



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

April 2019

**May the groans of the prisoners come before you;
with your strong arm preserve those condemned to die.**

Psalms 79:11

Monday 22nd April

We continue to pray for the members of Early Rain Covenant Church in China as persecution continues and many are being evicted from their homes.

Tuesday 23rd April

We pray for our partner organisation, Steadfast Global, as it assesses how best to repair and rebuild the churches damaged in a series of attacks in the southwestern town of Halaba Kulito in Ethiopia in February.

Wednesday 24th April

Pray for the Indian General Election (being held in seven different phases during April and May) that it will be conducted in peace and lead to a good government which will respect all Indians regardless of their faith.

Thursday 25th April

Once more we pray for **Asia Bibi** and her husband **Ashiq Masih** who are still not free. We pray that they can leave Pakistan soon and for better health for **Asia**.

Friday 26th April

Ask God that the children who have been introduced to Christian persecution through the Junior Lent Prayer Project will continue to remember the prisoners.

Saturday 27th April

Pray that the Nigerian government will act to protect Christians in southern Kaduna state who have been under attack from Fulani militants.

Sunday 28th April

Praise God for the opportunity to share about the Persecuted Church at Maynooth Community Church today. Pray for God's blessing on the meeting.

Monday 29th April

Please pray for David Turner as he attends a meeting of the Department of Foreign Affairs Human Rights Committee and meets officials and other NGO leaders today.

Tuesday 30th April

We are so thankful for all the Church in Chains prayer groups around the country. We pray for strength and encouragement for all those who lead these groups – inspiring others to join together in prayer for the persecuted.

Thank you for praying with us!

LENT PRAYER PROJECT

Week 4

Monday 1st April

Mussie Ezaz has been held incommunicado in a dungeon-like prison cell in Eritrea for over 11 years. We pray that he will soon be released and reunited with his family.



Tuesday 2nd April

Today we pray for God to bless the other Christian leaders, **Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel**, **Rev Haile Naizghe**, **Pastor Kidane Weldou** and Pastor **Meron Gebreselasie**, who are imprisoned with **Mussie**.

Wednesday 3rd April

We pray for their witness to other prisoners and guards and their release. Lord, give these men strength in their weakness, faith in their fear and power in their powerlessness!

Thursday 4th April

Mussie's wife **Frewini** has had to live without her husband and as a single mum for over a decade now. We ask God to sustain, strengthen and encourage her on a daily basis.

Friday 5th April

Mussie's three sons **Yoel**, **Hananiel** and **Basaliel** were boys when their dad was arrested and are now young men, aged between 18 and 24. We pray that the Lord would be a father to them and guide them in their lives.

Saturday 6th April

We are encouraged that recently fewer Christians have been imprisoned in Eritrea and some longterm prisoners have been released. We pray that the authorities would stop imprisoning Christian completely and release all those who remain in prison in the near future.



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LENT PRAYER PROJECT

Week 5

Sunday 7th April

Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh is a 57-year-old Christian convert who has been in prison in Iran since January 2018, serving a ten-year sentence for house church activities. We ask God to encourage Naser and keep him safe in prison.

Monday 8th April

Naser suffered from a severe and very painful gum infection in spring 2018, but was denied treatment by the prison authorities. We pray for complete healing of his gum disease and for good health while he remains in prison.

Tuesday 9th April

In November 2017 **Naser** lost an appeal against his conviction of "acting against national security through the establishment of an illegal church organisation in his home". Despite this disappointment we pray that **Naser** will be released early and won't have to serve the whole ten-year sentence.

Wednesday 10th April

We know of many other Christian prisoners in Evin prison: **Sevada Aghasar, Saheb Fadaie, Yasser Mossayebzadeh, Youcef Nadarkhani** and **Mohammadreza Omid** to name a few. We pray for comfort, strength and blessing for them all. We also pray that they will be set free soon.

Thursday 11th April

We pray that God equips all these Christian inmates to be His witnesses in Evin prison. We pray that they would be agents of peace and spread light and life in this dark place.

Friday 12th April

We pray for the three visiting Christians from Azerbaijan who were arrested with **Naser** and detained for several months: **Bahram Nasibov, Yusif Farhadov** and **Eldar Grubanov**. They left Iran after being released on bail. We pray for restoration and healing from any trauma they suffered while in confinement.

Saturday 13th April

Please pray that the wave of arrests of Christians in Iran will stop and that the government would no longer see Christian activities as a threat to national security. We long for freedom for all Iranian believers, in particular for house churches who meet at great risk.



LENT PRAYER PROJECT

WEEK 6

Sunday 14th April

Zafar Bhatti is a 56-year-old pastor from Pakistan who has been in prison since July 2012, when he was accused of sending blasphemous texts. We ask God to protect **Zafar** from harm in prison.

Monday 15th April

Zafar has developed diabetes since being imprisoned and experiences heart pain and headaches. He feels great sadness over the years he has lost. We pray for better health and encouragement for our brother.

Tuesday 16th April

Zafar is currently serving a life sentence for blasphemy. His appeal hearing has been postponed three times within the last few months. We pray that his appeal would be heard soon and that he would be acquitted and released.

Wednesday 17th April

Zafar's wife **Nawab** is 70 years old and lives alone. While she is able to visit her husband weekly, she misses him badly and fears for his safety in prison. **Nawab** has been working as a domestic cleaner, but recently had to take time off work due to ill health. We pray for comfort and improved health for her.

Thursday 18th April

Today we pray that the Lord would fill **Zafar's** and **Nawab's** hearts with hope, peace and joy despite the difficult circumstances they are in.

Friday 19th April

We are thankful that the British Pakistani Christian Association (BCPA) has been supporting **Nawab**. We ask God to prepare a safe home for **Zafar** and his wife after his release.

Saturday 20th April

The Bible says that "God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love, and self-control". We pray for this spirit to fill **Zafar** so that he can be a witness to prisoners and guards for the remainder of his prison sentence.



PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Sunday 21st April

Thank God that Church in Chains has finally received an invitation from the Indian embassy to discuss the persecution of Christians in India with a counsellor. We pray that this meeting will result in CIC having the opportunity to present the petition signed by Irish TDs and Senators to the Indian ambassador himself.