

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Saturday 23rd January

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**.

Sunday 24th January

Asif Pervaiz (pictured) has been in prison in Pakistan since 2013 and on death row since 2020. We pray for a successful appeal hearing and his freedom.



Monday 25th January

Husband and wife **Shafqat Emmanuel** and **Shagufta Kausar** have been in prison in Pakistan since 2013. We pray for hope and strength as well as good health for them both.

Tuesday 26th January

Chinese **Pastor Zhang Shaojie** has been serving a 12-year sentence since 2013. We pray that the Lord's grace would sustain him.

Wednesday 27th January

Pastor Wang Yi in China has been detained since 2018, serving a 9-year prison sentence. We pray for protection over his body, mind and spirit in prison.

Thursday 28th January

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 soon.

Friday 29th January

Mussie Eyob is an Eritrean Christian who has been in prison since 2011. We pray for perseverance for him and that he would not waver in his faith.

Saturday 30th January

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

Sunday January 31st January

Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteab is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and physician who has been in prison since 2004. We know that he has health issues, so we pray for good health and that Dr Tekleab can draw strength from the Lord.



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

January 2021

**The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

Psalm 34:14

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Friday 1st January

Praise God that **Imran Ghafur Masih** can begin this New Year in freedom! We are so delighted about his release in mid-December after eleven years in prison in Pakistan. We pray that God would keep him and his family safe from extremists.

Saturday 2nd January

We pray that the Lord would lead the staff and trustees of Church in Chains this year and guide them in how to progress the work according to His will.

Sunday 3rd January

We pray for healing for 12-year-old **Farah Shaheen** in Pakistan, who was rescued in December from a middle-aged man who had abducted her, forcibly converted her to Islam and married her against her will in June.

Monday 4th January

We pray for wisdom, protection and guidance for **Sam Khosravi** and **Maryam Falahi** as they seek to care for their two-year-old adopted daughter **Lydia**. An Iranian court has ordered that Lydia be taken from them but that ruling has not yet been enforced.

Tuesday 5th January

Christians in Nigeria's Middle Belt are facing an uncertain and daunting year due to relentless extremist attacks. We pray for protection, hope, strength and perseverance for them and for healing and comfort for those who were injured or lost loved ones in 2020.

Wednesday 6th January

The directors of our partners Persecution Relief and China Aid, **Shibu Thomas** and **Bob Fu**, have both recently experienced severe opposition due to their work. We pray for blessing and protection over them and their families this year.

Thursday 7th January

We pray for good collaboration with the Human Rights Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2021 and that our observations and comments would be taken on board and Ireland would start speaking out about the persecuted church.

Thank you for praying with us!



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PRAY FOR ERITREA

Friday 8th January

Eritrea is home to over 100,000 evangelical Christians who are often subjected to severe persecution, torture and imprisonment for their faith. Strict Covid-19 lockdown orders have pushed many prisoners of faith and their families to the edge of survival. God, please have mercy on our Eritrean brother and sisters!

Saturday 9th January

The government still sees these evangelical Christians as spies who want to wreak havoc in the country. Pray that the Lord will continue to build His church despite these difficult circumstances and protect His children from arrest.

Sunday 10th January

Today we pray for all the courageous church leaders in Eritrea who are prepared to stand up and be counted whatever the cost. We pray that the Lord would encourage them, answer their prayers and bless them in their work and their personal lives.

Monday 11th January

We pray that the Lord would change President **Isaias Afewerki's** heart so that he would stop mistreating his fellow countrymen and govern with justice.

Tuesday 12th January

There are hundreds of long-term Christian prisoners in Eritrea whose names we don't know. Some of them have been in prison for over 16 years. We pray for protection from ill treatment for them and for a sense that they are loved and not forgotten. We pray especially for those who are in solitary confinement that the Lord would minister to them through His Holy Spirit and His presence in their prison cells would be real.

Wednesday 13th January

We pray for blessing and protection for **Rev Dr Berhane Asmelash** in his work with Release Eritrea this year. Pray also for wisdom for Berhane and his colleagues as they seek to help the families of Christian prisoners inside Eritrea and to support ex-prisoners who have fled the country.

Thursday 14th January

We pray for protection for Eritrean Christian refugees who have been caught up in the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, where many of them have been living in refugee camps. Pray that they will be able to live in peace and safety and that their needs will be met.



PRAY FOR SRI LANKA

Friday 15th January

On Easter Sunday 2019, Sri Lanka saw one of the world's largest coordinated terrorist attacks since 9/11, when extremists carried out eight suicide bombings at targets that included three churches, claiming almost 300 lives and injuring 500, most of them Christians. We pray for comfort and hope for the survivors of this attack.

Saturday 16th January

We pray for strength and healing from trauma for the members of three bombed churches: St Anthony's Shrine in Colombo, St Sebastian's Catholic Church in Negombo and Zion Evangelical Church in Batticaloa. Lord, please bind up the many broken hearts and encourage the congregations.

Sunday 17th January

Some of those who were seriously injured in the bombings have lost their homes because they have been unable to work or lost their family's breadwinner. We pray for continued physical healing and provision for these families.

Monday 18th January

Typically persecution in Sri Lanka stems from radical Buddhist and Hindu groups that harass and discriminate against converts to Christianity. We pray against hatred, division and violence among religious groups.

Tuesday 19th January

Christians in Sri Lanka are also discriminated against in administrative and legal forms. Many Christians and churches are unaware of their legal rights and unprepared financially to face charges in courts. Consequently, if not jailed, they end up with criminal records. We pray against this type of persecution.

Wednesday 20th January

Today we pray that **President Gotabaya Rajapaksa** and **Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa** would not be successful in introducing anti-conversion laws.

Thursday 21st January

Every year pastors are beaten, threatened, arrested and bullied by the authorities. Pray for their protection from violence and verbal assault, and wisdom when responding to questions and accusations.

Friday 22nd January

We pray in particular for a pastor in Bakamuna (he cannot be named for security reasons) who has been forced to close his ministry after being detained by police and threatened by Buddhist monks.

