

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Sunday 24th July

Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and psychiatrist who has been in prison since 2004. We pray for hope and a future for Futsum.



Monday 25th July

Gebremedhin Gebregioris (pictured) is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and expert theologian who has been in prison since 2004. Please pray for comfort for him – his wife **Tsgeweyni Mekonnen Haile** died in early June.

Tuesday 26th July

Pastor Wang Yi of Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC) in China is serving a nine-year prison sentence since 2018. We pray for his mental, physical and spiritual health and that of his wife and children.

Wednesday 27th July

Elder Qin Defu, also of ERCC, has been serving a four-year sentence since 2018. We pray for strength and hope for him and his young family. We also pray that they would be allowed to visit him.

Thursday 28th July

Uighur Christian **Alimujiang Yimiti** has been in prison since 2008 and is serving a 15-year sentence. We ask the Lord to bless this brother and his family.

Friday 29th July

Bookseller **Chen Yu** has been in prison in China since September 2019. In September 2020 he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. We pray for an outpouring of hope and comfort through the Holy Spirit in his heart.

Saturday 30th July

Pakistani Christian **Zafar Bhatti** has been in prison since July 2012. He has appealed against the death sentence for blasphemy. Pray for better health for Zafar – his recent application for bail on medical grounds was rejected.

Sunday 31st July

Pastor Y Yich in Vietnam has been serving a twelve-year sentence since 2013. We pray for healing for Pastor Yich, who was tortured in the past, and pray that he would get all the medical treatment he needs.

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



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Church in Chains Prayer Diary

July 2022

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute. Proverbs 31:8*

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Friday 1st July

Pray for courage, peace and hope for the Iranian-Armenian house church leader **Anooshavan Avedian** who faces serving a ten-year prison sentence after he lost his appeal against the sentence in June.

Saturday 2nd July

Another Iranian-Armenian, **Joseph Shahbazian**, was recently sentenced to ten years in prison for leadership of a house church. His prison term is to be followed by two years' internal exile and a two-year ban on travelling abroad or membership of any social group. Please pray for Joseph and his family.

Sunday 3rd July

Today continue to pray for Church in Chains staff as they work on researching and writing the new edition of our *Global Guide* (to be published in autumn).

Monday 4th July

In May 15-year-old **Saba Masih** was kidnapped in Faisalabad and reportedly converted to Islam. Nine days later she was rescued by the police. Please pray for healing and protection for Saba and her family as they recover from the trauma they suffered.

Tuesday 5th July

Ask for wisdom for the Church in Chains board members as they meet this month to discuss several issues including overseas financial allocations.

Wednesday 6th July

We pray for healing and recovery for the congregation of St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Owo district in south-west Nigeria where forty people were killed in a violent attack during a Pentecost Sunday Mass.

Thursday 7th July

For the past ten months **Shaguffa Kiran** has been waiting for trial in Central Jail Rawalpindi (Pakistan) on a blasphemy charge. Please pray that the hearing of her case will take place soon and that she will be acquitted and pray also for her husband **Rafique** and their four children.

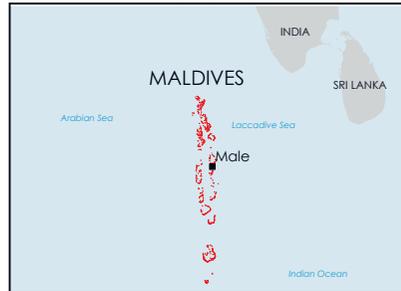
PRAY FOR THE MALDIVES

Friday 8th July

The Maldives is one of the most restricted nations in the world, with fewer than ten known Christians. Any Maldivian who follows Christ must do so in secret or face arrest or expulsion from the country. We pray that the Holy Spirit would comfort these isolated Christians.

Saturday 9th July

Most Christians living in the Maldives are from India and Sri Lanka and have come to work in the tourist industry. We pray that God would guide and protect these Christians as they interact with tourists and residents and pray that they would draw people to Jesus.



Sunday 10th July

We pray for protection over all Christians in the Maldives today. We pray that the Lord's presence would be a real encouragement to them despite the fact that they cannot meet in groups to worship.

Monday 11th July

Since **President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** came to power in 2018, his government has made no tangible improvements with regards to freedom of religion and has been more focused on internal political struggles. We pray that his government would soften its stance toward Christians and other religious minorities.

Tuesday 12th July

In the Maldives Bibles are banned, but some Maldivians access them through Bible apps or the internet. We pray for protection over anyone who is reading the Word of God.

Wednesday 13th July

Translation of the Bible into Dhivehi, the main language of the Maldives, is ongoing, but the work has been difficult and slow. We pray for blessing of the translation work, so that more Maldivians can hear the Gospel.

Thursday 14th July

The UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion or Belief, **Dr Ahmad Shaheed**, is Maldivian. In the past he was accused of apostasy by the Maldivian governing party and there were calls for his beheading. We pray for perseverance and strength for Dr Shaheed as he speaks out for freedom of religion worldwide.

Friday 15th July

We pray for government officials and Muslim leaders, who lead the persecution of Christians in the Maldives, that their hearts would be turned to Jesus.

PRAY FOR UZBEKISTAN

Saturday 16th July

There have been communities of Orthodox, Catholics, Baptists and Pentecostals throughout Uzbekistan, but up until the 1990s none of these groups was made up of ethnic Uzbeks. We thank God that today there are estimated to be 10,000 ethnic Uzbek Christians.

Sunday 17th July

Thank God that, in recent years, a small number of Uzbek churches have been allowed to register for the first time and are now able to meet together legally.

Monday 18th July

Pray for unregistered churches that meet in small groups, in homes, restaurants, forests, at picnics and worship quietly. We pray for protection over all such churches and their leaders.



Tuesday 19th July

Since **President Shavkat Mirziyoyev** came to power in 2016 he has opened up Uzbekistan to international contacts, mainly to attract foreign investment and tourism. Otherwise he has continued the extremely restrictive control of his predecessor over the country. We ask the Lord to give him wisdom and that he will introduce reforms including greater freedom of religion for the Uzbek people.

Wednesday 20th July

We lift up those Christians in Uzbekistan who have been arrested, detained and fined for meeting. We pray for protection from torture in detention and ask God to give them resilience, joy and strength in their hardships.

Thursday 21st July

We pray for provision for all Christian organisations working to strengthen churches in Central Asia by providing Christian literature, training, relief aid and socio-economic developments projects.

Friday 22nd July

Children and young people are not formally banned from attending meetings for worship, but officials frequently pressure parents and communities of all faiths not to allow them to attend. We pray for protection over the next generation of Christians in Uzbekistan.

Saturday 23rd July

We pray for protection over Bibles and Christian literature in Uzbekistan as they are routinely confiscated and destroyed.