

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Thursday 24th January

We remember the three Orthodox priests **Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus**, **Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteb** and **Rev Gebremedhin Gebregioris** in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray that God's spirit and presence would be very real to them.

Friday 25th January

We pray for Chinese pastor **Zhang Shaolie** (pictured) who has been behind bars since 2013. We pray that his 12-year sentence would be reduced and he would be treated more kindly in prison.



Saturday 26th January

We lift up Nigerian school girl **Leah Sharibu** before the Lord. She has been a captive of Boko Haram since February 2018. We pray for her protection and release.

Sunday 27th January

Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh in Evin Prison (Iran) since 2016 is serving a 10-year sentence. We pray that he would be receive any medical care he needs and for healing for his body.

Monday 28th January

Today we pray for South Korean pastor **Kim Kuk-gi**, serving a life sentence in labour camp in North Korea since 2014. We pray for comfort and peace.

Tuesday 29th January

We pray for strength and sustenance from the Lord for pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** who has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004.

Wednesday 30th January

We pray for **Sevada Aghasar**, a Christian musician and songwriter, in Evin prison since 2017. We pray that many Christmas Cards from Ireland would reach him and he would be encouraged and strengthened in his faith.

Thursday 31st January

Pakistani Christian **Imran Ghafur Masih** is serving a life sentence since 2009. We pray that his sentence would be appealed this year and he would be freed.

Thank you for your prayers!



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

January 2019

**Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.
Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.** *James 5:13*

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 1st January

We pray for Church in Chains staff that they would know God's will as they plan for the coming year. We long for our "Irish Voice for Persecuted Christians" to be heard by many more people on this island in 2019.

Wednesday 2nd January

Pray for protection of the underground church in Iran after a wave of over 100 arrests in one week in December. We pray against isolation and loneliness among Iranian Christians - that the Lord would keep close watch over his flock.

Thursday 3rd January

Today we pray for Ahladpur Church in India which was burned to ashes in November. We pray that God would keep **Pastor Sone Lal**, his family and his congregation safe as they plan to rebuild the church.

Friday 4th January

We thank God for the Church in Chains Trustees and their commitment to this cause. We pray for a productive meeting later this month and for guidance and wisdom on how to best serve the persecuted church.

Saturday 5th January

We pray for Early Rain Covenant Church in China: in December 100 leaders and seminary students were arrested from this church. We pray especially for **Pastor Wang Yi** and his wife, **Jiang Rong** who were arrested yet again. And also for **Guo Hai** and his wife, who were forced to leave their two children at home unattended when police took them into custody.

Sunday 6th January

We pray for Tashkent Baptist church in Uzbekistan which was raided in November. We remember particularly the 14 members who were detained for interrogation. We pray for healing from trauma and peace of mind.

Monday 7th January

We are already planning and thinking about the 2019 conference. Please pray for the arrangements to find the right speaker for the conference.



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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PRAY FOR KAZAKHSTAN

Tuesday 8th January

Kazakhstan is the largest country in Central Asia and the eighth largest in the world. This diverse nation is home to over 70 different people groups. We pray for understanding and unity among these groups and greater acceptance of all minorities.



Wednesday 9th January

We pray for blessing of the Russian Orthodox Church, which is the largest church in Kazakhstan. We pray that it would minister to the Kazakh people and bring light into darkness.

Thursday 10th January

We pray for courage for members of all other denominations who are facing increasing problems. Police frequently raid church meetings, detain leaders and members and impose large fines. We pray that by God's grace they stay strong in their faith.

Friday 11th January

We pray for a change of heart of all authorities which suppress Christianity. We also pray for a reversal of the amendments to the Religion Law that were passed last year and are restricting religious freedom even further.

Saturday 12th January

We pray particularly for **President Nursultan Nazarbayev** who has governed the country in an authoritarian manner since 1989 when it was still part of the Soviet Union. We pray that the Lord would set him free from his desire and obsession with controlling people's minds and lives.

Sunday 13th January

We pray for strength and protection for indigenous Christians from Muslim backgrounds who bear the brunt of persecution at the hands of authorities, families, friends and communities.

Monday 14th January

Kazakh Christian **Yklas Kabduakasov** served a two-year sentence in labour camp for sharing his faith with Muslims from 2015-2017. We pray for blessing and encouragement for him, his wife **Karlygash** and their eight children.

Tuesday 15th January

We lift up all Christian leaders in Kazakhstan that even under surveillance they would experience the peace and rest only found in the love of Jesus.

PRAY FOR SUDAN

Wednesday 16th January

We want to lift up the country of Sudan before the Lord. For many decades this country has experienced many conflicts as well as devastating famines and floods. We pray for peace and stability between tribal groups and military commanders as well as healing and restoration for the Sudanese people.



Thursday 17th January

Christian persecution is systematic in Sudan, including arrests on the charge of espionage and the demolishing of churches. We pray for perseverance for all Christians in the face of such strong opposition.

Friday 18th January

We pray that President **President Omar al-Bashir** who has been ruling harshly in Sudan since 1989 would be brought to justice. He is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

Saturday 19th January

Today we ask the Lord to equip church leaders to stand strong under pressure. We pray that He would provide opportunities for churches to meet safely and be encouraged and strengthened on a daily basis.

Sunday 20th January

We pray for the 13 Sudanese Christians who the National Intelligence and Security Services tortured and threatened to charge with serious crimes in October in Darfur. We pray for healing for their bodies, spirits and minds. We also pray for restoration for their families and their church.

Monday 21st January

We pray particularly for one man from this group, **Tajadin Idris Yousef**, the church leader who refused to recant his faith while in police custody. He faced apostasy charges and has had to report to local police every three days.

Tuesday 22nd January

Christians in the Nuba Mountains face the most severe persecution. We pray that they would experience God's love and protection in their every day lives.

Wednesday 23rd January

We pray that Christians in Sudan would join together as a unified body of Christ. We pray that the different denominations would support each other and the church would grow.