

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Saturday 24th August

Ebrahim Firouzi has been in prison in Iran since 2013 and is due for release in January 2020. We pray for strength for him as he serves the rest of his sentence.

Sunday 25th August

Imran Ghafur Masih (pictured) is a Pakistani Christian serving a life sentence since 2009. We pray that justice would be done and Imran would be freed soon.



Monday 26th August

Eritrean Christian **Twen Theodros** has been a prisoner of faith since 2004. We pray for hope and endurance for her in the bleak circumstances.

Tuesday 27th August

South Korean missionary **Kim Jong Uk** has been serving a life sentence in a labour camp in North Korea since 2013. We pray that the Lord would fill him with peace, health and perseverance.

Wednesday 28th August

Nigerian school girl **Leah Sharibu** has been held captive by terrorists since early 2018. We pray that as she continues to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, she will fear no evil, but know know her shepherd is by her side.

Thursday 29th August

Evangelist and youth leader **Mussie Ezaz** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2008. We pray for his spiritual, mental and physical welfare in prison and for blessing for his wife **Frewrini** and three sons, **Yoel**, **Hananiei** and **Basaliel**.

Friday 30th August

We pray that **Shaguffa Kausar** and **Shafqat Emmanuel** would have the appeal of their death sentence heard soon. The married couple has been in prison in Pakistan since 2013 and Shafqat is in very poor health.

Saturday 31st August

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani has been serving a ten-year sentence in Iran since 2018; previously he was in prison for three years. We pray for courage and hope for him and also for his wife **Tina** and his two teenage sons, **Daniel** and **Joel**.

—————Thank you for remembering to pray!—————



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

August 2019

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Thursday 1st August

Praise God that Church in Chains was able to raise four cases of Christian prisoners with the Ambassador of Pakistan, **Sardar Shuja Alam**, last month. We pray that in all cases, appeals would be heard soon and the prisoners freed!

Friday 2nd August

Praise God that Iranian Christian **Sevada Aghasar** was granted a conditional release from prison in July, after serving half of his five-year sentence. We pray for guidance and wisdom for Sevada as he lives in freedom again.

Saturday 3rd August

Eight Iranian converts were arrested in July: **Khatoon Fatolahzadeh** (61), her sons **Sam Khosravi** (36) and **Sasan Khosravi** (35) and their wives **Maryam Falahi** (35) and **Marjan Falahi** (33), **Pooriya Peyma** (27), his wife **Fatemeh Talebi** (27) and **Habib Heydari** (38). We pray for all eight, who have since been released on bail but could face long prison sentences.

Sunday 4th August

We are thankful that the Irish Methodist World Mission Partnership has decided to print and distribute thousands of copies of the Global Guide on our behalf. We pray for a great reception among all the Methodist congregations.

Monday 5th August

We pray for the members of Xunsiding Church in China, which was closed down in May 2019. May they be filled with courage and strength, as small groups meet together in homes.

Tuesday 6th August

Thank God that **Miriam** from Iraq was able to move back to her family home after living as a refugee for 4 years. We pray that this inspiring girl would continue to find hope and strength in Jesus and that she would make good new friends, as many of her old friends have not returned to her hometown, Qaraqosh.

Wednesday 7th August

Chinese Pastor **Pastor Wang Yi**, who has been detained since December 2018, was recently charged with “illegal business activity” on top of the original charge of “inciting subversion”. We pray for his release and for the truth to prevail.



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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PRAY FOR ERITREA

Thursday 8th August

A year on from the historic peace agreement, Eritrea has closed its border with Ethiopia again. We pray for real and lasting change in this country and an end to the severe repression and the human rights atrocities.

Friday 9th August

Thousands of Christians have been imprisoned in Eritrea and some still remain in prison after more than 10 years. Please pray for endurance and hope for our brothers and sisters, many of whom are detained in horrific conditions.

Saturday 10th August

Under the brutal dictatorship of President **Isaias Afewerki** Eritrea remains effectively an open-air prison. We pray that God would work in his heart and change him completely.

Sunday 11th August

Three Orthodox priests, **Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus**, **Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteab** and **Gebremedhin Gebregioris**, have been in prison since 2004. We pray for perseverance, comfort and strength for these brave men and their families.

Monday 12th August

We pray that the 21 health centres run by the Catholic Church, which were closed in June, would be reopened and able to continue their vital work for women and children in rural communities.

Tuesday 13th August

Orthodox Patriarch **Abune Antonios** has been under house arrest since 2006. There is renewed concern for his wellbeing following a move by pro-government bishops to excommunicate him. We pray for peace and safety for the Patriarch, who is 92 and suffers from several ailments.

Wednesday 14th August

A group of Eritrean Christians was arrested in June in a raid on the Faith Missions Church in Keren. We pray that they would be released soon, particularly the pregnant women, mothers, children and entire family who were among them. We also pray for protection for the whole underground house church movement.

Thursday 15th August

We pray for an outpouring of the Lord's Spirit on this broken country of Eritrea for we know that *"where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom"*. (2 Corinthians 3:17)



PRAY FOR TAJIKISTAN

Friday 16th August

Tajikistan ranks as the poorest nation in Central Asia. People are struggling to survive and one-tenth of the population has emigrated. We pray for hope and restoration for this overlooked country.

Saturday 17th August

Christians in Tajikistan are challenged by restrictive laws on practising and sharing their faith. Since 2011, children under the age of 18 are not allowed to attend church. We lift up our Tajik church family before the Lord!

Sunday 18th August

Emomali Rahmon has served as President of Tajikistan since 1994. He passed a Religion Law in 2009 which restricts all faith groups. We pray for a change of heart for President Rahmon and for a full revision of this severe law.

Monday 19th August

We ask the Lord to give confidence and grace to Christian children that they would know His love when they are humiliated by teachers and pupils at school. We also pray for protection as they attend summer camps.

Tuesday 20th August

We pray that Christian converts would be bold and steadfast in their faith despite the severe opposition they experience at the hands of their own families, friends and community. We pray for provision if they cannot continue living in their previous circumstances.

Wednesday 21st August

Pastor Bakhrom Kholmatov is serving a three-year-sentence since 2017. We are grateful for reports that he is doing well in prison. We pray for strength and good health for him, his wife and three children.

Thursday 22nd August

We pray for pastors and church leaders who are faced with the stress and anxiety of raids and arrests. Ask God to give them courage, wisdom and discernment as they serve their churches.

Friday 23rd August

Several churches in Tajikistan are at risk of closing down because of Christians emigrating. We pray for sustenance and strength for these churches and that new leaders would be raised up to replace those who have left.

