

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September

We pray for **Pastor Wang Yi** who is being kept in solitary confinement in China. The authorities are reported to be treating him badly: withholding medical treatment and feeding him mouldy rice. Nobody has been allowed to visit him since he was jailed in 2018. Pray also for his wife Jiang Rong and their children.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September

In August Iranian Christian convert **Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh** (pictured) celebrated his 60th birthday. He has been in prison since 2018, serving a 10-year-sentence. We pray for hope and strength for him and that he would be released early on parole.



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September

Chinese **Pastor Zhang Shaojie** has been in prison since 2013. We pray that the Lord would sustain and strengthen him as he serves his 12-year sentence.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September

**Ashfaq Masih** has been in prison in Pakistan since 2017, accused of blasphemy. He is still awaiting trial; several court hearings have been cancelled. We pray for courage and hope for him and that he would be found innocent.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September

**Asif Pervaiz** has been in prison in Pakistan since 2013 and on death row since 2020. We pray that he would be transferred back to Lahore District Jail from Faisalabad Jail, which is over 120 km away from his family and where nobody except his wife can visit. Asif feels lonely and isolated and we pray for comfort and courage for him as well as for a successful appeal hearing soon.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September

**Mussie Ezaz** is an Eritrean evangelist and youth leader who has been in prison since 2008. We pray for perseverance for him and also for his family and that they would be strengthened in their faith.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September

**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.

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



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# Church in Chains Prayer Diary

## September 2021

*"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God." Psalm 42:5*

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

In the summer 22,000 Christians were internally displaced due to attacks in Nigeria's Plateau state. Church in Chains was able to give an emergency grant and also forward gifts from individual supporters to the **Stefanos Foundation**, which organised immediate distributions of aid. We pray for courage and hope for the thousands of families as they start again and recover from the trauma.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Praise God that **Ruth Ngladar Pagu**, one of the Chibok girls abducted by Boko Haram, has escaped seven years after she was kidnapped. Pray for her and her two young children as they start a rehabilitation and reintegration programme.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

We are thankful for our online prayer group which is meeting again tonight after the summer break. We pray that our meeting will inspire the attendees to share about the persecuted church in their everyday lives and lead to more prayer.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September

We continue to pray for Iranian Christians **Sam Khosravi** and **Maryam Falahi** and their two-year-old adopted daughter **Lydia**. Pray that the Lord would protect the family in every situation and enable them to build a future together.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Pray for God's protection on Christians in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover of the country. The vast majority of Afghan Christians are converts from Islam or children of converts and are seen as apostates and traitors to their families.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Pray that Afghan Christians living under great threat will know the peace of Jesus, Prince of Peace, ruling in their hearts and that He will give them great wisdom as they live their lives under Taliban rule.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

**Pastor Girmay Araya** and **Pastor Samuel Okbamichael** were arrested recently in nighttime raids on their homes in Asmara, capital of Eritrea. We pray that the two semi-retired pastors in their 70s would be released soon.

## PRAY FOR NORTH KOREA

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September

North Korea closed its borders completely in early 2020 in a bid to keep Covid-19 out of the country. This resulted in a reduction of over 90% in imports from China, its main trading partner, despite impending food shortages. The government has consistently maintained that it has recorded no Covid-19 infections and has refused offers of vaccines from South Korea, China and Russia. We pray for provision and protection for all North Koreans.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Most North Korean Christians have to keep their faith entirely hidden, even from their spouses and their children. We pray for trust and comfort in Christian families and against loneliness and isolation.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September

We pray for **Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un**, who has been the head of state since 2011. We pray that Jesus would reveal Himself to him in his dreams and bring about a wonderful change in this man's life.



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September

We are grateful that **Rev Eric Foley** from Voice of the Martyrs Korea will speak to us today at our annual conference (on Zoom) to share about his work with VOM Korea. We pray for blessing and guidance for him and his wife **Dr Hyun Sook Foley** as they continue to serve the persecuted church in North Korea.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Pray that each of North Korea's estimated 30,000 Christian prisoners will know God's presence with them every day as they live and work, and pray also for an end to the cruel, unjust labour camp system.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Despite the risks, there are stories of Christians sharing the Gospel with others, even in prison and labour camps. Pray that North Korean believers will be able to shine brightly in some of the darkest places on earth.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Today we lift up the underground church in North Korea. We pray that God will encourage its members, provide for their needs and keep them safe.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September

We hold on to the promise from Romans 8 that even though our North Korean brothers and sisters are experiencing hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger and sword, *nothing* can separate them from the love of Christ. We pray that they would always know that in their hearts.

## PRAY FOR SUDAN

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Since we last featured Sudan in our Prayer Diary (January 2019) our prayers and those of many Sudanese Christians were answered: significant steps towards freedom of religion have been made since President Omar al-Bashir was ousted in April 2019. Praise God for this positive change!

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Christians from a Muslim background no longer face the death penalty, but converts are still attacked, ostracised or otherwise discriminated against if their new faith is discovered. We pray that they would be able to withstand opposition from their families and communities.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Pray for the eleven members of the Sovereignty Council of Sudan (the transitional government due to rule the country until elections next year), including Prime Minister **Abdalla Hamdok**, that they would help build a safer and stable country.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September

In early August, government officials detained a shipment of much-needed Bibles being imported by the Sudan Pentecostal Church and demanded customs fees from which it is exempt under a new law passed in July 2020. Pray that the officials will abide by the law and release the Bibles to the church.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September

We pray for blessing and provision for all organisations in Sudan that provide theological and discipleship training, persecution survival training, trauma care, and community development and income-generating projects.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Today we ask the Lord to equip church leaders to stand strong under pressure. We pray that He would provide opportunities for churches to meet safely and to be encouraged and strengthened on a daily basis.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Pray that Christian women in Sudan would be protected from sexual violence and that they would be able to show the love of Jesus to their communities.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

In July **Botrous Badawi**, a Christian and an advisor to the Minister of Religious Affairs and Endowments, was attacked by masked gunmen south of Khartoum for supporting the return of church properties to Christians. We pray for healing, courage and protection for Botrous.

