

## Bible verses to inspire

You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry. (*Psalm 10 v 17*)

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry. (*Psalm 34 v 15*)

I will build my church and the gates of hell will not overcome it. (*Matthew 16 v 18*)

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (*Acts 12 v 5*)

On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. (*2 Corinthians 1 v 10-11*)

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (*2 Corinthians 4 v 8-9*)

## Resources to help

**Church in Chains Prayer Diary** published monthly, with daily prayer points. Available for download on our website or receive a printed copy for €10 per year (contribution to postage costs).

**Church in Chains Magazine**, published quarterly, free of charge. We can supply extra copies of the magazine.

Church in Chains weekly **Email News Updates**. Sign up on our website.

**Church in Chains Global Guide**. You can read it online or request a free copy at [info@churchinchains.ie](mailto:info@churchinchains.ie).

Church in Chains is on **Facebook, Instagram and Twitter** - we regularly publish prayer requests, just follow us!

---

**Thank you for praying!**

---



**CHURCH IN CHAINS**

PO Box 10447, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland; Charity No: CHY 15443

T 01-282 5393 E [info@churchinchains.ie](mailto:info@churchinchains.ie) W [www.churchinchains.ie](http://www.churchinchains.ie)

# Praying for Persecuted Christians



***“Continue to remember those in prison  
as if you were together with them in prison.”***  
(Hebrews 13 v 3)

## How do I pray for persecuted Christians?

We are called to remember and pray for all those who have been imprisoned, bereaved, separated from their loved ones or attacked for following Jesus, but it can be overwhelming and hard to know what to pray for them.

Here are some Prayer Points to help to you intercede on their behalf:

### Pray for prisoners

- ➔ For a strong faith and perseverance despite difficult circumstances
- ➔ For knowledge that God is present with them and that they are not forgotten
- ➔ For comfort, peace and hope from God
- ➔ For fellowship with other Christian prisoners and opportunities to witness to fellow prisoners and prison guards
- ➔ For justice to prevail
- ➔ For their release

### Pray for prisoners' families

- ➔ For help in coping with loneliness and loss
- ➔ For provision for families with reduced income
- ➔ For protection from psychological or emotional harm and bitterness
- ➔ For an ongoing experience of God's love and care
- ➔ For protection from attack

### Pray for prisoners who have been released

- ➔ For the restoration of their lives
- ➔ For return to full health – physical, emotional and spiritual
- ➔ For healing from any trauma they have experienced
- ➔ For blessing of family relationships and bonding after absence

### Pray for Christians experiencing persecution

- ➔ For protection and safety from attacks
- ➔ For financial provision for families who are experiencing discrimination
- ➔ For courage, sustenance and strength through the Holy Spirit
- ➔ For support and encouragement via TV, Internet and Social Media
- ➔ Against isolation

## How do I pray with others?

The Church in Chains logo shows four people (viewed from above) praying together in a group for persecuted Christians. Many people find it a real encouragement to join together with others to pray.

There is currently a monthly online prayer meeting that meets on Zoom on the first Friday of the month, from 8pm to 9pm. Contact us and we'd be delighted to give you more details and send you an email reminder.

Two in-person prayer groups for the persecuted church have resumed since the pandemic – one in the Midlands region (rotating between several venues including Athlone, Roscommon and Tullamore) and the other in Westport.

If there is no prayer group near where you live, you could start a new one in your church, small group or amongst like-minded people in your local area. You could meet in a home, hall or church building. It can be easier to run a prayer group if someone is willing to help you. Your group might like to meet monthly, or quarterly to coincide with the publication of *Church in Chains* magazine and pray through its pages. Contact us and we'd be happy to talk to you about ideas.

## Leading a Prayer Group

Here are some suggestions for leading a prayer group:

- ➔ Start by reading an appropriate Bible passage.
- ➔ If your group is large, divide into smaller groups to pray. Remember that some people prefer not to pray out loud.
- ➔ Consider bringing material to help the group's understanding, such as maps, pictures of prisoners and printouts of news reports. Make sure everyone has received a copy of the *Church in Chains Global Guide*.
- ➔ When praying for a prisoner, remember also his or her family, church, jailers and fellow-prisoners. When praying for a situation in a country, remember the church, the government, other victims of persecution and any particular issues such as war or famine.
- ➔ Include updates and answers to prayer at subsequent meetings.

You might like to start or end your meeting with tea and coffee to allow time for group members to mingle.