

**CHURCH  
IN CHAINS**

AN IRISH VOICE FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

**Praying**

# Praying

**for persecuted Christians**



***“Continue to remember those in prison  
as if you were together with them in prison.”  
(Hebrews 13 v 3)***

# 4 Ways to Pray



**Pray on your own** Set aside a regular time and place. Pray through the quarterly Church in Chains magazine or the Global Guide, or use the weekly email News Updates. Consider keeping a journal or making a prayer list on your phone or in a notebook.



**Pray with your church** Ask your church leader to include the persecuted church in intercessory prayers, or offer to lead prayers yourself. Get your church involved in Church in Chains' annual Lent Prayer Project and the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, held in November.



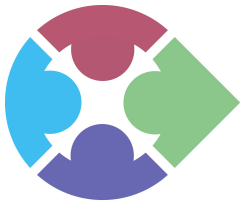
**Pray with your small group** If you are a member of a small group, you might suggest to the other members that they include prayer for the persecuted church as part of the general prayer time in the group.



**Start a prayer group** Could you start a regular group dedicated to praying for the persecuted church? You could start one in your church – let the leaders know what you are planning – or amongst like-minded people in your local area. You could meet in a home, hall or church building. It can be easier to run a Prayer Group if someone is willing to help you.

Your group might like to meet monthly, or it could meet quarterly to coincide with the publication of Church in Chains magazine and pray through its pages. Publicise your meeting: ask to have it announced at a Sunday service (or offer to make a brief announcement yourself); put a notice in your church magazine; invite interested people personally. Text or email to remind people when the meeting is on. Contact the Church in Chains office to have your Prayer Group listed on the back of the magazine.

# Leading a Prayer Group



The Church in Chains logo shows four people (viewed from above) praying together in a group for persecuted Christians. Here are some suggestions that you might find useful for leading a prayer group .

- Start by reading an appropriate Bible passage.
- The Lord's Prayer can be a good way to begin and enter the right frame of mind before God.
- If your group is large, divide into smaller groups to pray.
- Remember that some people prefer not to pray out loud.
- Consider bringing material to help the group's understanding, such as maps, pictures of prisoners and printouts of news reports. Make sure everyone has received a copy of the Global Guide.
- When praying for a prisoner, remember also his or her family, church, jailers and fellow-prisoners. When praying for a situation in a country, remember the church, the government, other victims of persecution and any particular issues such as war or famine.
- Include updates and answers to prayer at subsequent meetings.

## Some fresh ideas



Prayer with responses (to encourage everyone to join in, such as "Lord, have mercy" or "Yes Lord, Amen").



Written prayer – give out small pieces of paper and pens. Spend quiet time writing and then encourage anyone who would like to read their prayer.



Individual prayer – divide a list of prisoners by writing names on separate cards and handing them out for quiet prayer.



All together prayer – give a prayer point and ask everyone who wishes to pray out loud, at the same time.

*You might like to end your meeting with tea and coffee for those who have time to stay.*





# Bible Verses

The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering." **(Exodus 3 v 7)**

You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry. **(Psalm 10 v 17)**

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry. **(Psalm 34 v 15)**

I will build my church and the gates of hell will not overcome it. **(Matthew 16 v 18)**

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. **(Acts 12 v 5)**

On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. **(2 Corinthians 1 v 10-11)**

## Resources to Help

- ➔ *Church in Chains* magazine, published quarterly. We can supply extra copies of the magazine (contact the office).
- ➔ Church in Chains weekly email *News Updates* (sign up on our website, **[www.churchinchains.ie](http://www.churchinchains.ie)**).
- ➔ *Country Profiles* on the website can help with understanding the background.
- ➔ *Church in Chains Global Guide*.



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