

## March 2025 Prayer

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

—Ephesians 4: 1-3

**Egypt**—Abdulbaqi Said Abdo and Nour Gerges were arrested in 2021 on blasphemy charges for participating in a Facebook group that encouraged and counseled Muslim background believers. Although their charges haven't been dropped, they were both released at the end of January. While in prison, they were tortured, and Abdo was kept in solitary confinement after writing down Bible passages. Although he expressed frustration over the injustice of imprisonment, torture, and separation from his family for peacefully living out his faith, Abdo says, "I thank everyone who prayed for me while I was in prison, cared about and followed up on my case, and shared the joy of my release from prison." Praise God that these two men were released, and that He sustained them while they were in prison. Praise God that he gave them the courage to teach the truth and risk further persecution by sharing the word of God. Please pray that their charges would be officially dropped and they would stay free. Pray that God would continue to use them as his instruments in Egypt. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

**India**—Pray that the recent release of a movie, *Sanatani: Karma Hi Dharma*, in the state of Odisha (formerly known as Orissa State) in India will not lead to more hostility toward Christians. Odisha is a region in India where Christian persecution is intense, and there had been fears that extremists would use this film—which is negative toward Christians—as a call to attack believers in the region. The danger was such that there were efforts to block the release of it. Praise God that so far there has not been violence directly related to the film. Pray that this continues to be the case. Pray that despite its portrayals, the movie will not be effective in heightening negative opinions of Christians. Pray that instead it creates an opportunity for nonbelievers to be curious about who Christians are and what they believe. Pray for the safety of Christians in this region where it is increasingly dangerous to follow Jesus. Pray that the Church there would continue to be strong and courageous, not discouraged or dismayed. (*Source: Personal local account*)

**Nigeria**—Yomi Adetula, a 54-year old church leader in Ogun State, was shot and killed during a Sunday morning worship service. Three unknown men who are hostile to Christianity entered the church building and fired shots on the congregation. Local police are trying to find the attackers. Please pray for comfort and support for the family of Adetula. Pray also for this church body that is shaken up after such violence. Pray for wisdom and protection so that they can continue to gather for fellowship and worship. Pray that these attackers would be brought to justice. (*Source: Voice of the Martyrs*)

**Ukraine**—Pray for the protection of the people of Ukraine who have been fighting for their freedom and the sovereignty of their country since the illegal invasion by Russia three years ago. Pray for the tens of thousands of Ukrainian children who have been abducted by Russian troops and forced into Russian foster families and had Russian citizenship foisted upon them. Pray that they would be rescued, returned, and healed from this trauma. Pray also for the healing of Ukrainian victims of the widespread use of rape as a weapon of war by Russian troops—of children as young as 4 years old and of individuals as old as 82, as well as of male and female Ukrainian POWs. Pray for those who have been tortured at the hands of Russian troops—which the US Mission to the OSCE describes as not isolated or random but part of a pervasive strategy orchestrated by the Kremlin—including the live

castration of Ukrainian soldiers posted on pro-Russian Telegram page. We also pray that President Zelensky will reopen Ukrainian Orthodox churches, which he had banned in 2024 because of their links to Moscow. Despite their fear and ongoing conflict, this is an unhelpful and illegal attack on religious freedom by the Ukrainian government. Give for the ongoing support of Ukraine by their European allies, and pray that it will be successful in securing a safe and peaceful Ukraine and thwarting unchecked Russian aggression in the region and beyond. (*Source: US Mission to the OSCE*)

**Myanmar**—In the Sagaing region, a 44-year-old Catholic priest, Donald Martin Ye Naing Win, was attacked and killed. Ten armed men charged into the church one evening in January, found the priest alone, forced him to kneel, and stabbed him to death. Please pray for justice in this dangerous region of the world where the military Junta has created such chaos and unrest. Pray for the minority Christians in this community to not give up hope, to persevere despite persecution, and to keep their eyes focused on Jesus. Pray that the Lord would protect them and miraculously hide them from persecutors. Pray that many who are lost in this area will come to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray also for the congregation and family members of Father Donald to find comfort and courage. (*Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide*)

**United States/Panama/Iran**—Pray for the deliverance of at least 10 Muslim converts to Christianity and at least one Chinese Christian man who were deported from the United States to ultimately be returned to their home countries and likely their deaths. As International Christian Concern explains: “Refoulement, or the forced return of refugees and asylum seekers to countries where they are likely to face persecution, is prohibited in numerous international treaty bodies, including the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). The United States is party to the Convention against Torture but has refused to sign the ICPPED.” Pray that the United States would abide by the international laws and agreements that they have signed such as the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees—which grants the legal right of *any* individual to cross borders to seek refuge from danger and persecution and also is aimed at protecting the basic human rights and treatment of people forced to flee conflict and persecution. While these protections are universally acknowledged, once asylum-seekers reach other countries such as the US, they are most often given court dates years out leaving them with ambiguous legal status despite doing nothing illegal. Such was the case of a Christian pastor and church planter in Atlanta who was arrested outside his church during an ICE raid. Since Christians are among the most persecuted minority *outside* of the United States, undoubtedly many of those seeking asylum are believers. (*Sources: International Christian Concern; UNHRC-USA; Christianity Today*)

**Sudan**—The U.S. has declared genocide once again in Sudan. Since fighting erupted in 2023, conflict continues to be concentrated in the western Darfur region, more than 11 million people have been displaced, and hunger is widespread. Many experience famine and have resorted to eating peanut shells and grass. The medical needs are vast and unmet. The militias directly attack civilians, even babies and children. Sexual violence as a war tactic is common. Aid workers are often targeted, and many civilians are prevented from accessing the foreign aid they provide. Please pray that now that this has been officially recognized as genocide, those nations and groups that support the violence will be prevented from doing so. Pray that the world will take notice. Pray that the Lord will protect the vulnerable and thwart the violence of the perpetrators. Pray for peace in this chaotic and violent region. Pray for healing and for aid to reach those who are injured and hungry. Ultimately, pray that the Lord would use this suffering to bring many to salvation. (*Source: CNN*)

**Cuba**—Praise God that the prayers of many around the world have been answered through the release of Pastor Lorenzo from a Cuban prison after his arrest in July 2021 on trumped up charges related to

his participation in a peaceful protest for basic human rights and religious freedom in Cuba. He was held incommunicado and subjected to inhumane treatment before being unjustly sentenced to seven and a half years in prison. Many protested outside the Cuban Embassy in London, and submitted a petition calling for his release—which was immediately torn up by officials and shoved out under the embassy door. We give thanks that the efforts of CSW led to his case being brought before the UN where it was “ultimately found that the pastor had been subjected to arbitrary detention and a series of other violations of his fundamental human rights” and that “on January 17, 2025, as part of an agreement negotiated by President Joe Biden, the Vatican and the Cuban government” he was released. Continue to pray for Pastor Lorenzo and his family, as harassment has already begun again and they are under intense pressure to leave Cuba to live as exiles. Pray that the church he serves will remain strong, faithful, and courageous in the face of such ongoing antagonism and threat. Pray that believers in Cuba will feel the peace, love, and presence of Christ as they endure these unrelenting trials. (*Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide*)

**Indonesia**—A banner was recently placed in the town of Paccerakkang which read, “We, all Muslims, residents of Paccerakkang, especially Neighbourhood 02 and 03 STRONGLY REJECT the Establishment of a Church and worship activities in our environment forever.” Although residents removed the banner as it completely goes against their Constitutional right to worship freely, many Christians in the area fear that this may be the beginning of hate crimes and violence perpetrated against believers. Please pray that the church would continue to meet for worship and fellowship and that God would protect them from violence. Pray that their faith would grow stronger and bolder and that they would shine as lights. Pray that this banner, instead of threatening and discouraging Christians, would actually cause them to trust in Christ even more and stir up interest in Christianity. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

**Egypt**—Praise God for the release from an Egyptian prison of Yemeni Christian converts Abdulbaqi Saeed Abdo and Nour Girgis. Both men had been held in prison—often in solitary confinement, denied medical treatment, and on barely sustenance nutrition—since 2021. They were arrested on trumped up charges of being a danger to the state because of their Christian faith. The family of Abdulbaqi Saeed Abdo were able to flee as refugees to Canada, and he was reunited with them there. The Abdo family already had refugee status while in Egypt because of the persecution they experience as believers in Yemen. Praise God also that advocacy was effective, and the petitioning of the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, DC, led to their intervention in these cases and likely the release of these two believers. Continue to pray for both men, as they heal physically, mentally, and emotionally from the trauma of these past years. Pray especially for Abdulbaqi Saeed Abdo, whose first wife was murdered by his own brother and one of her brothers because of their conversion. They swapped cooking oil in her stove with gasoline, creating a fire bomb when she went to cook. She suffered for two weeks with severe burns over her entire body before dying. Neither brother was charged with the crime. Pray for believers in Yemen and Egypt, especially those from a Muslim background, who suffer extreme persecution at the hands of the state, their communities, and even their families. Pray for strength, courage, and faithfulness. Pray that the Church in the West would be inspired to greater commitment and sacrifice in light of what our brothers and sisters around the globe face daily. (*Source: Jubilee Campaign*)