

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August

Pakistani **Zafar Bhatti** has been in prison since 2012. We pray for better health for Zafar and his wife and that his appeal against the death sentence will be held soon and that he will be acquitted.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August

**Shagufta Kiran** (pictured) is a nurse and mother-of-four from Pakistan, who has been in prison on a blasphemy charge since 2021. We pray that her trial would be heard soon and that she would also be acquitted.



Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August

**Pastor Matthias Haghejad** is serving a six-year sentence in Iran since 2022. He was recently transferred from a prison in his home city to a prison 1,600 km from his home. Please pray for strength for him, his wife **Anahita Khademi** and their daughter **Hannah**.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August

**Mehdi Akbari** was arrested in 2019 in Iran and is serving a ten-year sentence in Evin prison since 2020. Mehdi's son **Amir-Ali** died (aged 18) in a care facility in 2021. We pray for comfort, hope and healing for Mehdi.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August

Chinese **Pastor Zhang Shaojie** has been serving a twelve-year sentence since 2013. We pray that he continues to be "in a good spirit in the Lord," which he was when we had the last update from him in 2021.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August

**Pastor Hao Zhiwei** is serving a eight-year sentence in China since 2019. Pray for good physical and mental health for Pastor Hao and her sons **Paul** and **Moses**.

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August

**Chinese-American Pastor David Lin** has been in prison in China since 2006. In 2022 his life sentence was reduced to a scheduled release in April 2030. We pray that he would be treated well in prison.

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August

Today we pray that **Leah Sharibu** and her two young children would be freed soon from captivity by Boko Haram terrorists in Nigeria.

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



**CHURCH IN CHAINS**

PO Box 10447, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland; Charity No: CHY 15443  
T 01-282 5393 E info@churchinchains.ie W www.churchinchains.ie



## Church in Chains Prayer Diary August 2023

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*

### PRAY FOR NEWS/EVENTS

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August

More than fifty Christian converts were arrested in five Iranian cities in mid-July, with fears that the number could rise much higher as fresh reports keep coming in. Please pray for the safety and release of those were detained.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

Christian widow **Shazia Imran Masih** was murdered by four men in Pakistan for refusing to convert to Islam and marry a Muslim. Please pray for provision and comfort for her two sons, **Salman** and **Abrar**, and daughter **Aliza**.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Thank you for your prayers! Our delegation had a very encouraging meeting at the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs. Please pray that the committee will fulfil its promise and act on our recommendations.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August

In late June the building of New Life Church in Minsk (Belarus) was razed to the ground with a bulldozer. We pray for a way for the congregation to continue to meet in-person and for blessing for **Pastor Vyacheslav Goncharenko**.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August

Praise God that India's Karnataka state government is set to introduce legislation to repeal the controversial anti-conversion law introduced by the ruling party (BJP) last year, after it was defeated in state elections in May.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September our annual conference will be held in-person at Trinity Church, Gardiner Street, Dublin (and also live-streamed). Please pray for our speaker **Dr Berhane Asmelash** (Eritrea) and for all the preparations.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August a special drama production 'If Prison Walls Could Speak' will take place in the Riasc Centre in Swords. We pray that many people will come along and be moved to support the persecuted church.

## PRAY FOR IRAN

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August

The Iranian authorities have been increasing their grip on their citizens' daily life in recent years. This was reflected in the harsh responses to the protests that followed the death of Mahsa Amini in police custody for "improperly" wearing her hijab in September 2022. We pray for more freedom in Iran!

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August

We thank God that ordinary Iranians have become increasingly attracted by the hope-filled message of Jesus over the past ten months, as Iran has been engulfed by anti-government protests.



Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August

We pray that discipleship and fellowship would be available for all those who have recently placed their faith in Jesus.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August

The government views house churches as a major threat because they use the Farsi language and are composed almost entirely of converts from Islam. Security police are constantly trying to find and close them and leaders are often tortured in an attempt to track down all members. We pray for protection over all house churches and particularly house church leaders.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August

Our partner **Elam Ministries** works to strengthen and expand the church in the Iran region and beyond. We pray for blessing and provision for their vital work.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August

Many Christian converts continue to be forced to leave Iran and try to start a new life elsewhere. We pray that they would receive asylum and be welcomed in the countries to which they flee.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August

There is an ancient history of Armenian and Assyrian Christians in Iran and they are protected by the state, but still treated as second-class citizens. We pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on these Christians.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August

The following Christians were recently released from prison in Iran: **Sara Ahmadi, Homayoun Zhavah, Saheb Fadaie, Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani, Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh, Mohammadreza Omid** and **Malihe Nazari**. We pray for wisdom, healing and strength for them as they navigate their lives.

## PRAY FOR SUDAN

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August

After 100 days of fighting the conflict in Sudan has killed 3,000 and displaced about 3 million people. It has also reignited ethnic violence and sparked fears that it could destabilise the wider region. We pray for peace and stability in the region.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August

At this point about half the population in Sudan is in need of help. We pray for a massive increase in humanitarian aid to Sudan and against the restriction and theft of aid by the warring factions.



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August

The government has not put any real protections in place for Christians and other religious minorities. Churches have been forced to close and confiscated churches and lands have yet to be returned to their Christian owners. It is still extremely difficult to build new churches. We pray for God to put a hedge of protection around all churches.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August

Christians are vulnerable to persecution from both their communities and their own families, especially if they have converted from Islam. Converts face sexual assault and domestic violence in their homes, as well as the threat of arrest and imprisonment. We pray for help for all converts who find themselves in dangerous or difficult situations.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August

Today we pray that Christians from Muslim backgrounds will grow in their knowledge of Christ and have wisdom when sharing their new faith.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August

We pray for comfort for the families of **Pastor Ibrahim Kandr, Ismail Osman, Bashir Almaak** and **Ayoub Ibrahim** who were all shot dead in January while they were travelling in the country as part of a ministry team.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

We pray for provision and protection over all NGOs working in Sudan and supporting Christians in any way.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

After 27-year-old **Awatif Abdalla Kaki** became a Christian in January, she was chained in her home, subjected to electrical shocks at a psychiatric hospital and lost access to her four children. We pray for her rescue and safety!