**IDOP 2023 – Prayer Points**

* Pray for **all those who are imprisoned because of their faith** in countries like **China, Eritrea, Pakistan, Iran and North Korea**: that they will know the sustaining power of God; that they will have opportunities to see their families and have fellowship with other Christians; that they will be able to share the love of Christ with their guards and fellow prisoners; and that in God’s time they will be released.
* Pray for **the families of Christian prisoners,** who often face harassment, ostracism, and deprivation. Pray that God will provide for all their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.
* Pray for Christian pastors and church leaders who have been detained and imprisoned in **China**. Pray that God will protect them from harsh treatment by the prison authorities; that their faith will remain strong; and that their testimony will encourage other pastors to keep on serving. Pray for **Pastor Wang Yi** who is currently serving a nine-year prison sentence.
* Pray for Christians who are detained in harsh labour camps in **North Korea**. Pray that they will know the freedom of Christ in their hearts and have opportunities to share the hope of the gospel with their fellow prisoners. Pray for **Deacon Jang** who is currently serving a 15-year prison sentence.
* Pray for long term Christian prisoners in **Eritrea**. Some like **Dr Kiflu** have never faced trial. Pray that they will know the love and encouragement of the Lord as they spend time separated from their families and churches. Give thanks for the recent release of long-term prisoner **Twen Tedros**.
* Pray for Christians in **Pakistan** who have been falsely accused and incarcerated under the notorious blasphemy laws. Pray for justice and for the laws to stop being misused against innocent people. Pray that **Zafar Bhatti** who has already spent 10 years behind bars will be acquitted soon.
* Pray for house church leaders in **Iran** who face the threat of arrest, interrogation and lengthy prison sentences for their Christian work. Pray they will continue to have courage to plant and lead local churches despite the risks. Pray that the Iranian government will recognise the value of its Christian citizens.
* Pray for **Release International’s partners** in various countries who are serving Christian prisoners of faith and their families. Pray that channels of communication would remain secure and open. Pray that practical provisions will reach those who need it most. Pray that partners who have the opportunity to visit prisoners will have the right words to bring support and comfort.
* Pray that as **Christians in the UK** we will be moved to actively remember those in prison. May God give us compassion to learn their stories; to commit to praying for them; to write to them, and to speak up on their behalf wherever we have the opportunity.