

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Sunday 24th October

Pakistani pastor **Zafar Bhatti** has been in prison since 2012 serving a life sentence for blasphemy. He suffered a heart attack in prison in September. We pray for good medical care and that Zafar would be released soon.

Monday 25th October

Nabeel Masih (pictured) is a 20-year-old Pakistani Christian who has been in prison since 2016, serving a 10-year sentence for blasphemy. We pray for protection over Nabeel's body and mind and that his appeal to the Supreme Court would be successful.



Tuesday 26th October

We pray for justice and freedom for Orthodox priest and psychiatrist **Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus**, who has been detained in Eritrea since 2004.

Wednesday 27th October

Pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. Lord, would you work a miracle that this captive would be set free!

Thursday 28th October

Evangelist and youth leader **Mussie Ezaz** has been behind bars in Eritrea since 2008. We pray for perseverance and peace for Mussie for every day he remains in prison.

Friday 29th October

Nigerian school girl **Leah Sharibu** has been held captive by terrorists since 2018. We pray for blessing and protection for her and her baby boy.

Saturday 30th October

Chinese pastor **Zhang Shaojie** has been in prison since 2013 and is serving a 12-year sentence. We pray for hope and encouragement for Pastor Zhang even though his family is not allowed to visit him due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Sunday 31st October

Qin Defu has been in prison in China since 2018 and received a four-year sentence in 2019. We pray for protection and strength for him in prison and that his wife **Xiao Hongliu** would be allowed to have contact with him again soon.



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

October 2020

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Thursday 1st October

Praise God that several long term prisoners were released from prison in Eritrea last month! We pray for hope, comfort and support for them as they adapt to life outside of prison after so many years in an institution.

Friday 2nd October

Asif Pervaiz, a Christian father of four, was sentenced to death under Pakistan's blasphemy laws in September. He has been in prison since 2013. We pray for a successful appeal at the High Court and for blessing for **Asif** and his courageous lawyer **Saiful Malook**.

Saturday 3rd October

Pray for Church in Chains staff as they prepare resources, including a video, to be used by churches across Ireland for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (Sunday 15 November).

Sunday 4th October

In August, 14-year-old Christian girl **Maira Shahbaz** from Pakistan managed to escape from the home of the man who had kidnapped her in April and is now in hiding with her family. Please continue to pray for Maria to stay safe and recover from her horrific ordeal.

Monday 5th October

We thank God for our annual conference which was held online last month and for the many supporters who joined us. We pray that the conference video would be viewed widely and help to give a voice to the persecuted church.

Tuesday 6th October

On 14 September, one month after his release from prison, **Mohammadreza Omidi** had to go into internal exile more than 1,000 km from his home in northern Iran. We pray for courage and provision for him, his wife and his daughters.

Wednesday 7th October

Pray for contacts with the Human Rights Unit at the Department of Foreign Affairs that they will result in Ireland taking a more active role, at EU and UN level, in supporting persecuted Christians.

—————Thank you for praying for your persecuted church family!—————



CHURCH IN CHAINS

PO Box 10447, Glengearry, Co. Dublin, Ireland; CHY 15443

T 01-282 5393 E info@churchinchains.ie W www.churchinchains.ie

PRAY FOR MOROCCO

Thursday 8th October

Christianity has been practised in Morocco since the days of the Roman Empire in the fourth century. Praise God that the kingdom is home to a sizeable Christian community (est. 30,000, majority expatriate) that continues to grow!

Friday 9th October

We pray for protection and peace over house churches in Morocco, who are under close surveillance by authorities monitoring their activities.

Saturday 10th October

Today we pray for Christians who have difficulty finding a church to attend, that that the Lord would refresh their souls and that they would not be discouraged or lose their commitment to God.

Sunday 11th October

We thank God that **King Mohammed VI of Morocco** supported the 2016 Marrakesh Declaration that defends the rights of religious minorities in predominantly Muslim countries. We pray that he would start practically supporting Christians' rights by allowing the construction of church buildings and distribution of Christian literature.

Monday 12th October

Converts to Christianity in Morocco can be punished by the law by losing inheritance rights and custody of children and denial of marriage rights. We pray for protection of Christians from a Muslim background against injustice.

Tuesday 13th October

We thank God for **Jawad Elhamidy** who is the president of the Moroccan Association of Rights and Religious Liberties. We pray that the Lord would keep him safe as he speaks out about Christian persecution in the country.

Wednesday 14th October

We pray for courage and wisdom for Moroccan Christians regarding talking to others about their faith as they risk criminal prosecution and arrest.

Thursday 15th October

About 35 million people live in Morocco, but there are very few printed Bibles available. Christians can access Scripture on SD cards, which they can use on their mobile phones and tablets. We pray that every Moroccan who wants to read the Bible can find a way to do so in safety.



PRAY FOR UZBEKISTAN

Friday 16th October

Uzbekistan has one of the harshest dictatorships in Central Asia. Praise God that despite this, the church is experiencing unprecedented growth, with several thousand people becoming Christians – many in the western city of Nukus.

Saturday 17th October

President **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** seems to be leading the country into a time of greater freedom. Restrictions on Christians have eased. Pray that the Uzbek government would also stop detaining and fining Christians.

Sunday 18th October

We thank God that denominational leaders report there is growing unity among the churches. We pray for blessing and protection for these leaders as they focus on equipping and training a new generation of Christian leaders to serve the church.

Monday 19th October

Russian Orthodox churches experience the least persecution from the government. But since late 2019 several churches of other denominations have also been able to register. We pray that many more will be able to.

Tuesday 20th October

Uzbeks who leave Islam for Christianity are seen as cultural or religious traitors and often experience hostility from family and community, including ostracism or beatings. We pray that they may find a new family in the church.

Thursday 21st October

Baptist **Pastor Stanislav Kim** from Urgench has been threatened with eviction from his home by officials over holding church services there. We pray for perseverance for him and protection over his congregation.

Friday 22nd October

Uzbek Bibles are difficult to obtain and some Christians don't even want a copy because of the risk involved in owning one. We pray for courage and protection against arrests and interrogations for all Bible readers and that the word of God would sustain and encourage them.

Saturday 23rd October

We pray for ministries in Uzbekistan that distribute Christian literature and provide pastors and evangelists with transport for use in ministry work.

