and destruction. The parts of Myanmar closest to the epicentre are over 90% Buddhist. Pray for all who are suffering because of this natural disaster, and that Christians will not be discriminated against as aid is distributed.

*“ Whatever sort of tribulation we
suffer, we should always remember
that its purpose is to make us spurn
the present and reach out to the
future. John Calvin (1509-64)*

WEDNESDAY 7 MAY • LAOS (1)

*You suffered along with those in prison
and joyfully accepted the confiscation of
your property, because you knew that you
yourselves had better and lasting possessions.
Hebrews 10:34*

Laos has a predominantly Buddhist culture with a communist government and a constitution which gives a good measure of religious liberty. Christians are a small minority. On 27 March 2025 the National Assembly of Laos promulgated an amended constitution, which will come into effect in July. One of the main changes is in local governance. Individual roles (such as Governor, Mayor and Village Chief) will be abolished and Governing Committees at every level will be created instead. Another change will be to give the central government more control of the country's judicial institutions and the appointment of key legal officials including the head of the Supreme People's Prosecution Office who will have power to initiate prosecutions. Most of the persecution of Christians

in recent years has been at the village level, where village chiefs sometimes have Christians arrested and imprisoned and villagers may destroy their homes and fields. Pray that the constitutional amendments will give more protection for Christians in rural areas of Laos.

“ *Live near to God, and so all things will appear to you little in comparison with eternal realities.* Robert Murray McCheyne, Scotland (1813-1843)

THURSDAY 8 MAY • LAOS (2)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Romans 8:35

A beloved senior church leader in Laos died in January, after a long illness caused partly by his 50 years of hardship and imprisonment. When Tito Thopanhong began serving the Lord in Laos it was a very dangerous thing to do and he had to minister in secret. He was imprisoned three times between 1976 and 1983, with his whereabouts unknown. He said he “learned to find even in the cruellest hardships the tenderness of God’s love.” He never condemned the Laotian authorities, but commented: “With love, you can also break the bonds of hatred.” Thank the Lord that persecution has eased off in Laos and pray that the love, courage, humility and simplicity of this leader will be a continuing inspiration to Christians in Laos.

“ *I am no longer afraid because I belong to the Lord. I am ready for anything. I am very happy. No one can separate me from Him. Every day, I discover more and more that He is with me. I have Him... He asks me for everything, and I give Him*

everything. Tito Thopanhong, Laos (1947-2025)

FRIDAY 9 MAY • HAITI

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Psalm 37:7

A church leader from Haiti urges believers in the midst of troubles to rest in the Lord. We should not be passive, lazy or irresponsible, he says, yet we should “let God be God” rather than trying to take control ourselves. There are many troubles in Haiti, with 5,600 people killed in 2024 due to the gangs who control most of the capital city. Thousands more have been injured or kidnapped and houses burned. A UN statement spoke of “absolute horrors” and “unremitting violence”. There is also the voodoo religion, which presents a strong spiritual challenge for Christians. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Ask that the Lord will enable them to rest in Him as His mighty power protects them and works in them and through them. Another Haitian church leader asks prayer that God will raise up a Moses or a Nehemiah to lead with compassion. Add this to your intercessions for Haiti.

“ *We rest on Thee, our shield and our defender! We go not forth alone against the foe; Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender, We rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go.* Edith G. Cherry, England (1872-1897)

SATURDAY 10 MAY • USA

We want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches.

In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4

American Christians are speaking of a "silver tsunami". They mean that the generation of Christian philanthropists who have generously funded missionary work and theological education around the world have reached the age where they are passing on their wealth to younger people to dispose of, but the younger generation do not have the same vision or priorities and are not choosing to continue supporting the same kinds of needs. Pray that God will provide for His people wherever they are in need and by whatever means He chooses.

“ My heaven is to please God and glorify Him, and to give all to Him, and to be wholly devoted to His glory; that is the heaven I long for. David Brainerd, USA (1718-47)

SUNDAY 11 MAY • MOZAMBIQUE

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. Romans 16:20

Ask the God of peace to be at work in northern Mozambique. Christians and moderate Muslims are being targeted by a particularly brutal Islamist militant group, who sometimes cut off their limbs or skin those they kill. Around 1,800 Christians have been killed by this group, which goes by many names. Pray that the men of violence will bow their

knee to Jesus, the name that is above every name (Philippians 2:9-10).

“ Today Your people seem forsaken, Left alone in cruel hands, Persecuted, violently abused, martyred, Make real to them Your presence and Your love. Patrick Sookhdeo, Guyana (born 1947)

MONDAY 12 MAY • BURKINA FASO

Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous. Psalm 112:4

It is almost a decade since the peace of Burkina Faso was shattered by the arrival of Islamist extremists from nearby countries of West Africa. A Burkinabé journalist spoke recently of "Burkina Faso's relentless descent into large-scale violence". As the turmoil increases, the government is cracking down on the media and arresting journalists. Previously Muslims, Christians and followers of African Traditional Religions had lived harmoniously together in Burkina Faso, a name which means "Land of the Upright People". Pray for peace and freedom in Burkina Faso. Christians (30% of the population) and followers of African Traditional Religions (10%) are particular targets of the Islamist militants.

“ Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees. William Cowper, England (1731-1800)

TUESDAY 13 MAY • KENYA

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3

Kenya is a predominantly Christian

country, with a Muslim minority who live mainly in the north-east and along the coast. In these areas Christians face threats and violence from Muslim extremists. But there is also violence within extreme Christian sects and this prompted the Kenyan government to try to pass legislation to regulate religious institutions. Last year they proposed a Religious Organisations Bill but it was so controversial that it was withdrawn for further discussion. One of the things which Christian leaders were most concerned about was Section 34, banning attempts to convert people through misrepresentation, force, undue influence or coercion. They felt that this could be mis-used to prevent legitimate evangelism. Pray that the Lord will guide as the law is framed.

“ If there is no enemy within, the enemy outside can do no harm. African Christian saying (referring to 1 Peter 5:8-11)

WEDNESDAY 14 MAY • NIGERIA
Do not let your hearts be troubled. John 14:1

Today is the 22nd birthday of Leah Sharibu, a Christian who was abducted from a girls' boarding school in Yobe state by Boko Haram militants in February 2018. The pupils were about to eat their evening meal when they heard gunshots. The Christians, knowing they would be the targets, held hands and ran. Leah was not with them because she was caring for a sick roommate called Liyatu. The other Christian girls ran to Leah to warn her. At first Leah tried to flee carrying Liyatu but kept stumbling and thus was captured by the militants who seized 110 girls. But Liyatu escaped. Three days later

the militants released the rest of the girls they had taken, who were all Muslims. They kept Leah, saying they would only release her if she converted to Islam, but Leah refused. Pray for Leah and for many other Christians held by Islamist militant groups in Nigeria that their faith will not fail and that, in the Lord's perfect timing, they will be released.

“ My mother, you should not be disturbed. I know it is not easy missing me, but I want to assure you that I am fine where I am... I am confident that one day I shall see your face again. If not here, then there at the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Leah Sharibu (born 2003) is reported to have asked her classmates who were being released in February 2018 to take this message to her mother

THURSDAY 15 MAY • KAZAKHSTAN
You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good. Genesis 50:20

When Kazakhstan became independent in 1991 the situation for Christians was quite good, even though the country had a heritage of Islam and communism. But with laws passed in 2011, 2018 and 2022 the restrictions on Christians have gradually increased. Pray that our brothers and sisters will have grace, wisdom, perseverance and hope to navigate this deteriorating context. They form a large minority of about 25%, mainly Russians and Ukrainians, but including some converts from Islam who typically face many extra pressures from family and society.

“ You cannot scare Christians with murders; for Christians to die

for Christ is an honour. Sergey Ryakhovsky, Russia (born 1956)

FRIDAY 16 MAY • UZBEKISTAN

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Hebrews 13:8

Uzbekistan became independent in 1991, as the Soviet Union was breaking up, and, after 70 years of communism, there was then little outward sign of its Islamic heritage, centred on the ancient city of Samarkand. Now, however, Islam is growing in strength, confidence and visibility in Uzbek society. At the same time the government's attitude towards Christians is softening. In February President Mirziyoyev approved a new religious policy which seems designed to support moderate Islam and discourage radical Islam. Pray for the small Christian minority in this complicated and ever-changing context that they may be guided by God and bring glory to Him.

“ Let nothing disturb us, nothing alarm us: while all things fade away God is unchanging. Teresa of Avila, Spain (1515-82)

SATURDAY 17 MAY • KYRGYZSTAN (1)

She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me”. Genesis 16:13

Persecution of Christian believers is on the rise in some parts of Kyrgyzstan. Many of those suffering for their faith are women. One is an elderly widow, whose grown up children have left home. But, when they heard she had decided to follow the Lord Jesus, they began threatening her, demanding

that she renounce Christ. They took away her phone so that she could not communicate with other Christians and put her under surveillance. However, she continued to read the Bible and pray, also going to church whenever she had opportunity, which resulted in her brother threatening to shoot her. She is now in hiding, living with some other Christians. Pray that the Lord she loves and trusts so much will watch over her and meet all her needs.

“ To that old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear; then he'll call me some day to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share. George Bennard, USA (1873-1958)

SUNDAY 18 MAY • KYRGYZSTAN (2)

My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. Isaiah 46:10

In mid-January a new law on religion was approved by Kyrgyzstan's parliament, and on 21 January it was signed by the President. But most of the contents of the new law have been kept secret. Christian leaders contacted government representatives several times to ask about it but were fobbed off. They therefore do not know what laws they may now be breaking that did not previously exist. They have heard that the new law does not recognise the concept of a church, only a “religious association” for which 500 people are needed to register. “One consolation is that everything is under God's control, and we hope for His help and protection,” wrote some church leaders. Pray that God will lead the leaders of His bewildered flock in Kyrgyzstan, giving them all the wisdom they need.

They ask prayer that believers will not be afraid of any difficulties and will zealously serve the Lord.

“ *God’s purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour. The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower.* William Cowper, England (1731-1800)

MONDAY 19 MAY • **KYRGYZSTAN (3)**

The joy of the Lord is your strength.

Nehemiah 8:10

A young Muslim woman gave her life to Jesus last year. For this she has already paid a great price. Her husband threw her out of the home, keeping their children himself, and her parents abandoned her. She is currently living with another Christian woman and preparing herself to be baptised. Baptism is often the moment when followers of other religions turn most strongly against converts to Christianity. This sister in Christ has already suffered so much, even before she has been baptised, that there is great concern in the church as to how her relatives will react when they find out about her baptism. When another young woman, only 18, became a Christian, her brother was so infuriated that he took to beating her and sometimes rushed at her with a knife. After he cut her hands in one such incident, she fled and the Church is now housing and caring for her. Church leaders in Kyrgyzstan ask prayer that the Lord will protect all persecuted believers and provide food and housing for them. They also ask us to pray that those who are under pressure will not waver in their faith, nor become embittered, but will testify about Jesus in their lives.

“ *My marks and scars I carry with me to be a witness for me that I have fought His battles who will now be my rewarder.* John Bunyan, England (1628-88)

TUESDAY 20 MAY • **TAJIKISTAN**

... now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7

Tajikistan is more than 90% Muslim. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to participate in public religious activities. So Christian parents must teach their children the faith at home; they cannot go to Sunday School or church. Congregations find it very difficult to get official registration, which means they are acting illegally whenever they gather for worship. Even registered churches face harassment and restrictions. There are frequent and intimidating inspections of churches, when items may be seized. Pray that the faith of Christians in Tajikistan will grow as it is tested in so many ways.

“ *For your name’s sake, Lord, give me the strength to bear what I have to bear. Deliver your servants from the prison of this world.* Thelica of Abitene in modern Tunisia (died 304), while he was being tortured before being executed with 48 other believers because they insisted on meeting to worship

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY • **DJIBOUTI**

Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me. Psalm 27:10

Djibouti has a constitution which establishes Islam as the state religion and a government which works hard to ensure that the Islam practised in Djibouti remains moderate and peaceable. Religious groups must register with the government but since 2023 foreign religious workers are no longer required to obtain work permits. Most of the Christians in Djibouti are Ethiopians or Europeans. There are also a small number of Djibouti citizens who have left Islam to follow Christ; this is permitted under Djibouti law but converts are often ostracised by society. Christian literature can be imported freely and is even allowed on sale at one bookshop. Pray for continued good relationships between all the different faiths in Djibouti, and that Christian ministry will flourish. Pray that converts from Islam, who may be rejected by their families as well as by society at large, will be encouraged and strengthened.

“ Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings, see what God hath done. Johnson Oatman Jr, USA (1856-1922)

THURSDAY 22 MAY • ERITREA (1)

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. Isaiah 41:10

Pray for 27 Christian young people, mostly aged 14 to 16, who were arrested in December 2024, when the Eritrean security police raided a house where they had gathered for prayer and worship. When last heard of, they were in Mai Serwa prison, which is used to house long-term prisoners. They have not been charged, tried or sentenced. The evangelical church in Eritrea has grown

fast over the last 20 years. It may be that the increased persecution of Christians in 2024 is a desperate attempt by the Eritrean government to stop this church growth. Praise God for the courage and faith of His people in Eritrea and ask that He will wonderfully sustain them in their ordeal, however long it may be.

“ I think back to a question I have been asked many times over my months in prison: “Is your faith worth this, Helen?” And as I take a deep breath of the sour air, as my scalp stings, the mad woman rants outside, and the guards continue in their rounds, I whisper the answer: “Yes.” Helen Berhane, Eritrea, (born c. 1974), imprisoned 2004-2006

FRIDAY 23 MAY • ERITREA (2)

And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. Philippians 1:14

There are thought to be about 400 Christians in prison in Eritrea, some of them families including nursing mothers. Conditions are appalling, and it is forbidden to take food or medicine to Christian prisoners. Many of them die in prison. Haile Naizghe has been in prison in Eritrea since 23 May 2004. He was chair of a large network of Pentecostal house church groups which were closed down by government decree in May 2003. It is believed that at least seven other church leaders are being held with him in the notorious maximum-security Wengel Mermera interrogation centre in Asmara. Haile has not been allowed any contact with the outside world, not even with his family, but was reported to be in good health in January this year.

Pray for Haile and the other leaders imprisoned with him that the Lord will sustain them physically, mentally and emotionally. Pray also for their wives, children and other loved ones. Haile's wife is called Rahel and their three children are Shalom, Joel and Naher; they now live in North America.

“ Christ is a substitute for everything, but nothing is a substitute for Christ. Henry Allan Ironside, Canada (1876-1951)

SATURDAY 24 MAY • SOMALIA

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Colossians 3:2

Somali Christians are few in number and many of them have been martyred. Almost all of them are converts from Islam and therefore face great danger from family, community and zealous Muslims if their faith in Christ is known. Somalia is enduring its worst drought for a decade and facing the prospect of famine. Although, humanly speaking there is so much to make Somali Christians anxious, pray that the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard their hearts and their minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

“ 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 (modern Ankara, Turkey) as he went to his beheading in the early 4th century

SUNDAY 25 MAY • SOMALILAND

They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid. Ezekiel 34:28

Somaliland is a very hard and dangerous place for Christians. The constitution states that all laws must be grounded on sharia (Islamic law) and that sharia does not accept that a Muslim person can renounce their belief. “Freedom of belief” is guaranteed and includes the freedom to continue in your religion without being compelled to change it but does not include the freedom to change it if you are a Muslim. The promotion of any non-Islamic religion is forbidden. Pray for the protection of Christians in Somaliland; some have been imprisoned for apostasy from Islam.

“ I know not when my Lord may come, At night or noon-day fair, Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him, Or “meet Him in the air.” But “I know Whom I have believed And am persuaded that He is able To keep that which I've committed Unto Him against that day.” Daniel W. Whittle, USA (1840–1901)

MONDAY 26 MAY • SYRIA (4)

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4:18

Please continue to pray for Syria and especially its Christians. The country is wracked by hunger and many people are suffering dreadfully. In late March the word on the street was “First the Alawites, then the Christians.” This was a reference to the extreme violence which the armed Islamist groups were using against Alawites, resulting in over 2,000 deaths in the previous three weeks. Amongst the patchwork of religious and

ethnic groups in Syria, only two lack international protectors: the Alawites and the Christians, both hated by the ruling HTS Sunni Islamists. Christians were therefore expecting at any time to become a major target of Islamist violence. Pray for the protection of all innocent Syrian people especially those who love the Lord Jesus.

“ He who is filled with love is filled with God himself. Augustine of Hippo in modern Algeria (354-430)

TUESDAY 27 MAY • SYRIA (5)

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14

On 13 March a new constitution for Syria was unveiled. According to Article 3, the laws of Syria are now to be based on Islamic law (sharia). In fact, sharia has been the effective law imposed by HTS since they took power in Syria late last year. Article 3 also states: “Freedom of belief is protected. The State respects all divine religions and guarantees the freedom to perform all their rituals, provided that this does not disturb public order.” This is in line with sharia i.e. non-Muslims may worship in their own way so long as they do not disturb anyone else. But it falls far short of full religious liberty. Sharia does not allow Muslims to choose to follow another faith and treats Christians as subjugated and inferior. Syria has changed almost overnight from a civil society to a strict Islamic state. Pray that the Lord will cause a swift change again, to bring freedom, harmony, peace and plenty.

“ Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to his love, and the

future to his providence. Augustine of Hippo, in modern Algeria (354-430)

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY • YEMEN

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever. Psalm 73:26

Islam is the state religion of Yemen and conversion from Islam is punishable by death although there are no known modern instances of this. Foreign Christians are allowed to worship together, but some have been arrested for sharing the Gospel 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 unable to meet their basic food needs. Pray for peace in Yemen and an end to the terrible hunger will end. Pray that believers will not waver in their love for the Lord.

“ Closed in everlasting arms, pillowed on the loving breast. Oh, to live forever here, doubt and care and self resign, while He whispers in my ear, I am His and He is mine. George Wade Robinson, Ireland (1838-77)

THURSDAY 29 MAY • EGYPT

But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed. 2 Timothy 4:17

Praise God that two Egyptian Christians were released from prison in January. Abdulbaqi Saeed Abdo and Nour Fayed Ibrahim Girgis had

spent over three years in pre-trial detention on blasphemy charges. They had been involved in a Facebook group for people wishing to convert from Islam to Christianity. Abdulbaqi, from Yemen, himself a convert from Islam, is now in Canada with his wife and children. He had fled to Egypt for safety after receiving death threats in Yemen because of his conversion. He was not allowed a Bible in prison but was encouraged by exchanging Bible verses in handkerchiefs with two other Christian prisoners. Pray for his health – he suffers from heart, liver and kidney problems. The whereabouts of Nour, an Egyptian, who is reported to have been tortured in prison, are unknown. Pray for his protection. Pray also that the Egyptian authorities will drop the charges against both.

“ You are the help for the helpless, the Saviour of the tempest tossed, the haven of those that sail, and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. A prayer of the Church in Egypt, 4th century

FRIDAY 30 MAY • TUNISIA

The gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it. Colossians 1:6

The small Christian community in Tunisia are mainly immigrants, especially from sub-Saharan Africa, but also includes some Tunisian converts from Islam and their children. Churches are allowed to operate within certain restrictions and occasionally to have celebrations outside of church buildings. Tunisian converts are stigmatised by the majority Muslim

community and there is pressure from both government and society to keep their Christian faith very private. At one time the government used to coordinate with local churches to help sub-Saharan immigrants with their basic practical needs, but this was curtailed after Tunisian President Saied said in 2023 that the influx of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa was a “criminal conspiracy” to change the demographics of Tunisia through “successive waves of immigration.” Pray that a fresh sense of the Lord’s presence will cover all believers in Tunisia today.

“ We are to receive more in the reward for our suffering than what we endure here in the suffering itself. Cyprian of Carthage, in modern Tunisia (c.200-258)

SATURDAY 31 MAY • SAUDI ARABIA

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:20

Ask that the Holy Spirit will encourage citizens of the Kingdom of God who are living in the strictly Islamic Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Pray for their protection from those who may abuse and exploit them (if they are expatriate workers) or hurt and even kill them (if they are Saudi converts from Islam). Praise God for the way in which modern technology makes it possible for isolated believers to access teaching and, in a sense, have fellowship with other Christians.

“ God is with us, God is with us, Christ our Lord shall reign as King! Walter John Mathams, England (1853-1931)



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