

February 2025 Prayer

*He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*
—Micah 6:8

Vietnam—Pastor Nguyen Manh Hung, a 71-year-old pastor of an unregistered church, was arrested in Ho Chi Minh City and possibly faces a 20-year sentence for “spreading anti-state propaganda.” He posted on Facebook, “Vietnam’s Communist Party once referred to those who bought land as ‘cruel landlords,’ while these days, ‘those who abuse power to acquire land are called ‘outstanding.’” For this simple statement, the Vietnamese government raided his home, temporarily arrested and interrogated his son, and charged the pastor. Vietnam is part of the United Nations Human Rights Council yet fails to uphold basic freedoms of speech and religion. Pray for strength and endurance for Pastor Hung, that he would wait on the Lord and renew his strength (Isaiah 40:31). Pray for justice in his upcoming trial. And pray that the Lord would sustain him and protect him while he is in prison. (*Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide*)

International—The world is facing an unprecedented food crisis with approximately 343 million people experiencing acute hunger in over 74 countries. For 35 million of these people their hunger is at emergency levels, and 45 million are children who are dangerously malnourished—despite the fact that the world produces enough food to feed everyone. Additionally, climate issues are primary contributors to famine, and decades of violent conflict and the forcible displacement of millions are also top exacerbating factors. Countries affected to the greatest degree are Sudan, DRC, North Korea, Yemen, Syria, and Somalia. Pray for the millions of people, beloved by God and not mere statistics, who are suffering so extremely. Pray that those in the world living in relative abundance will be moved to generosity and compassion and be conduits of God’s provision and mercy out into the world—and live according to Micah 6:8 to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. (*Sources: UN World Food Program; World Vision*)

Malaysia—Non-Muslim university students are now being pushed to convert to Islam by the Malaysian government and the department of Islamic development. They are being taught the virtues of Islam and are receiving propaganda that mocks other faiths. Some are promised academic and social benefits if they convert to Islam, or threatened with consequences if they refuse to convert. Some experience social ostracism or reduced grades if they don’t convert. In addition, they are forbidden from telling their parents that they have converted to Islam. This is directly opposed to Malaysian law, which makes it illegal to keep conversion a secret from families as parental consent is required. Please pray for these young and vulnerable individuals who are at an age where pleasing peers and succeeding is so important. Pray that God will give them courage and curiosity to seek truth. Pray for Christian students to have a godly rebellion against the propaganda and lies of authority and a faith that stands firm during this persecution. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

Nigeria—We give praise to God that after almost 5 years in prison, the president of the Nigerian Humanist Society, Mubarak Bala, was released from prison in Kano State. Like so many Christians, non-believers too are targeted for harassment and persecution in Nigeria, and Mr Bala was convicted on 18 counts of insulting Islam due to some Facebook posts. Initially held for 462 days without being formally charged—the first 162 days incommunicado—he eventually was sentenced to 24 years in

prison. This was later reduced to 5 years, and we give thanks that he is free. Pray that he will remain free and no longer be harassed by the Nigerian government. Pray that the blasphemy laws in Nigeria would be repealed. Pray that those at risk of being prosecuted via unjust and dangerous blasphemy laws would be protected and those jailed already on this basis be freed. Pray that those who do not know the love, grace, and peace of Jesus would find Him amid these challenging circumstances. Pray also that the remaining 16 children of Du Merci Center who were removed from the Christian orphanage in 2019 when founders Dr Tarfa and his wife Mercy were wrongly prosecuted would be safely returned home. The case has once again been adjourned until March 5, 2025. Pray to sustain these children as they continue to be separated from the only parents and family they have ever known. Pray for a quick resolution to this situation and for their emotional and physical well-being. Pray that all would feel the strength, comfort, and nearness of God through the Holy Spirit. (*Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide*)

Cuba—Thankfully, Pastor Lorenzo Fajardo was released from prison on January 17. He had been arrested in 2021 for his involvement in a peaceful protest and sentenced to seven years in prison. Praise God that he is now free, and please pray for his healing and comfort after receiving abuse and such a long separation from his family. Pray that Cuba would uphold basic human rights and not unlawfully imprison its citizens. Pray that Pastor Fajardo would be strengthened to minister to his congregation and glorify the name of Christ. (*Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide*)

United States—Pray for the over 10,000 refugees who have fled violence, war, and persecution and are now stranded in various places globally—despite the fact that they have successfully undergone a vetting process that can take years and been granted admission to the United States. Among these are 1,600 Afghans who helped the US military during their mission there, and of course, many Christians, as believers are among the most persecuted groups internationally. Last year, the US admitted 100,000 refugees—the highest number they have admitted in 30 years—as compared to Iran, who admitted almost 3.5 million; Turkey, who admitted nearly 3.4 million; and Germany, who admitted approximately 2.5 million. Additionally, approximately 71 percent of refugees and people in need of international protection are hosted by low- and middle-income countries. Pray that those who are stranded without homes, possessions, or an alternate plan will be protected and provided for. Pray for the 122.6 million people who were forcibly displaced in 2024 due to violence, persecution, conflict, and human rights abuses that they might find refuge somewhere and the opportunity to live peaceful lives. Pray that the United States would become again a place of compassion, welcome, and opportunity. (*Source: AP News; UNHRC*)

Sudan—After a military coup nearly two years ago, Sudan has been embroiled in a horrific violent conflict that has resulted in the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet right now. Over 61,000 are dead, many more wounded, and millions displaced. The conflict has been characterized by unspeakable atrocities—including torture, burning, mutilations, and widespread rape and sexual violence against girls and women from ages 8 to 75. The war has also completely disrupted the food production systems leaving 25 million people at risk of famine. Some children have been abandoned as mothers have had to make the unthinkable decision of which child to run with as they could not carry all of them. And because Sudan is one of the world's biggest producers of gold, countries such as Iran, Russia, Egypt, and United Arab Emirates are trading arms for this resource—fueling the conflict and robbing the population of vital revenue that could address some of the great need in the country. Pray for peace in Sudan, especially the stopping of atrocities against innocent people. Pray for the protection of and provision for vulnerable civilians who have been violated and displaced. Pray that the violent, immoral generals at the center of this war would be convicted of the huge evil they are responsible for. Pray that

neighboring countries would be able to receive refugees with compassion, and that other nations would be willing and able to be second-destination places of refuge and protection. (*Sources: CBN; BBC*)

North Korea—Kenneth Bae was imprisoned in North Korea for almost two years. He explains that the regime there is built on a satanic, false religion that is terrified that Christians will lead people to turn to God and cause the regime to fall. Pray that this will happen—that the country will turn to Christ and topple this government that is built on lies. He shares that while in the labor camp, his prayers changed from being rescued to asking God to use him in that place. He was given the opportunity to shepherd people in the prison and become Christ's ambassador there to people who had never heard the name of Jesus before. His suffering became a pathway to reach the lost. He tells of a time when the guards gave him permission to sing hymns and they all heard the words. The guards asked him why he, the prisoner, was happier than them. Pray for believers who are suffering in prison camps right now to fix their eyes on Jesus, to know that His grace is sufficient, and to lean on Him. Pray that God would use their time of suffering to bring many, both prisoners and guards, to Christ and have an abundantly fruitful ministry. Pray that this wicked regime would topple and that the light of the Gospel would shine in this dark country. (*Source: International Christian Concern interview with Kenneth Bae*)

Turkey—The pastor of the Çekmeköy branch of Kurtuluş Kilisesi Derneği (Association of Salvation Church) has shared that the church has faced ongoing harassment and attacks. They have received threats on social media, and in December 2023 two assailants vandalized the church by ripping their signs down. Now this past December, the church was attacked again. This time by individuals driving by and shooting at it. While no one was hurt, this was disturbing to the pastor and congregation, especially as Turkey has become increasingly hostile towards Christians. Give thanks that in both cases the police responded quickly and the perpetrators were apprehended. And give thanks to that neighbors of the church were also sympathetic to their plight. We join Middle East Concern in praying that the perpetrators will repent of their actions; that God will encourage and strengthen the pastor and the church; and that more people will become curious about Jesus Christ through the publicity this event has created. (*Source: Middle East Concern*)

China—Fei Xiaosheng, a prominent musician and devout believer, has been arrested by Chinese authorities because of his public support of the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong. He belonged to an artist village of dissidents in Beijing and is quite outspoken. Friends say that he was planning to leave China soon because speaking the truth in China is punished. Please pray for his protection while in prison, pray that his faith would remain strong, and pray he would have the courage to share the Gospel while detained. Pray for protection for other artists like him as the government cracks down on creative artists whose work is considered anti-government. Pray that God would use this time in prison to draw him closer to Himself and use him as His instrument to do His work in the prison. (*Source: Radio Free Asia*)