

May 2025 Prayer

The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.

—Nahum 1:7

South Africa—An American pastor and missionary/church planter in South Africa, Josh Sullivan, was abducted at gunpoint at the beginning of April while preaching at a prayer meeting in front of the congregation, his wife, and son. Praise God he was safely rescued after a high-intensity shoot out between police and the perpetrators, which left 3 kidnappers dead but Pastor Sullivan miraculously unharmed. Pastor Sullivan has been church planting among the Xhosa people since 2018 and has remained despite increasing violent crime and especially increasing abductions for ransom—which tend to target foreign nationals. Pray for the emotional and mental healing of Pastor Sullivan, his wife, son, and congregation. Pray that this terrible event will make the name of Christ known. Pray for the country of South Africa to effectively address both the pervasive crime and the societal issues and inequities that contribute to it. (*Sources: CNN; CBS*)

India—On March 25, Pastor Praveen Pagdala was found dead after riding a motorcycle to a Christian convention. Still unsure of the exact cause of his death, police concluded that he was murdered for professing his Christian faith. Please pray for peace and comfort for his family, community, and all who learned from his testimony. Pray that the perpetrators in this crime would be found and that they would repent and seek Christ. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

Bolivia—Pray for the South American country of Bolivia as it faces incredible hardship right now, especially as fuel shortages are causing farmers to be unable to harvest crops further exacerbating an already dire situations. Bright Hope and other Christian organizations say the extremely poor are hardest hit and charitable groups are struggling even to provide meals for children in their care. Bolivia is a place where women and girls are at high risk of violence against them, and amid these intense economic struggles, crime is soaring. Pray for leaders to effectively deal with the various crises facing the country. Pray that the work of NGOs like Bright Hope to be able to continue and that God will miraculously provide for their needs and the needs of those they serve. Pray that their May 13 prayer vigil for Bolivia will be effective and well supported as they seek God's intervention. (*Source: Bright Hope*)

Nigeria—On the night of April 1, eleven people in a Christian community were targeted and killed by a raid of Fulani militants.. A family that included a pregnant woman, her husband, and their young daughter were among those killed. It all happened in a span of 45 minutes, leaving the community scarred. Pray for the healing of witnesses, comfort for family members who lost loved ones, and remorse and repentance for the killers. Pray that God would do a mighty work in the hearts of the Fulani attackers so that many of them would turn to Him. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

Mauritania—Christians in Sélibaby have requested prayer as prominent community and religious leaders have increased hateful incitement against them. An April 7 demonstration by those antagonistic to Christians led to a mob storming a Christian cemetery, desecrating the grave and exhuming the body of a recently deceased Christian. Social media has been calling for the complete ostracization of believers, they are attacked verbally and physically in public, and even Christian children are violently attacked at school. The hostility in Mauritania is intense—including some of the harshest apostasy laws in the world. We join Middle East Concern and believers in Mauritania as we pray:

- That Christians and their families will know the presence of Jesus, His comfort and His strength in these difficult times.

- For divine protection for Christians and their families, that the death threats will not be implemented.
- That they will have wisdom and the guidance of the Spirit in how to deal with the hate campaign and the ostracism.
- That authorities and local political leaders cease their continued incitement of hate and intimidation.
- For tolerance towards Christians in the country and conviction from the Holy Spirit for those who incite hate against them. (*Source: Middle East Concern*)

China—Back in 2023, Pastor Wan Changchun was arrested for accused fraud in the church. Communist leaders often use this lie to shut down churches and Christian communities in China. This year his sentence was changed to five years. Pray for hope and perseverance for Pastor Wan and the truth to come into the light. Pray for his release and acquittal and that he would be a witness in the prison. Pray also for protection and encouragement for his family. (*Source: Church in Chains*)

Indonesia—Local officials forcibly closed the Ecumenical Christian Communion Thessalonian congregation in Java, Indonesia, the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter. While the congregation was able to observe Good Friday, the Easter celebration was canceled as the building was sealed. Pray for the congregation there to not be dismayed or discouraged, but continue to place their hope in God who is not confined by any place or building. Pray that their love and witness might show Christ to many. Pray that Indonesia will respect the right to religious freedom and treat Christian congregations justly and without discrimination. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

Iran—In February, an Armenian-Iranian pastor, Joseph Shahbazian, was arrested for the third time. The previous two times had been for leading Muslims to faith in Christ, but there was no reason given for his recent arrest. He is being kept in prison and is not allowed to see a lawyer. Pray for hope and justice for Joseph. Pray that he would cling to Christ and persevere. (*Source: Voice of the Martyrs*)

Pakistan—Three children died and five were hospitalized after being poisoned by “sweets” given to them by an unknown individual. All of the children come from the Christian community in Qila Sahib Singh area of Hafizabad, Punjab, Pakistan. Pray for the families of Danish, 10; Samson, 8; and David, 7 who all perished almost immediately. Pray for the full recovery of the other five children, two of whom are critically ill. Pray for the individual who targeted these innocent kids, that this person would be brought to justice, that he or she would repent of their evil actions and find the love and light of Christ. Pray for this Christian community suffering great loss when they already experience great persecution as believers in Pakistan. (*Source: International Christian Concern*)

Bangladesh—Jorina is a woman in Bangladesh who has endured many trials since turning to Christ. When she first converted to Christianity, she was hated by her Muslim community. She and her husband persevered through the persecution and together started a church in their home. They focus on helping those in need and bringing others to the Lord. Pray that Jorina and her husband would continue to be on fire for the Lord and encouraged to do His work, and that they would stay safe despite the threats they face. (*Source: Open Doors*)