

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

CHRISTMAS DAY (Saturday 25th December)

We pray that husband and wife **Bao Guohua** and **Xing Wenxiang**, who have been serving 14 and 12-year prison sentences respectively in China since 2015, would experience the presence of Immanuel with them today.

ST STEPHEN'S DAY (Sunday 26th December)

Pray that many viewing the service being broadcast on RTÉ television today (jointly led by the Methodist Church and Church in Chains) would think about Christians who are persecuted and also about the reality of their own faith.

Monday 27th December

Rev Haile Naizghe (pictured) has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We ask the Lord to keep him well and safe, physically, mentally and spiritually and we pray that he would be released soon.



Tuesday 28th December

Pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray that he would have a strong sense that he is a precious child of God.

Wednesday 29th December

Elder Qin Defu is serving a 4-year prison sentence in China since 2018. His wife and their two young children have not been allowed to see him since his arrest. We pray for comfort for them all as they experience another Christmas apart.

Thursday 30th December

Pakistani **Pastor Zafar Bhatti** has been in jail since 2012 and is serving a life sentence for blasphemy. We continue to pray that his appeal would be heard soon and he would be freed and reunited with his elderly wife Nawab. We also pray about all the various health issues affecting Zafar and Nawab and pray for healing and strength for them both during this difficult time.

Friday 31st December

Saheb Fadaie has been in prison in Iran since 2018 and is serving a 6-year sentence. In September he was given hope he might get parole, which was subsequently denied. We pray for his mental health.

—————Wishing you every blessing for 2022
and thank you for praying with us this year—————



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Church in Chains Prayer Diary



December 2021

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Wednesday 1st December

Five Iranian Christians (**Milad, Amin, Alireza, Habib** and **Sasan**) were summoned to prison in November to begin or resume serving sentences handed down because of their house-church activities. We pray that God bless them and keep them safe and strong in their faith.

Thursday 2nd December

We continue to pray for Iranian Christians **Sam Khosravi** (Sasan's brother) and **Maryam Falahi** and their two-year-old adopted daughter **Lydia** for protection and provision for their family and that they can build a future together.

Friday 3rd December

We will be meeting for our monthly prayer meeting on Zoom tonight. Please pray that many people will remember to join us and that it will go smoothly with regards to the technology involved.

Saturday 4th December

Please pray for our brothers and sisters of Early Rain Covenant Church in China, especially **Shu Qiong** and her son who were both injured when police recently raided their home and small group leader **Dai Zhichao** and his family who have been detained several times and repeatedly locked out of their house.

Sunday 5th December

Today, Church in Chains joins with the Methodist Church to record a service for RTÉ television, focusing on Christians under pressure, which will be broadcast on St. Stephen's Day. Thank God for this opportunity and pray for all who take part.

Monday 6th December

We pray for the safe release of the last four kidnapped Nigerian students from **Bethel Baptist High School** in Kaduna state, who have been in captivity since July. We also pray for peace and strength for their families who fear for their lives.

Tuesday 7th December

Please pray for comfort for the members of **Emmanuel Baptist Church** also in Kaduna state; the church was attacked on 31 October and 66 members of the congregation were taken captive. Two hostages were later killed.

PRAY FOR AFGHANISTAN

Wednesday 8th December

The withdrawal of the remaining US and NATO troops and the Taliban's return to power has shocked the world. Many Christians have consequently left or are trying to leave the country, some heading toward the mountains with the winter coming. We pray for protection for everyone in Afghanistan who follows Jesus.

Thursday 9th December

One in three Afghans is starving due to the economic collapse in the country. We pray for provision and support.

Friday 10th December

We pray that God would be at work in the hearts of **Hibatullah Akhundzada**, Supreme Leader of the Taliban, and the other Islamic extremists in power and change their lives around by encounters with Himself.



Saturday 11th December

We pray for blessing and wisdom for Christians ministering to Afghan refugees, showing them the love of Jesus and welcoming them as the Bible instructs.

Sunday 12th December

Pray that despite their isolation, Christians would be strengthened and encouraged in their faith. Pray they would find safe ways to access God's word and communicate and have fellowship with other believers.

Monday 13th December

We are partnering with **Shai Fund** which has evacuated at-risk Afghani women, girls and Christian converts and resettled them temporarily in host countries before finding longer-term solutions. We pray for protection on their work!

Tuesday 14th December

Shai Fund also assists those still in the country with practical support. We pray for peace and protection for everyone who is currently living in hiding.

Wednesday 15th December

We thank God for ministries like **SAT-7** and all other Christian media ministries broadcasting to Afghanistan. We pray that the various channels become more accessible and continue to be a blessing and a lifeline for Afghan Christians.

Thursday 16th December

We want to hold on to the biblical truth that God - and not the Taliban - is in charge of Afghanistan. We pray that His kingdom would come in this country in ways we can't even imagine.

PRAY FOR MEXICO

Friday 17th December

Evangelical Christians in the southern state of **Chiapas** have experienced sectarian violence for decades. Power cuts, illegal detentions, attacks, and the burning of houses are often justified by local authorities because these families refuse to contribute financially to local festivals (which include excessive drinking of alcohol). We pray for protection, hope and strength for these Christians.

Saturday 18th December

We pray in particular for **Pastor Alejandro Jiménez Jiménez** and his sons whose five houses were burnt down by local authorities and religious traditionalists of the municipality of Mitzitón (Chiapas) in June.



Sunday 19th December

The Catholic church is the majority church (78%) in Mexico but there is a growing Protestant population (over 10%). We pray for religious tolerance throughout the whole country. Ask God to frustrate the plans and change the hearts of those who seek to sow hatred, division, violence and intolerance.

Monday 20th December

Pray for two families, who belong to the First Baptist Church in La Mesa Limantitla village in **Hidalgo** state who have been threatened with being cut off from essential services or expelled from the village if they continue to hold worship services. Ask God to give them courage and wisdom in this difficult situation.

Tuesday 21st December

Pray for Christian leaders who risk so much to serve their church communities in places where they are the targets of organised criminals. Ask God to spare them from violence and to care for them as they deal with the violence and trauma.

Wednesday 22nd December

The government of Mexico rarely intervenes in cases of discrimination or violence against religion or belief communities. Ask God to give **President Andrés Manuel López Obrador** integrity and determination to end the culture of impunity.

Thursday 23rd December

Pray for indigenous Christians who convert out of their community's traditionalist belief system, that they would be safe and be a light in the middle of darkness.

Friday 24th December

We pray for members of the many criminal networks who persecute Christians because they perceive them as threats to their group's interests. Lord, please change their hearts, minds and lives beyond recognition!