

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Saturday 24th July

Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteab is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and physician who has been held in prison incommunicado since 2004. We pray that his Heavenly Father would encourage, equip and empower him daily to keep building the Kingdom of Heaven in prison.

Sunday 25th July

Pastor Kidane Weldou (pictured) disappeared from the streets of the Eritrean capital Asmara in 2005. He is being held in a high-security prison. Today we pray for his release and blessing of his family.



Monday 26th July

Patriarch Antonios (93) of the Eritrean Orthodox church has been under house arrest since 2006. We pray that the joy of the Lord would be his strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

Tuesday 27th July

Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh is an Iranian Christian who has been behind bars since 2016. We thank God that he recovered from COVID-19 and pray that he continues to be in good health and spirits.

Wednesday 28th July

Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani is serving a six-year sentence, also in Evin Prison, since 2018. We pray for the Lord to keep and protect him in this dark place and also to provide for and bless his wife Fatemeh and their teenage sons.

Thursday 29th July

South Korean missionary **Kim Jong Uk** has been in a labour camp in North Korea since 2013 and is serving a life sentence. We pray for God to give him peace which passes understanding and restore and fortify his spirit.

Friday 30th July

South Korean **Pastor Kim Kuk-gi** has been serving a life sentence in a labour camp in North Korea since 2014. We pray that God would keep him from harm.

Saturday 31st July

Jang Moon Seok is serving a fifteen-year prison sentence in North Korea since 2014. We ask God to strengthen and sustain him through all his challenges.

—————Thank you for praying for the persecuted every day!—————



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

July 2021

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory.” Ephesians 3:20-21

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Thursday 1st July

Praise God for a double blessing in Nigeria: **Pastor Polycarp Zongo** was freed from an eight-month captivity and his wife **Kaneng** gave birth to a baby boy hours after his release! Pray for blessing and healing for Polycarp and Kaneng.

Friday 2nd July

We pray for guidance and inspiration for Church in Chains staff as they start preparing for the annual conference, which will be held online again this year on Saturday 11 September.

Saturday 3rd July

Pastor Alok Rajhans was killed in an attack on his church in Odisha state (India) in May. Please pray for comfort and strength for his widow **Subhashini**, his adult son **Ujjwal Prakash** and everyone in the church he has left behind.

Sunday 4th July

Pakistani Christian prisoner **Zafar Bhatti** needs cataract surgery and his wife **Nawab Bibi** needs physiotherapy to treat injuries sustained in a recent fall. Please pray for Zafar and Nawab who have suffered so much in the last nine years.

Monday 5th July

Husband and wife **Shafqat Emmanuel** and **Shaguffa Kausar** were acquitted of blasphemy charges by the Pakistan High Court in June. Islamist extremists have publicly called for them to be beheaded. Please pray for their release and safety and also for protection for their lawyer **Saiful Malook**.

Tuesday 6th July

Church in Chains' board of directors will meet tonight to discuss good governance of our charity and to make financial decisions. Please pray for wisdom and unity for everyone present at this meeting.

Wednesday 7th July

Please pray for healing for Chinese **Pastor Yang Hua** who was brutally beaten in May after local Communist Party police learned that he planned to make a visit next day to Christian friends in a different province.



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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PRAY FOR IRAN

Thursday 8th July

Persecution has remained severe in Iran and COVID-19 has hit the country hard. Restrictions have made communication between Christians more difficult, and they are increasingly exploring online fellowship and discipleship. Lord, please give the church in Iran strength and sustenance at this difficult time.

Friday 9th July

In June **Chief Justice Ebrahim Raisi** won the presidential election. We pray that this man, who is known as a hardliner, would manage to take decisive steps to control the spread of COVID-19 and be truly wise and just in all his political decisions.



Saturday 10th July

House churches are constantly raided, and their leaders and members are arrested and given long prison sentences. We pray that Iranian Christians would withstand these pressures and for an end to arrests.

Sunday 11th July

Some Christian prisoners were released from prison in order to combat the spread of COVID-19 in packed jails. However, many Christians remain in prison where conditions are very poor, the pandemic having made the situation worse. Today we pray for hope, safety and release for all Iranian Christian prisoners.

Monday 12th July

Please pray for **Sara Ahmadi** and her husband **Homayoun Zhavah** (who has advanced Parkinson's disease). On 15 June they presented themselves at Evin Prison to begin prison sentences (for belonging to a house church), only to be told that they need not report for another thirty days.

Tuesday 13th July

We thank God for our partner **Elam Ministries** working to strengthen the church in the Iran region. We pray for protection and provision for their staff as they share the Gospel, train leaders and equip churches with Christian literature.

Wednesday 14th July

SAT-7 PARS is a satellite TV channel which broadcasts to millions of Persian speakers in Iran. We praise God for this ministry, which has become all the more important during the pandemic, in encouraging and connecting Christians.

Thursday 15th July

We continue to pray that **Sam, Maryam** and their little adopted daughter **Lydia** would be able stay together despite a court deeming them unsuitable parents due to their faith. We also pray for guidance and protection for this family.

PRAY FOR TURKMENISTAN

Friday 16th July

The government in Turkmenistan is hostile to any independent Christian activity and the police target evangelicals. They face arrest, interrogation, heavy fines, torture and occasionally imprisonment, and religious literature is confiscated. We pray for our Turkmen brothers and sisters to experience God's presence today.

Saturday 17th July

Almost all activities of independent churches in Turkmenistan take place underground. Please pray for safety, hope and courage for church leaders and the members of their congregations.

Sunday 18th July

Please pray that God would be at work in the hearts of Turkmenistan's government leaders so that they would work towards combatting the widespread corruption in the country and end religious persecution.



Monday 19th July

While **President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov** claims Turkmenistan has zero COVID-19 cases, church leaders have contacted a Christian NGO asking for prayer as the COVID-19 situation in the country was getting worse. We pray for provision and care for Turkmen Christians who are suffering during the pandemic.

Tuesday 20th July

At the time of independence in 1991 there were only a few ethnic Turkmen Christians, but the number has increased to about 1,000. We thank God for every person who has become a Christian despite pressure to return to Islam.

Wednesday 21st July

In the past, police have raided summer camps and detained teenagers for hours without food or water. We pray for protection of all upcoming Christian summer activities and a blessing for the next generation of Turkmen Christians.

Thursday 22nd July

Pastors, church leaders and elders are under constant surveillance by the secret services. We pray that they would experience the Lord's comfort, peace and even joy in the midst of constant monitoring.

Friday 23rd July

We pray that God would pour out His mercy and grace on police officers and secret service members who are infiltrating churches and monitoring Christians. We ask that they would encounter Jesus during church services and find faith rather than fighting it.