

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January

**Pastor Wang Yi** is serving a 9-year sentence in China since 2018. Thank God that his wife Jiang Rong recently visited him for the first time and that he is healthy. We pray for continued physical and mental health and strength.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

**Qin Defu** (pictured) is serving a 4-year sentence since 2018 in China. We pray for protection and strength for him in prison and comfort and hope for his wife and two young children.



Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January

Praise God that Chinese **Pastor Zhang Shaojie** feels peace about his imprisonment (since 2013). We pray that he would be released early.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January

**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 that a new hearing date would be set and he would be acquitted.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January

**Asif Pervaiz** has been in prison in Pakistan since 2013 and on death row since 2020. We pray that Asif would be moved back to Lahore District Jail, so he would be closer to his family and can have more regular visitors.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January

**Mussie Ezaz** is an Eritrean youth leader who has been in prison since 2008. We pray for strength and courage for him and also for his wife and three sons.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January

**Pastor Kidane Weldou** has been behind bars in Eritrea since 2005. We pray for perseverance and hope for him and also for his wife and daughters.

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January

**Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus** is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and psychiatrist who has been in prison since 2004. He is a widower with a son he has not seen since his imprisonment. We pray that Futsum would be released soon and be filled with hope until the day comes.

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



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# Church in Chains Prayer Diary

## January 2022

*“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1*

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January

Praise God for a new year in which we can partner with Him in serving the persecuted church. Please pray for strength, health, guidance and wisdom for our staff and trustees to continue the work according to His will.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Pakistani nurses **Mariam Lal** and **Nawish Arooj** were arrested in April, accused of “defiling the Quran”, and granted bail in September. We pray for hope and a future for Mariam, a single mum to a teenage daughter, and Nawish, who was engaged to be married at the time of her arrest, who are living in hiding now.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

We pray for recovery for the head boy of Bethel Baptist High School in Kaduna state, Nigeria, released from captivity because of illness in late November. Pray also that the three remaining students being held hostage will be released soon.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January

We continue to pray for Iranian Christian family **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.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Please pray for five Iranian Christian converts **Milad Gourdazi**, **Amin Khaki**, **Alireza Nourmohammadi**, **Habib Heydari** and **Sasan Khosravi** who were summoned to prison in Iran in November to begin or resume serving sentences handed down because of their house-church activities.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Please pray for our partner **Shai Fund** as it helps Afghan Christians currently staying in the Gulf states after being evacuated from Afghanistan. Pray that they will be able to reach a country where they can freely practise their faith.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Today is Coptic Christmas Day – please pray for special protection for Christians in Egypt meeting together, as churches are often attacked at Christmas.

## PRAY FOR EGYPT

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January

The Christian community in Egypt is the largest in the Middle East. We thank God for this community and pray that he would continue to fill our brothers and sisters with forgiveness and love as they face severe persecution in their daily lives.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Fewer incidents of violence against Christians were reported in the past year, however there has been an increase in opposition in family, community and church life. We pray that God would help Christians in Egypt to be brightly shining lights in their communities.



Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Most incidents and mob attacks against Christians take place in Upper Egypt (in the south of the country). We pray for an end to all attacks against Christians, and that local police would act to bring perpetrators to justice and protect innocent Christians.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> January

**President al-Sisi** has publicly expressed his commitment to protecting Christians, but the lack of serious law enforcement, especially in Upper Egypt, leaves Christians vulnerable to attack. We pray that the government would act to ensure that Christians can practise their faith freely.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January

The kidnapping of young Christian women for ransom and enforced marriage to Muslims is a continuing problem for the Egyptian church. Pray for an end to this.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January

We pray in particular for 17-year-old Copt **Mirna Barsoum Aziz** who was missing for a week in December after she disappeared on her way to a lesson. We thank God that she was found and returned to her family.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January

We thank God for the testimony of **Maged Shafik** who led a life of darkness before turning to the Lord. He is now a well-known worship leader and one of the hymn singers on the weekly SAT-7 praise programme. His and our prayer is that the Lord will touch the hearts of SAT-7 viewers through these broadcasts.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January

We thank God that Coptic shopkeeper **Ramsis Boulos Hermina's** killers were recently sentenced to life in prison. We pray for healing and comfort for Ramsis' family, especially his brother Adel, who was injured in the same attack.

## PRAY FOR IRAQ

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January

An uncertain peace had come to Iraq after years of violence, but 2020 saw recurrent violent protests and instability. Hundreds of Christians from the Nineveh Plains who fled the region in 2014 were forced to flee again. We pray for a breakthrough in Iraq and an end to the waves of violence.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January

There are only around 175,000 Christians left in Iraq. Pray for strength and protection for our Iraqi brothers and sisters and pray for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Pray that the Lord would turn **President Barham Salih's** heart to Him and give him wisdom to lead the country with righteousness and mercy. We also pray for political efforts to bring lasting peace and stability to the region.



Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January

We want to pray for protection over the Evangelical community which is small, with some members coming from Muslim backgrounds. We pray that converts can withstand the strong family and societal pressure against them and be safe from violence from family members.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Pray for churches and Christian leaders who remain in Iraq and are working hard to encourage and build up their congregations.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Our partner **Steadfast Global** and other NGOs are feeling the pinch of Covid and the accompanying travel restrictions which have thwarted much of their humanitarian activities. Pray that Bible distribution, various forms of training, emergency and crisis relief, micro-loans and livelihood projects for long-term self-reliance can continue despite the added layer of complications.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Many Iraqi Christians are still recovering from the brutal reign of Islamic State. Pray for Christian groups seeking to address the trauma of victims.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Many Christian families will have just celebrated their 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas as IDPs. Please pray for hope and a future for Christian, Yazidi and other minority groups who remain displaced in Iraq.