

Persecution in Eritrea

Since 1993, Eritrea has been an independent country. Unfortunately, the government rules its people in such a dictatorial manner that the UK media has called it Africa's 'North Korea.'



People can be imprisoned for any reason and the conditions for prisoners are difficult, to say the least.

There is compulsory military conscription for both men and women from the age of 18. The duration of conscription is undefined.

Little wonder then that in the past year the number of Eritrean people seeking to cross the Mediterranean for a new life in Europe was only exceeded by Syrians.

Christians are considered a threat to the state; their houses have been attacked, and they have been tortured, beaten and imprisoned in horrific conditions. Some are detained in metal shipping containers in scorching temperatures. It is thought that more than 1,000 Christians are currently in detention.

When Senet was arrested for refusing to put the state before her faith in Jesus, she was put in a small cell with 55 other women. "We were so tightly crammed in that we could not sit properly, let alone lie down to sleep. We were forced to work long hours without rest. My immediate commander was especially cruel." Senet was asked to recant her faith several times, but refused; as a result, she spent over six years in prison. But she says it was an honour to suffer for the name of Jesus: "May the Name of the Lord be glorified!"
Would we have such faith?

Please pray for:

- A Christian couple who were arrested in the middle of their wedding ceremony along with guests in February 2015. Nothing has been heard of them since.
- 86 Eritrean Christians who were kidnapped in Libya in June 2015 by Islamic State forces.
- The children of imprisoned pastors. Ask God to be a Father to them.
- For unity among the church. Traditional denominations do not always recognise Christians from other backgrounds.
- For strength and comfort for those who are imprisoned
- For protection for Christians, particularly those who attempt to escape Eritrea; they often end up in the hands of traffickers



Prayer Focus

July & August 2015

And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

Isaiah 42:16

Abide in Him

Before you pray, bow quietly before God, just to remember and realize who He is, how near He is, how certainly He can and will help. Just be still before Him, and allow His Holy Spirit to waken and stir up in your soul the child-like disposition of absolute dependence and confident expectation. Wait upon God as a Living Being, as the Living God, who notices you, and is just longing to fill you with His salvation. Wait on God till you know you have met Him; prayer will then become so different. And when you are praying, let there be intervals of silence, reverent stillness of soul, in which you yield yourself to God, in case He may have aught He wishes to teach you or to work in you. Waiting on Him will become the most blessed part of prayer, and the blessing thus obtained will be doubly precious ..."

Andrew Murray

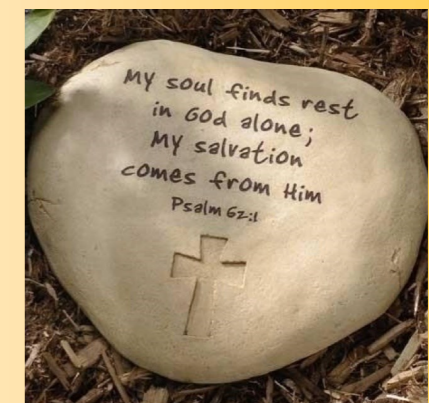
Prayer chain

Remember to send any prayer requests to prayer@wbc-ashford.org.uk



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Personal Prayer

WELCOMING – I am an inclusive caring Christian, actively welcoming all people and cultures, promoting a sense of belonging and togetherness wherever I go because I know that Christ is in me.

RELATIONAL – I am an active member within an informal and relaxed Church family; supporting, encouraging and valuing every person I meet because I know that Christ is in me.

ADVANCING – I am continually moving forward in my personal spiritual journey, committed to becoming all that God created me to be because I know that Christ is in me.

PRAYERFUL – I express my dependence on God through prayer, seeking His sovereign will in all situations because I know that Christ is in me.

AUTHENTIC – I act with integrity, honesty, openness and consistency in all I do because I know that Christ is in me.

GENEROUS – I demonstrate generosity in all I do, willingly giving my time, energy and resources wherever needed because I know that Christ is in me.

Persecuted Church - UK

Remember that persecution of Christians is happening on our own soil. Please pray for Nissar Hussain who lives in Bradford and converted from Islam to Christianity in 1996. Since then, he and his family have been subject to persecution and harassment from some local Muslims in the form of the following:

- False allegations made against Nissar and Kubra, his wife, resulting in being held at the police station for hours
- Malicious damage to their car 4 times, leaving it impossible to insure and house windows broken
- Forced out of their previous home after being assaulted, daily intimidation, criminal damage to property and 3 vehicles written off; one of the vehicles was torched outside his house
- After receiving threats of being burnt out of their home, the empty neighbouring house was set alight in the hopes that it would spread.

Nissar has written to his local MP but has yet to receive a reply.

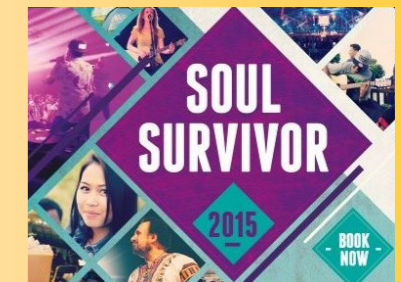


Prayer Requests for Soul Survivor and Fortify

The cancellation of the Detling celebration this year, inspired our older youth to organise and lead a youth event called Fortify instead. This initiative is being supported by People Without Limits. A small group of our youth will be attending along with other youth groups between 9th and 12th August.

Sixteen youth will be attending Soul Survivor 21st—26th August. Please pray for both events:

- For good weather as both are camping events
- For safety and good health for both youth and leaders
- That bookings come in for Fortify asap
- Safe travel to Soul Survivor in Somerset
- Revival amongst the youth
- For God to do some remarkable things
- For leaders to return transformed by the experience (in a good way!)



Prayer Walk Willesborough



On Wednesday 15th July we will be meeting at WBC 7:45pm to pray together before breaking into groups of 2 or more to prayer walk the Willesborough area. We thought that as the evenings are light this would be a wonderful opportunity to take our prayer meeting out into the community.



Some of us prayer walked part of Willesborough during the One Day event and we were encouraged at how God spoke to us and directed our prayers quite specifically at times. Come along especially if you have never done anything like this before; be encouraged as God engages with you to serve our community in a simple yet powerful way.

