

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July

**Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteab** is an Orthodox priest and physician who has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray earnestly for his release from prison.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July

**Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus** (pictured) is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and psychiatrist who has been in prison since 2004. We pray for an outpouring of hope and comfort through the Holy Spirit in his heart.



Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July

**Pastor Wang Yi** of Early Rain Covenant Church in China has been serving a nine-year prison sentence since 2018. We pray for peace of mind and good health for Pastor Wang.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July

Bookseller **Chen Yu** has been in prison in China since 2019 and is serving a seven-year-sentence. We pray that Chen Yu would be able to have fellowship with other Christians in prison and be strengthened in his faith.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July

**Pastor Bao Guohua** and his wife **Xing Wenxiang** have been in prison in China since 2015, serving fourteen and twelve-year sentences respectively. We pray for courage and hope for this couple. We also pray that they can be a witness to other prisoners.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July

We thank God that Iranian church leader **Joseph Shabazian** had his ten-year prison sentence reduced to two years after a retrial in May. We pray that Joseph would be filled with hope and peace while he remains in prison.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July

**Y Pum Bya** is a Vietnamese church leader who is serving a 14-year prison sentence since 2019. We pray that the Lord would strengthen Y Pum Bya in his inner being and also bless his wife and children.

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July

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

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



# Church in Chains Prayer Diary

## July 2023

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July

Since mid-May over 300 Christians have been killed and 30,000 displaced in Nigeria's Mangu district by Fulani militants. We pray for an end to all the death and destruction in the Middle Belt region and for healing and provision for all of those who were attacked.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

We pray that our summer magazine focusing on Pakistan will be widely read and used as a basis for prayer when it's published later this month.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

We thank God that **Ambassador Aisha Farooqui** met with a Church in Chains delegation at the Embassy of Pakistan in Dublin in early June to discuss the need for reform of the country's blasphemy laws. We pray that she will follow through on her promise to send our report to her government.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Pray for a good hearing for a Church in Chains delegation who will speak today at a meeting of the Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs (made up of TDs and Senators) in Leinster House about the persecution of Christians worldwide.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Pray for preparations being made for our annual conference – to be held at The Exchange (Trinity Church) in Gardiner Street in Dublin city centre on Saturday 9 September with guest speaker Dr Berhane Asmelash (Release Eritrea).

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July

On 1 June, **Vladimir Burshtyn** was arrested, detained and fined for being part of a group of Baptists who shared their faith on the streets in Belarus. We pray for peace, hope and joy for the retired pastor.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July

A Vietnamese Christian identified only as **Brother Khan** died recently after being arrested, detained for two days and tortured in detention. We pray for comfort and provision for his wife and two children aged 14 and 8.



### CHURCH IN CHAINS

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## PRAY FOR INDIA

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Tens of thousands of people (mainly Christians) are living in temporary accommodation in over three hundred relief camps in the northeastern state of Manipur following sustained ethnic rioting since early May. Around one hundred people (mainly Christian) have been killed and over 300 wounded in the violence. We pray for peace and an end to these riots in Manipur state!

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July

We pray for hope, comfort and future for all Manipuri Christians, who have been bereaved, injured or displaced by the recent riots and for the congregations who have lost their church buildings.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Since 2014, when **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** came to power, life for minorities in India has become harder and less safe due to his support of Hindu nationalist ideology.

We pray for an encounter with Jesus for Narendra Modi.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July

We pray against the division and hate that this ideology creates and for a change of narrative around Indian identity that accepts and values minority faiths as much as it values Hindu beliefs.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July

Today we pray for protection and safety for Indian Christian women and girls. They face double discrimination due to their gender and religion and are at risk of sexual harassment or violence and, in some reported cases, trafficking.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July

**Pastor R. Kirubendran** recently spent a month in prison following a raid on his church during which he was falsely accused of “*forcible conversion*” and “*insulting religion*”. We pray for strength and peace for **Pastor Kirubendran**, his wife **Manju Tiruvendram** and their 18-month-old daughter.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

We pray for blessing and provision for **Persecution Relief** and the **Evangelical Fellowship of India**. They have been providing relief aid and trauma counselling to Christians in Manipur state on top of their regular work.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Pray for wisdom and guidance for Christians who are sharing the Gospel in the growing number of Indian states with anti-conversion laws. Pray that they would be safe when they are sharing the Good News.



## PRAY FOR TURKEY

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July

On 28 May, **President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** emerged victorious for another term after the Presidential elections. Under his ongoing rule religious minorities will continue to feel like outsiders in Turkish society. We pray for courage and hope for Christians in Turkey after this disappointment.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July

There is a high level of distrust towards Christians, especially in the interior of Turkey, making outreach difficult. We pray for Turkish Christians to be able to share Jesus safely, with friends and family.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July

Pray that the Turkish government would treat all citizens equally and not treat Christians as second-class citizens.



Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

A higher number of church buildings were damaged, desecrated, converted into mosques or otherwise attacked in the past year than before. We pray for a reversal of this trend and for protection for the congregations who were affected by this.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July

It has been reported that the Turkish government expelled at least 60 foreign Christian workers and their families between 2020 and 2022. We pray for encouragement for these families, some of whom had lived and ministered in Turkey for more than a decade.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July

Christian asylum seekers and refugees in Turkey, including converts from Islam from Iran, Afghanistan, Syria and other countries, are facing very high levels of discrimination and abuse, especially those who are held in “removal centres”. We pray for protection over them and for better conditions in these centres.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

We continue to pray for Christian refugees today and ask the Lord to provide for them and bless them with a future that includes housing, health care, employment, education and church community.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

We pray for all Christians who were affected by catastrophic earthquakes that struck Turkey and Syria in February. We pray for healing, comfort and provision for all and blessing of Christian organisations **Shai Fund** and **Elam Ministries** that are still seeking to support the victims.