

## Week 4: Pray for Haile Naizghe (Eritrea)



Haile Naizghe has been in prison in Eritrea since May 2004. A former senior accountant with World Vision, he was chair of the Full Gospel Church of Eritrea, one of the country's largest Pentecostal networks, comprising about 150 house church groups.

These groups were closed by government decree in May 2003 - this followed a crackdown on religion in Eritrea in May 2002, when the government banned all religious groups except the Eritrean Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches and Sunni Islam.

Haile was arrested early in the morning of 23 May 2004 and was taken to a police station in the capital, Asmara. Two other Christian leaders were arrested with him, Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel and Pastor Tesfatsion Hagos. During the three leaders' arrests, police officials confiscated the keys to their church offices and threatened their wives.

Initially the men were held in police cells but later they were transferred to the notorious maximum-security Wengel Mermera interrogation centre in Asmara. Many of Eritrea's prominent political and military prisoners are thought to be incarcerated in this dungeon-like labyrinth of cells, as well as 21 church leaders.

It is believed that Haile is still being held with Dr Kiflu and several other Christian leaders (including Pastor Kidane Weldou, Mussie Ezaz, Pastor Meron Gebreselasie and three Eritrean Orthodox priests, Rev Gebremedhin Gebregioris, Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus and Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteab). Pastor Tesfatsion was released in 2010 when he became gravely ill, but he recovered and left Eritrea.

Haile and his fellow leaders have never been tried and have been held incommunicado since their arrests, with no release date set. News from Eritrean prisons is extremely difficult to obtain and publicising any news about a prisoner is potentially harmful to them.

### Family

Haile and his wife Rahel have three children, Shalom, Joel and Naher. His wife and children had to flee Eritrea after his arrest and eventually settled in a safe country elsewhere in Africa, where the children were able to go to school. They later moved to North America. His family has not been allowed any contact with him during his imprisonment.

### Latest News

In January 2025 Haile was described as being in good health.

## Prayer Diary

<b>Sunday</b>	Pray for good mental and physical health for Haile.
<b>Monday</b>	Ask God to encourage Haile and give him hope.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Pray that Haile would be released soon.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pray for good fellowship with other Christians in the prison.
<b>Thursday</b>	Ask God to bless Haile's wife and children.
<b>Friday</b>	Pray for Haile's witness to other prisoners and guards.
<b>Saturday</b>	Pray for freedom for all Christians to meet in Eritrea.

