

## PRAY FOR NEWS/EVENTS

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Iranian Christian prisoners are at particular risk from COVID-19 as the country has tens of thousands of infections and prisoners are kept in overcrowded conditions. We pray in particular for safety and health for **Naser Gol-Tapeh** and **Youcef Nadarkhani**, who are both serving 10-year prison sentences.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

In February Christian activist **Mary Mohammadi** was freed on bail in Iran and her case was due in court on 14 April. We pray for healing from the trauma she experienced during her detention and that she would remain free.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

**Ebrahim Firouzi** had his sentence of two years' internal exile in Iran extended by 11 months because he took brief leave in December to sort out affairs relating to his mother's death. We pray for encouragement for him despite this setback.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

In February Pakistani farm labourer **Saleem Masih** died of severe injuries after Muslims tortured him for "polluting" a well. We pray for comfort for his family.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

14-year-old Christian girl **Huma Younas** was abducted and forcefully married to a Muslim man in Pakistan in October 2019. We pray that the appeal her family has lodged against the validation of this marriage would be successful.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April

We pray for protection over Christians in Burkina Faso where hundreds of thousands of people have been driven from their homes in recent months by armed Islamist groups.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

We pray for safety and blessing at this time for all those Church in Chains supporters who are in high risk groups due to their age or health.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Today we pray for the trustees and staff of Church in Chains – for courage and wisdom in the midst of the coronavirus crisis.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

We pray that the persecuted church won't be forgotten while everyone is preoccupied with the coronavirus crisis and prayer groups can't meet.



# Church in Chains Prayer Diary

## April 2020 (Lent Prayer Project cont.)

### LENT PRAYER PROJECT – WEEK 5

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Mahrokh Kanbari** is 61-year-old convert from Islam, who is serving a one-year prison sentence in Iran for "propaganda against the system". She was arrested in a raid on her home in Karaj in 2018 and imprisoned in 2019. *On 2 March 2020 Mahrokh was given temporary release of 36 days as part of the authorities' efforts to combat the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus in Iran's overcrowded prisons.* We pray for protection and good health for Mahrokh.



Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Before going to prison **Mahrokh** said: "I hope the persecution and imprisonment I endure glorify the name of Jesus Christ." We thank God for her wonderful attitude towards this difficult situation. We pray for Him to continue to sustain her faith during these uncertain times and encourage her daily.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

We pray that **Mahrokh** would not have to return to prison after the temporary release, but that she would be allowed to remain free.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

We thank God for **Mahrokh's** witness to prisoners and guards while in prison. We pray that her story would inspire everyone else in her life also.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Mahrokh's husband **Ali** is elderly and has health issues. We pray that he would be strong and healthy and be blessed and heartened by the fact that he is currently reunited with his wife.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

We pray that Mahrokh's and Ali's grown-up sons would come to follow Christ through the witness of their brave parents.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Iranians who leave Islam can face imprisonment for "crimes against national security". We pray for freedom for Christian converts to meet.



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## LENT PRAYER PROJECT – WEEK 6

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

**Sawan Masih** is a 40-year-old street sweeper from Pakistan who has been in prison since 2013. He was arrested after a Muslim friend accused him of blasphemy. In 2014 he was sentenced to death. His appeal hearing has been adjourned repeatedly. We ask God to keep Sawan safe and well in prison.



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April

**Sawan** is in prison in Faisalabad, 140 km west of his home city of Lahore. Since May 2018, his appeal hearing has been adjourned at least 15 times, and it is thought that judges are afraid to acquit him for fear of reprisals. Pray that Sawan would be acquitted and released soon.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Pray for hope and spiritual encouragement for **Sawan**. We pray that, like Asia Bibi, he would always believe that he will be freed.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Sawan's wife **Sobia** has a part-time job with very low pay. She visits Sawan once a month, although it is a long, expensive journey to Faisalabad, and brings him some food and other items. Ask God to bless, comfort and provide for Sobia.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April

Sawan's three children have been growing up without their father for the past 7 years. We pray for blessing and hope for his daughters **Noor** (16) and **Rebecca** (12) and his son **Saim** (14). We also pray that the Lord would be a father to the fatherless.

Good Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April

Lawyers who defend those accused of blasphemy face threats of violence and judges are often afraid to hear prominent cases, knowing their lives are in danger. We pray for courage and protection for Sawan's legal team and judges.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April

Pakistan's blasphemy laws are a source of great fear and suffering, and are often misused to settle personal scores. The laws result in many innocent people spending years in prison awaiting trial or appeal, and they and their families and lawyers are at risk of attack by extremists. Pray for reform of Pakistan's blasphemy laws.

## PRAY FOR INDIA

Easter Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

We pray that Christians across India will know the joy of the resurrection on this Easter Sunday, especially those who live in isolated villages which are often the focus of attacks by Hindu militants.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

The current Indian government has been promoting Hindu nationalism since 2014 which has increasingly led to sectarian violence against minorities. We pray for peace and tolerance among all Indians.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April

We pray that Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** would realise his current policies are only sowing division and hatred and he would change his stance.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April

We pray for the **Tati** family in Chhattisgarh state, attacked by tribal animists in February. Evangelist **Podiya Tati** was away from the home for work when his mother, wife and baby son were beaten and their food supply destroyed.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April

We pray for church leader **Isaac Paulose** who was beaten and then run over by Hindu extremists with five motorcycles in Madhya Pradesh state in March.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

We pray for healing and peace for the **Bellary** family: in January the whole family was attacked when they were hosting a worship meeting on the terrace of their home in Karnataka state and even the children were beaten.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

We thank God for Persecution Relief, one of our partner organisations in India, and pray for all its work in responding quickly to aid Christians in the wake of attacks by Hindu militants.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Today we pray for **Shibu Thomas**, the founder of Persecution Relief, and his work in travelling and speaking at churches and pastors' groups all over India.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

We pray for provision and refuge for Christians living in rural areas who have been cut off from their communities because of their faith.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Church in Chains still has not received a response from the Indian Embassy in Dublin to its request to formally present the petition, signed by TDs and Senators in 2018, to the Indian ambassador. We pray for wisdom as to how to proceed.