

PRAY FOR NEWS/EVENTS

Sunday 23rd April

We pray for a good meeting with the Ambassador of Pakistan when we present our Petition (signed by TDs and Senators) calling for reform of the blasphemy law under which Pakistan's Christians have suffered for many years.

Monday 24th April

Algerian authorities have shut down more church buildings and only eight Protestant churches remain open. We pray for courage and hope for the members of closed churches who have now been forced underground.

Tuesday 25th April

Thank God for the opportunities that regular radio interviews on **Spirit Radio**, **UCB Ireland** and **Life FM** (Cork) present to us. Pray that listeners would want to take action as a result and get in touch with us.

Wednesday 26th April

Joseph Shahbazian is a house church leader who is serving a ten-year prison sentence in Iran. He has been in Evin Prison since August 2022 and in February he was granted a retrial, but no date has been set. We pray for good health and strength for Joseph and that he will be acquitted at the retrial.

Thursday 27th April

Thank God that **Youcef Nadarkhani** was pardoned and released from prison in Iran in late February. We pray that Youcef won't be sent into internal exile for two years and won't be lashed - two additional punishments pending.

Friday 28th April

In March police in China violently raided Early Rain Covenant Church's Sunday morning service. We pray for peace, protection and comfort especially for the five members who were briefly arrested that day and we pray for **Elder Li Yingqiang** and **Preacher Dai Zhichao** who are both under house arrest.

Saturday 29th April

Thank God that **Alimujiang Yimiti** was released from prison in China after his 15-year sentence was completed and that he is home with his family!

Sunday 30th April

Please pray for good ongoing and encouraging relationships with our network of overseas partners and God's wisdom and protection on them.

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



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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Church in Chains Prayer Diary

April 2023

My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

Psalm 119:50

LENT PRAYER PROJECT

WEEK 6

Sunday 2nd April

Y Pum Bya is a house church leader from Dak Lak province in Vietnam's Central Highlands who is in prison for peacefully promoting religious freedom and human rights for his fellow Montagnard people. He previously served an eight-year prison sentence. Ask God to keep Y Pum Bya safe and well in prison.



Monday 3rd April

We pray for hope and spiritual encouragement for **Y Pum Bya** in the midst of all the hardships and struggles he faces.

Tuesday 4th April

Y Pum Bya has been serving a 14-year prison sentence since April 2018. Today we pray that he would be released early.

Wednesday 5th April

Since **Y Pum Bya's** arrest, authorities have monitored his family and interrogated his wife **H'Bleng Nie**. In December 2020 H'Bleng Nie fled to Thailand to seek asylum. She was arrested at the Thai border and detained until March 2022, when she was released on bail to await a decision on her asylum application. Pray for safety and support for H'Bleng Nie in Thailand.

Thursday 6th April

We pray for hope, provision and protection for the family's seven children, who are currently effectively orphaned. We thank God that He "defends the cause of the fatherless" as He promises in Deuteronomy.

Friday 7th April

Ask God to reunite and bless **Y Pum Bya's** family.

Saturday 8th April

Vietnam is a communist one-party state where religious expression is strictly controlled. Pray for freedom for house churches in Vietnam.

PRAY FOR PAKISTAN

Easter Sunday 9th April

Most Christians in Pakistan are from poor backgrounds, with little education, and work as cleaners, street sweepers and litter pickers or are trapped in slavery as bonded brick kiln labourers. We pray that the joy of the Risen Lord will be the strength of our brothers and sisters in Pakistan today.

Monday 10th April

We pray that God would bless and provide for our partners **CLAAS** and **Release International** who provide practical and much-needed aid to Christians in Pakistan.



Tuesday 11th April

We pray that God would lead **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** and his government to create a fairer and safer Pakistan where all citizens are treated with compassion.

Wednesday 12th April

The blasphemy laws are a constant threat to Christians. They are often misused to settle personal scores and result in many innocent people spending years enduring appalling conditions in prison awaiting trial, their families forced into hiding for fear of attack by extremists. We pray for reform of and ultimately an end to these controversial laws.

Thursday 13th April

We remember **Shagufta Kiran** who has been waiting for trial in prison for the past twenty months under a blasphemy charge. We pray for God's protection over Shagufta and also pray that she would soon be acquitted.

Friday 14th April

Every year hundreds of Christian girls and women are kidnapped and forced to convert to Islam and marry their abductors, who are much older Muslim men, often already married with children. We pray for safety and protection over all Christian girls and women as they go about their lives.

Saturday 15th April

Today we lift up Christian girls **Mahnoor Ashraf (14)**, **Saba Masih (15)**, and **Shakaina Masih (13)** who have all been kidnapped in recent years (ages shown at time of kidnap). Lord, please have mercy on these girls, bring them release and heal their bodies, hearts and souls.

PRAY FOR TANZANIA

Sunday 16th April

Tanzania is made up of an east African mainland and the Zanzibar archipelago in the Indian Ocean. The mainland is majority Christian though parts of the coastal region are majority Muslim. Zanzibar is 99% Muslim and Christians face persecution including sporadic mob attacks. We pray Psalm 121 for Tanzania's Christians, that the Lord would *"keep them from all harm, watch over their lives; watch over their coming and going now and forever more"*.

Monday 17th April

Churches in Zanzibar are embroiled in ongoing court cases to build places of worship despite obtaining all the necessary permissions. We pray that the Lord would encourage them through His Spirit and lift their spirits when they meet.



Tuesday 18th April

We thank God that cases of Muslim criminals burning church buildings in Zanzibar have reduced and pray for blessing and protection over all such congregations.

Wednesday 19th April

President Samia Suluhu Hassan took office in March 2021, after her authoritarian predecessor died suddenly. We pray that she would begin to bring meaningful political change to Tanzania and particularly start to bring perpetrators of religion-related violence to justice.

Thursday 20th April

Christian converts experience family pressure to return to Islam, ostracism, violent threats and loss of employment. We pray that the Lord would provide for their needs and that they would find fellowship and friendship with other Christians.

Friday 21st April

We ask God to protect and encourage Christian schoolgirls in Zanzibar, who must wear the hijab, in their faith and in their education. There are reports of churches involved in court battles over rape cases perpetrated by Muslim youth and we pray for justice and healing for the victims in these cases.

Saturday 22nd April

Today we pray for the persecutors in Tanzania: Muslim sheiks and imams who continuously use inflammatory rhetoric during sermons as well as jihadists from Mozambique who have become a cross-border threat. We pray that they would be convicted and stop causing such destruction and division.