

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Thursday 24th December

Today we remember Nigerian school girl **Leah Sharibu**, who has been held captive by terrorists since early 2018. We pray for hope, comfort and protection for her and her baby boy.

Friday 25th December

Saheb Fadie (pictured) is serving a six-year prison sentence in Iran since 2018. He was lashed in November for drinking Communion wine. We pray for healing and peace for him this Christmas Day.



Friday 26th December

Pakistani Christian **Imran Ghafur Masih** has been serving a life sentence since 2009. We pray that the Lord would be his rock, his fortress and his deliverer.

Saturday 27th December

South Korean missionary **Kim Jong Uk** has been serving a life sentence in a labour camp in North Korea since 2013. We pray that God would protect him and give him strength and good health.

Sunday 28th December

Aklilu Desbele has been in prison in Eritrea since 2008. We pray that the Lord would help him to stay strong and we pray for his release from prison.

Monday 29th December

Eritrean pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** was arrested in 2004 and has remained in prison since then. We pray for peace and hope for Meron.

Tuesday 30th December

Pastor Bao Guohua and his wife **Xing Wenxiang** have been in prison in China since 2015, serving sentences of fourteen and twelve years. We ask the Lord to give them endurance, patience and strength and pray for an early release.

Wednesday 31st December

Chinese **Pastor John Cao** is serving a seven-year-sentence since 2017. We pray that he continues to experience God in his prison cell and receives great comfort from reading His Word.

————— Thank you for praying with us this year! —————



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Church in Chains Prayer Diary

December 2020



The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us"). Matthew 1:23

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Tuesday 1st December

In October Christian convert **Mohammadreza Omidi** was summoned from internal exile in Iran and given eighty lashes for taking Communion wine. We pray for healing for his body, spirit and mind.

Wednesday 2nd December

Last month **Elder Li Yingqiang** of Early Rain Covenant Church in China was informed that his landlord was rescinding his lease, meaning that he and his wife **Zhang Xinyue** and their two children must move out of their apartment. We pray for protection, provision and peace for them all.

Thursday 3rd December

We pray that more people join our online prayer meeting, that is held on the first Friday of every month, to join together in lifting up the persecuted church. Please email the office if you would like the log-in information.

Friday 4th December

13-year-old Christian girl **Arzoo Raja** was rescued from her kidnapper in Pakistan in early November. We pray that Arzoo, who is currently staying in a women's refuge, will be reunited with her family. We also pray for comfort and healing from the trauma she suffered during the past two months.

Saturday 5th December

Pastor Polycarp Zongo from Jos, in Nigeria's Middle Belt, was kidnapped by militants of Islamic State West Africa Province in October. We pray that he would be released soon and reunited with his wife and 9-year-old daughter.

Sunday 6th December

Thank God that throughout this challenging year He has blessed the work of Church in Chains, and with the substantial help of our faithful supporters, we were able to send more funds overseas than ever before.

Monday 7th December

Married couple **Shaguffa Kausar** and **Shafqat Emmanuel** has been in prison in Pakistan since 2013. We pray that their appeal hearing, which has been set for 16 December, will be heard and successful. We pray also for protection for their lawyer **Saif-ul-Malook** and the presiding judge.

PRAY FOR ALGERIA

Tuesday 8th December

Thank God that while radical Islamic influences are growing in Algeria, the number of Christians is growing and there is a real openness to the Christian faith. Please pray for protection and courage for those who are sharing the Gospel.

Wednesday 9th December

The Algerian government has continued its campaign of closing Protestant churches. Please pray that all churches, both those closed as part of the this campaign and those closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, will be permitted to reopen soon.



Thursday 10th December

Praise God for the many new ways to spread the Gospel in Algeria: radio, television and the internet are all used for evangelism and training. Pray for all those who connect with these programmes and posts and that many will turn into followers of Jesus or be strengthened in their faith.

Friday 11th December

We pray that **President Abdelmadjid Tebboune** will be convicted to end the campaign against Christians in Algeria and allow more freedom and tolerance toward them.

Saturday 12th December

Islamic law means that converts from Islam to Christianity can become the victims of dismissals and forced divorces. We pray for those who have lost their job, their partner and even their children because of this.

Sunday 13th December

We pray in particular for our sisters in Algeria: some are beaten and persecuted by their parents after they convert. Pray that these women will get the support they need, especially those who end up in house-confinement by their families.

Monday 14th December

Churches in Algeria are mainly made up of first-generation Christians. Pray that local churches will be strengthened and rooted in the Bible and thank God for those churches that invest in discipleship training.

Tuesday 15th December

Thank God for the resilience and courage of Christian leaders, such as **Salah Challah**, President of the Protestant Church of Algeria, who said that the authorities “*can seal our churches but not our hearts*”. We pray for an end to the intimidation and humiliation of Christian leaders.

PRAY FOR SAUDI ARABIA

Wednesday 16th December

Religious freedom does not exist in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, and no church buildings are permitted. Pray that the one million plus expatriate Christian workers (from India, the Philippines and Africa) may be able to gather for worship privately without interference.

Thursday 17th December

Pray for leaders of expatriate churches –that they will be able to access all the resources needed to lead their churches well and may have wisdom in all they do.

Friday 18th December

King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud (84) is the head of state but his son **Mohammed Bin Salman** (known as MBS) who is Crown Prince is the effective leader of the country. Pray that promises that he made in 2017 to increase religious freedom will be acted upon.



Saturday 19th December

A tiny church of Muslim-background believers exists mainly online. Pray for protection for every Saudi Christian as, if discovered, they are likely to be disowned by family and are at great risk of being killed by relatives.

Sunday 20th December

It is illegal to possess a Bible in Saudi Arabia, and the risk of being caught with one deters most Christians from trying to obtain a printed copy. Pray that they will be able to safely and easily access an online Bible.

Monday 21st December

Pray for those who are involved in translating the Bible into various dialects spoken in the country – that the Lord will protect them and guide them in their work and that the finished products will be accessed by many Saudis.

Tuesday 22nd December

Pray for Christian broadcaster **SAT-7 Arabic**. Ask God that the programmes focusing on many cultural issues would be well received and impact the lives of all who view them (both Christian and Muslim alike).

Wednesday 23rd December

The Saudi government has begun to promote international tourism for the first time. Pray that Christians from overseas may be able to make wise use of the new opportunities that may arise in coming days.