

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Sunday 23rd June

We pray for Nigerian school girl **Leah Sharibu**, who recently turned 16 and has been a slave of Boko Haram since February 2018. We pray for renewed strength and courage for her and also for **Alice Ngaddah**, who is held with her.

Monday 24th June

In 2014, the Pakistani married couple **Shaguffa Kausar** and **Shafqat Emmanuel** (pictured), was sentenced to death for blasphemy. Asia Bibi's lawyer announced in May that he has taken on their cases. We pray for successful appeals and freedom for them both.



Tuesday 25th June

Bakhrom Kholmatov, a pastor from Tajikistan, has been imprisoned since April 2017. We pray that the Lord would sustain and strengthen him, his wife Gulnora and their two sons and daughter while he is in prison.

Wednesday 26th June

Iranian house church member **Saheb Fadaie** has been serving a ten-year prison sentence in Evin prison since July 2018. We pray that the Lord would watch over him and keep him from harm in this notorious prison.

Thursday 27th June

We pray that Eritrean Orthodox priest and psychiatrist, **Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus**, detained since 2004, would be released soon.

Friday 28th June

We pray for hope and courage for Chinese pastors, husband and wife, **Bao Guohua and Xing Wenxiang** serving long prison sentences since 2015.

Saturday 29th June

We ask for comfort and courage for **Sawan Masih**, who has been on death row in Pakistan since 2013. We pray for a new date for his appeal hearing soon!

Sunday 30th June

Iranian musician and songwriter, **Sevada Aghasar**, has been behind bars since 2017. We pray for his physical, mental and spiritual welfare in prison.

Thank you for standing in the gap for your persecuted brothers and sisters!



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

June 2019

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Saturday 1st June

Praise the Lord that **Asia Bibi** is free at long last! We pray that the Lord would repay her and her family for the many years the locusts have eaten and bless them abundantly in their new home in Canada.

Sunday 2nd June

On 17 May more than 140 Christians were arrested in the Eritrean capital, Asmara. 104 of those arrested were women, 23 men and 14 children. We pray that all of these detainees would experience God's presence in a real and powerful way, for their safety and swift release.

Monday 3rd June

We pray for a good response to the Church in Chains summer magazine which will be published in early June and focuses on Central Asia.

Tuesday 4th June

16 Christians have been killed in targeted attacks in recent weeks in Burkina Faso. We pray for comfort, healing and strength for our church family there.

Wednesday 5th June

At **Zafar Bhatti's** appeal hearing in April, the judge said there was no evidence against Zafar and he should be released, but he granted an adjournment to 19 June for the prosecution to produce evidence. We pray that the judge would hold on to his verdict and Zafar would be freed after almost 7 years in prison.

Thursday 6th June

Church in Chains learned recently that some Christian refugees in Irish reception centres are experiencing pressure from Muslim refugees. We pray for courage and strength for these refugees and for the authorities to provide better support.

Friday 7th June

Thank God that Indonesian pastor **Abraham Ben Moses** was released from prison in late April on probation. We pray for restoration and blessing over his family as Abraham gets to know his baby daughter who was born while he was in prison.



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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PRAY FOR THE MALDIVES

Saturday 8th June

A chain of thousands of beautiful coral islands in the Indian Ocean make up the Maldives. Beneath the idyllic surface, life in the Maldives is far from perfect: it has one of the highest divorce rates in the world, rising crime rates, widespread child abuse, and pervasive drug use. Also, due to coral mining and increasing ocean temperatures, the islands are in a very vulnerable state. We pray for God's touch and His healing for this troubled nation.



Sunday 9th June

There is no room for Christianity in this tourist paradise, one of the world's strictest Islamic nations. We pray for more freedom for Christians.

Monday 10th June

There are only a few thousand Christians (most of them expatriates), who need to keep their faith completely secret. We pray that they can find fellowship and be encouraged to continue in their faith.

Tuesday 11th June

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has been in office for the past 6 months. We pray that he would be filled with wisdom and compassion as he leads this nation and that he would be able to effectively address the many problems his country faces during his term.

Wednesday 12th June

Owning a Bible in the Maldives is an offence that can result in imprisonment. We pray that the Lord would protect each of the Christians who has a Bible in their home and keep them safe as they read His word.

Thursday 13th June

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, **Dr Ahmad Shaheed**, is Maldivian. In the past he was accused of apostasy and there were calls for his beheading. We pray for perseverance and strength for this bold man as he continues to speak out for freedom of religion.

Friday 14th June

After more than 20 years of Bible translation, still only parts are available in the Maldivian language due to the dangers connected with this work. We pray for miraculous opportunities for the translation to continue and for Maldivians to hear the Gospel.

PRAY FOR NEPAL

Saturday 15th June

Nepal is one of the poorest and most underdeveloped countries in the world, partly due to its isolation and limited education access. It is estimated that 25% to 40% of the Nepalese people live below the poverty line, most of them eking out an existence as subsistence farmers. We pray for an end to such pervasive poverty.



Sunday 16th June

Since 2008 Nepal is officially a secular state; however it is forbidden for anyone to change their religion and religious freedom is on the decline. We pray for more freedom.

Monday 17th June

There are 1.2 million Christians in Nepal and their numbers are growing fast. Praise God for such church growth and pray for courage and creativity as Christians share God's love with others!

Tuesday 18th June

President Bidhya Devi Bhandari is the first female head of state. We pray that she will ensure that Nepal will remain secular and not become a Hindu state again.

Wednesday 19th June

Christians from a Hindu background face the greatest persecution. They are pressured by their families, communities, local authorities and Hindu priests. We pray for perseverance and safety for converts.

Thursday 20th June

In April five Christians were arrested in Nepal after they were accused of attempted proselytisation. Among them were **Pastor Dilli Ram Paudel**, General Secretary of the Nepal Christian Society, **Gaurav Srivastava**, an Indian citizen, and **Leanna Ciquanda**, an American citizen. All five have been released, but they still face court proceedings. We pray that they can all avoid convictions.

Friday 21st June

Women and girls who convert to Christianity, are particularly vulnerable and often subjected to physical violence by their families and become social outcasts. We pray for protection from abuse and rejection.

Saturday 22nd June

Today we pray for **Pastor Dhruk Kumar** who was abducted and severely beaten by a group of unknown assailants in March. We pray for a full recovery from this ordeal and that he can continue his ministry in safety.