

MAY PRAYER ITEMS

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

2 Timothy 4:18

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Syria—While the conflict in Syria has taken thousands of lives, we must continue to remember that these enormous numbers represent individual lives, known and loved by God, such as the young boy Marwan, who was being operated on in Aleppo, Syria, when the power went out and the rest of the operation was performed by the light of cell phones belonging to the nurses and doctors. Since 2011, 200,000 people have died and increasingly difficult conditions in Syria are contributing to that toll daily. Over 83 percent of the lights are out in Syria, 11 million people have been displaced, and 3 million children are not in school or being educated for a hopeful future. Continue to pray for the people of Syria, pray for doctors like Dr. Hassan, who saved Marwan's life by the light of cell phones. Pray for those who use violence in an attempt to gain power and control. Pray that the international community would find wise and effective ways to intervene and aid the situation, and have the will to do so. Pray that lights would be restored to Syria, but more so, that the Light of salvation would be lit in many throughout the country. (Source: Amnesty International)

Nigeria—April 14 marked the one-year anniversary of the abduction of 273 Chibok school girls by terrorist group, Boko Haram. On April 1, the United Nations Human Rights Council held a special session to address the threat of Boko Haram in Nigeria and surrounding regions. This session also produced a resolution condemning the human rights atrocities committed by Boko Haram and calling on the international community to support the African Union and regional forces as they attempt to uphold international law, protect human rights, and combat Boko Haram. Nigerian President-elect Buhari has stated his intent to attempt to find and rescue as many of the Chibok girls as possible. Despite the less than hopeful prospect of being able to find all the girls, this resolve is an encouraging change in tone from the previous administration. Pray for the the Chibok girls wherever they are that they will be sustained, protected, and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit despite their circumstances. Pray for the families who continue to miss their children that they might feel the peace of Christ. Pray that local forces and the international community will follow through on their stated intent to rescue the innocent and combat this grave evil. Pray for those who perpetrate this evil that they might be convicted of the wrongness of their actions, turn from violence, and find the peace and love of Christ. Pray for President-elect Buhari and his new administration that they might lead Nigeria with integrity and justice for all their citizens. (Source: Jubilee Campaign)

International- Twelve Christians originating from Nigeria and Ghana left Libya by boat on April 14 to cross to Italy and were thrown overboard and drowned. The Muslims that pushed them into the water had been threatening them because they professed faith in Christ. Pray that these Muslim aggressors who were arrested would humbly recognize the horror of these murders, repent, and turn to the Lord of those they've been persecuting. Pray for comfort for the families of those martyred at sea. Pray for greater

vigilance and protection for the many migrants that try to reach Europe by boat as there have been many reports of similarly horrible killings. (ABC news)

Indonesia- A textbook that is being used in the public high schools of the city of Java reads, "people who worship other than Allah (non-Muslims) should be killed." Please pray that this book would be removed from the schools, and that in the meantime the content would alarm instead of influence Indonesian students. Pray for safety for the believers there and that they would remain bold and discerning in how to share their faith. (Open Doors)

Mexico- Two young Christian believers, Casto and Juan Placido Hernández, were arrested in their village of Chichiltepec and pressured to renounce the Protestant faith. After they were released they were forced to leave the town. Apparently 15 other Protestants still remain in the village but they had been forced to sign documents renouncing their faith. Please pray for the leaders of this village and others like it in Mexico that see Evangelicals as cult members instead of true worshippers of Christ. Pray for those that are Christian by name only to be genuinely saved and to share the Good News of salvation in unity with believers of other denominations. Pray for Juan and Casto to be welcomed back into their community and to be a light to those that are unsaved. Pray also that those who have renounced their faith would courageously proclaim Christ. (Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

Yemen- Airstrikes from Saudi Arabia hit a displaced persons' camp in Yemen on March 30th, killing 29 civilians and injuring 41. Many of these victims were women and children walking to school. Such clear violations of the laws of war has alarmed civil rights groups. Please pray that God would comfort the families of those that were killed and would bring healing to those that were wounded. Pray also for peace in the country of Yemen and surrounding areas. Pray that innocent civilians would not be targeted further. (Human Rights Watch)

Pakistan- Please pray for physical and emotional healing for 13 year-old Noman Masih who has burns on 55 percent of his body. Noman was in a market in Lahore on April 10th when he started talking to some men. When he told them that he was a Christian, they attacked him, threw gasoline at him and set him on fire. Pray for this courageous youngster to be strengthened in his faith and trust in the Lord Jesus while God brings him comfort and healing from this incomprehensible trauma. Pray that his attackers would be awakened to recognize the wickedness in their hearts that would cause them to torture an innocent child. Pray for their utter repentance and that they would run to Christ for forgiveness. (Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

North Korea- Pray for safe treatment and release from prison for Kim Kuk Gi who is a South Korean who was imprisoned in North Korea. Since 2003 Kim has been a missionary, serving North Koreans in China. He runs a refugee shelter where he takes care of refugees, North Korean homeless children, and Korean immigrants living in China. While bringing aid supplies into North Korea he was arrested and imprisoned on accusations of espionage. Thank the Lord for the care he has given the needy, and pray that he would continue to spread the fragrance of Christ in the North Korean prison until he is released. Pray for his protection from brutality and torture and that God would supply his needs. Pray for God to use him as His instrument so that this suffering is not in vain. (International Christian Concern)

Turkey- Praise God that so many people heard the Gospel through the Easter presentation of the Izmit Protestant Church this year. Pastor Emre Karaali wanted to invite as many people as possible to the Easter service so the congregation baked Easter cookies and shared them with people all over the city.

On Easter Sunday, the church was nearly full despite the fact that this country is 97 percent Muslim. Two local television stations reported on the church service and Pastor Emre “shared the gospel over television.” Praise God for the spread of the Gospel and pray that the seed would fall on fertile soil so that many would turn to Christ in Turkey. Pray also for courage and strength when their boldness is met with persecution. (Voice of the Martyrs)

India- Pray for the protection of poor workers and their families on tea plantations in Assam, India who are often vulnerable to trafficking and slavery. Pray that large corporations there would follow through with their pledge to improve living and working conditions. (Walk Free)