

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Wednesday 23rd September

Pakistani Pastor **Zafar Bhatti** has been in prison since 2012 serving a life sentence for blasphemy. We pray that a new date for an appeal hearing would be set and kept. We pray also for strength and hope for his wife **Nawab**.

Thursday 24th September

Ashfaq Masih (pictured) has been in prison in Pakistan since 2017, when he was accused of blasphemy. We ask for God's presence to be evident to Ashfaq every day he is in prison.



Friday 25th September

Alimujiang Yimiti is a Uighur Christian who has been in prison in China since 2008, serving a 15-year sentence. We pray for the Lord to comfort and encourage him and that he would be released early.

Saturday 26th September

Chinese **Pastor Zhang Shaojie** has been serving a 12-year sentence since 2013. He has been tortured in prison in the past. We pray that God would guard him with His angels and keep him safe and sane in prison through His Holy Spirit.

Sunday 27th September

Pastor Wang Yi in China has been detained since 2018, serving a 9-year prison sentence. We pray for protection over him in prison and that his family would find out where he is detained and be allowed to visit him.

Monday 28th September

Twen Theodros in Eritrea has been in jail since 2005. We pray for good health for Twen and that she can continue to minister to the other women in prison.

Tuesday 29th September

We pray for hope and perseverance for **Mussie Eyob**, an Eritrean Christian who has been in prison since 2011. We also pray for his release.

Wednesday 30th September

Pastor Kidane Weldou has been behind bars in Eritrea since 2005. We pray that he would be released soon and reunited with his family and daughters.



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

September 2020

**He will cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge;
His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.**

Psalm 91:4

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 1st September

Please pray for justice for 14-year-old **Maria Shahbaz** in Pakistan. She was abducted and forcibly married to a Muslim man in April and in August ordered by the High Court to be returned to the custody of her kidnapper.

Wednesday 2nd September

Huma Younas was kidnapped in Pakistan last October and forced to convert to Islam. She is now 15 years old and reported to be pregnant by her abductor. We pray for a miracle for Huma to be able to return to her family.

Thursday 3rd September

Please pray for four prisoners in Iran: **Yasser** who has tested positive for Covid-19 and **Naser, Saheb** and **Youcef** who are all displaying symptoms. They are held in crowded conditions in Evin prison where there has been an outbreak of the virus.

Friday 4th September

On 15 August **Victor Bet-Tamraz** and his wife **Shamiram Issavi** fled Iran after losing their appeals against long prison sentences. Praise God they are now safe and well in another country and pray for them as they adjust to a new life.

Saturday 5th September

Next Saturday the annual Church in Chains conference will take place online via Zoom. Please pray that many people will join us, that the technical aspects will work smoothly and that it will make a great impact despite the different format.

Sunday 6th September

Imtiaz Ashraf from Release International will be the guest speaker at our conference. We pray that the Lord would bless his ministry and guide him in his work, especially while he cannot travel to Pakistan due to the pandemic.

Monday 7th September

Please pray for a peaceful way forward in Sudan – the government's decision to abolish the death penalty for apostasy has led to Islamist protests calling for the overthrow of the government.

Thank you for praying with us!



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PRAY FOR SYRIA

Tuesday 8th September

The Syrian church dates back to New Testament times and before the civil war, Syria was one of the easiest places in the Arab world to live as a Christian. But the country's years-long civil war has left it in turmoil, and Christians have not been spared that suffering. We pray for peace, healing and recovery in Syria.

Wednesday 9th September

Today we pray for strength, wisdom and discernment for church leaders as they guide their churches through uncertain times of war and conflict.

Thursday 10th September

In May 2019 the Christian town of **al-Suqaylabiyah** in north west Syria came under attack and as a result of heaving shelling, six young children died during a Sunday school gathering, as well as their teacher. Four others were injured. We pray for the Lord to minister to the bereaved families and congregation and comfort them in their grief.



Friday 11th September

The conflict under **Bashar al-Assad's** government has led to horrific acts of torture, violence and human rights abuses. We pray for the government to agree to a nationwide ceasefire that prioritises the protection of civilians and prevents enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions. We also pray for new leaders to be raised up in Syria who will be committed to peace above power.

Saturday 12th September

We pray for protection and blessing for Christian ministries in Syria which provide a wide range of programmes including children's and youth activities, food distribution, discipleship courses, trauma counselling and much more.

Sunday 13th September

Many children are failing to receive an education as a result of the war and Christian children are particularly vulnerable, as many Christian schools have been closed or damaged. Pray for educational opportunities for these children.

Monday 14th September

Please pray for **Radwan Muhammad** who was detained in his home village near Afrin on 30 July by Islamist fighters. Radwan, who is an English teacher and headmaster, had resisted demands to hand over his school to be used as an Islamic school. He has now been accused of apostasy.

PRAY FOR TURKEY

Tuesday 15th September

Apart from Israel, Turkey has more Biblical sites than any other country. Two-thirds of the New Testament was written either to or from modern-day Turkey. A century ago, Christians made up 20% of Turkey's population, but now the figure is just 0.2%. We pray for hope and future for the Christians living in Turkey.

Wednesday 16th September

We pray for blessing and growth of the Turkish Protestant community, which is made up of over 170 fellowships, the majority of which are found in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir.

Thursday 17th September

We pray for steadfastness for Turkish Christians from Muslim backgrounds who often face pressure as leaving Islam is seen as a betrayal and a source of shame to their family.



Friday 18th September

Today we pray for protection and courage for those from ethnic minorities, such as Greek Orthodox, Armenian and Syriac Christians, who experience discrimination in the workplace.

Saturday 19th September

Under the current regime of **President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**, secularism is being eroded and the country is experiencing a more pronounced Islamic influence. We pray for a change of heart for the Turkish president.

Sunday 20th September

More than fifty expatriate Protestant Christian workers have been denied residence visas or re-entry permits in the past 18 months. We pray for favour and guidance for these missionaries and their families, especially for those who are married to Turkish citizens and have children with them.

Monday 21st September

One example is the **Subasigüller** family, with three young children - American mother **Joy Anna Crow** was told in July that she has to leave the country. Her Turkish husband **Lütfü** is a Protestant pastor in Ankara. We pray for a successful challenge of the decision in court and for an outpouring of peace over them all.

Tuesday 22nd September

We thank God for the work of **SAT-7 TÜRK**, the first and only Christian channel to be allowed to broadcast on Türksat, which is available to 50 million people in Turkey and beyond. We pray for provision and protection for its wonderful work.