

**January 23, 2022**

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome. We are glad you're here.



**Almighty and everlasting God,  
mercifully look upon our  
infirmities, and in all our  
dangers and necessities  
stretch forth Your right hand  
to help and defend us; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Today's Psalm: 81**

**Ron VanOrder**  
**Birthday Celebration Concert**  
Saturday, January 29 6:30 pm  
at Valley Shepherd

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**Faith Promise - February 12 & 13**  
Breakfast/Brunch  
Saturday, February 12 9:30 - 11:00 am

**CHURCH ELECTIONS**  
**FEBRUARY 6 & 13**

**MY PRAYER FOR YOU**

**Philippians 1:3-11**

**Pastor Tim Pusey**  
Senior Pastor

**Guest Wifi Available**  
"VSN-Guest"

**END OF THE YEAR  
GIVING STATEMENTS**

**AVAILABLE IN THE FOYER  
TODAY & JANUARY 30**

**Caravan Badge Ceremony**

**January 26 @ 7:00 pm**  
In the gym

**Coming Soon!**  
**Men's Bible Study**

This Bible study is especially appropriate for men still in the work force!

"Ten Men of The Bible, how God used imperfect people to change the world." In this 10-lesson workbook study, Max Lucado recounts Biblical stories of ten men and describes what set them all apart and how to apply these characteristics to your Christian journey.

Group begins March 2 with facilitator Richard Case. Register today by emailing Richard at [rdbcse@gmail.com](mailto:rdbcse@gmail.com) or contact the church office.



## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES RESTRICTED

### CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



**OVERVIEW:** There are few known Christians among Emirati Arabs, but many foreign-national workers, who compose a significant segment of the country's population, are

Christians. Foreigners are allowed personal religious freedom but not the freedom to share their faith with Muslims. Similarly, churches cannot evangelize Muslims or do anything that the government views as undermining its power and control. Although it can be difficult to form close relationships with Emirati families, Christian workers faithfully reach out to them and the many migrants from restricted nations living in the UAE, including Pakistanis, Persians and Afghans.

**MAJOR RELIGIONS:** Nearly all Emiratis are Sunni Muslims. However, the population includes foreign workers from many nations, and many are Christians.

**PERSECUTOR:** Emirati Christian converts from Islam are persecuted primarily by their immediate family members, and the government restricts evangelism.

**WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** Only a few Emiratis are known to have converted from Islam to Christianity. While they enjoy a degree of freedom in meeting secretly for worship, if their faith is discovered they lose their jobs, homes, spouses, and children. Christian converts can also be prosecuted for apostasy, which is considered a crime.

**ACCESS TO BIBLES:** People in the UAE have access to the Bible through the internet, various churches and expatriate Christian workers in the country.

**VOM WORK:** VOM provides support to Christian converts from Islam and supports follow-up work for many Arabic-language media ministries that reach into the country.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- *Pray for a young woman who was rejected by her family because of her faith in Christ*
- *Pray for missionaries seeking opportunities to reach Emiratis with the gospel*
- *Pray that Christian media will become more effective through use of the internet and satellite TV*
- *Pray that Emiratis will encounter Bibles and other Christian resources*
- *Pray for a woman and her children hiding from family because of the woman's faith in Christ*
- *Pray for the encouragement and courage of local believers worshiping in secret*

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•1815 SE Bison Rd., Bartlesville, OK 74006 •800-747-0085

## Prisoner Profile



PRISONER NAME: Haile Nayzgi

LOCATION: Eritrea

ARRESTED: May 2004

HELD: 6,455 Days



After Haile Nayzgi's wife was warned she might also be arrested, she and the children decided to flee. After an arduous journey, they reached another country, where they have been safely living for the past several years. VOM has been supporting them and visiting regularly. Some months ago, in a message from Haile smuggled out of Eritrea, he thanked VOM for our support of his family. It was encouraging for him to know they were well while he remains in prison.

After Haile went to prison, his wife and children decided to flee Eritrea. His wife is in Khartoum, but his children were only able to reach a border town between Sudan and Eritrea. Because of fear of human traffickers, they have not been able to travel to Khartoum.

Meanwhile, more than 20 church leaders working with the underground church were arrested on Jan. 17, 2013. From various denominations, they were arrested in their own homes, in an apparently coordinated move.

During the early morning hours of May 23, 2004, Haile Nayzgi was arrested and taken to Police Station #1 in Asmara. He was the leader of Eritrea's Full Gospel Church, which is comprised of 120 to 150 house meeting groups. The church groups were closed by government decree at a meeting with a government official on May 15, 2002. At that time the church groups were given an application form for government registration. The Full Gospel Church filled out the form and returned it to the appropriate offices, but no reply was ever received.

Haile is married and has three children. He was previously an accountant with World Evangelical Alliance. During his incarceration, Haile has been refused any personal contact with his family. When family and friends went to take food and clothing to the prison for Haile on August 24, 2004, they were told that he was no longer there. Mr. Nayzgi has been moved to various locations since his arrest, but the actual charges against him have not been released.

### Address for Wang Yi

Link: <https://www.prisoneralert.com/letters/142/haile-nayzgi>

### Petition Official:

Link: <https://www.prisoneralert.com/prisoners/142/haile-nayzgi>

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