

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Rev Gebremedhin Gebregiorgis** is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and expert theologian who has been in prison since 2004. We pray that the Lord would sustain him every day he has to spend behind bars.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June

We pray for protection over **Haile Naizghe** (pictured) who has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray that he continues to be in good health and can have fellowship with and be encouraged by other Christian prisoners.



Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June

**Pastor Kidane Weldou** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2005. We pray for health, strength and hope for Kidane and also his wife **Tirhas**.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June

**Mehdi Akbari** was arrested during a raid on his home in Tehran in 2019. He is serving a ten-year sentence in Evin prison since 2020. Mehdi was a single parent to his only child Amin Ali, who had health issues and died aged 18 in a care facility in 2021. We pray for the comfort of the Holy Spirit to abound in Mehdi, even in his mourning and despair.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June

**Joseph Shahbazian** is an ethnic Armenian house church leader who is serving a ten-year prison sentence in Iran since August 2022 for holding church services in his home. We pray for a successful retrial soon and Joseph's acquittal.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Chinese pastor **Zhang Shaojie** has been in prison since 2013 serving a twelve-year sentence. We pray for Pastor Zhang to be filled with a fresh assurance of God's goodness and love.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June

**Pastor Hao Zhiwei** has been serving an eight-year prison sentence in China since 2019. We pray for blessing for Pastor Hao and for good mental health for her two teenage sons, **Paul** and **Moses**, who are currently left without parents.

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



## Church in Chains Prayer Diary

### June 2023

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June

Praise God for the wonderful news that **Sara Ahamdi** and **Homayoun Zhavesh** were acquitted and released from prison in Iran! Pray for restoration, joy and peace in their lives as they recover from the months spent in prison.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

On 7 May police simultaneously raided five branches of **Guangzhou Bible Reformed Church** in China interrupting services and taking away church elders, preachers and co-workers. We pray for protection over all the members of this church network, particularly those who were arrested.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

We pray that we would receive a positive response to our request to present our Petition to the Ambassador of Pakistan, which was signed by twelve TDs and Senators asking for reform of the country's blasphemy laws.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

We thank God that two more Chibok girls, **Hauwa Maltha** and **Esther Marcus**, (both now 26) were rescued from captivity in Nigeria in a military operation. We pray for healing, hope and a future for the two young women and their families.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

**Basharat Masih**, a Christian father from Pakistan, who had fought for the release of his kidnapped 12-year-old daughter **Hoorab**, was murdered in April. Please pray for provision and comfort for Hoorab and her three brothers, who are now orphans, as their mother died last September.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Today we pray for the families of student **Jeremiah Mwanga** and evangelist **Engineer Herbert** who were both martyred in separate attacks in Uganda in April.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

**Malihe Nazari** was released from prison in Iran at the end of April because her son **Mohammad-Hossein** is seriously ill with leukaemia. We pray that the Lord would carry mother and son through these dark times and bless them!



**CHURCH IN CHAINS**

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## PRAY FOR BELARUS

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Belarus is Europe's last dictatorship with **President Alexander Lukashenko** holding power since 1994. Following the 2020 Presidential election, hundreds of thousands of Belarusians took to the streets for weeks accusing Lukashenko of electoral fraud. Among them, there were also Christians. We pray for freedom and democracy for the Belarusian people!

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June

More than two years after the demonstrations, which were violently broken up by police, one Christian said "we are very scared and in despair". We pray for comfort, encouragement and hope for all Christians who feel this way.



Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June

According to reports, several members of evangelical churches are in prison for participation in the political protests. We pray for strength and the release of these prisoners and also for an end to political jailings!

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June

**President Lukashenko** was missing from public view for a week after being taken ill during a Victory Day parade in Moscow on 9 May. We pray for him to have a change of heart at this time of illness and come to know the Lord.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June

All religious activity is subject to government control and churches are kept under close surveillance. We pray for blessing and revival for the Orthodox Church which is the largest church and enjoys favoured status.

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June

Today we pray for Baptist and Pentecostal churches which experience the most difficulties due to their evangelistic activities. We pray for hope, courage and wisdom for their church leaders and members in this difficult context.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

We lift up Minsk's New Life Church before the Lord. The congregation was evicted from its building in early 2021 and in September 2022 was even banned from meeting in the car park. We pray for **Pastor Vyacheslav Goncharenko** who was briefly detained and fined. He said that his church needs to be able to hold face-to-face worship meetings.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June

We pray for guidance and peace for **Dmitry Podlobko** and **Antoni Bokun**. They are also pastors in unregistered churches and have been fined and detained for their church activities.

## PRAY FOR VIETNAM

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June

The Communist Party strictly controls all religion and does not tolerate political dissent. Thank God that the Vietnamese government gave permission for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association to hold a Spring Love Festival in March which over 14,000 people attended in Ho Chi Minh City!

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June

Today we pray for freedom from government repression of unregistered house churches. We also pray that national and local authorities' suspicion of Christians will ease.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June

**Võ Văn Thưởng** became the new president of Vietnam in March. We pray that he would come to appreciate Christians and their contribution to Vietnamese society and treat them fairly.



Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Authorities put great pressure on animist relatives to drive Christians from their homes, exiling them from family, livelihood and community. We pray for provision and hope for all Christians who have been forcibly separated from spouse and children, home and fields because they persisted in their faith.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Today we pray for comfort for **Lau Y Pa**, a 33-year-old mother from central Vietnam, who was separated from her two teenage sons last year. We also pray for her Christian relative, **Lay Y Tong**, who also lost access to her children when she came to faith.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June

**Pastor Y Yich** has been serving a 12-year sentence since 2013 and has reportedly been beaten and tortured in prison. We pray for protection and healing for him and ask the Lord to provide for his wife **Amying H'Dom** and their five children.

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

We pray for provision for all the organisations that support Vietnamese Christians by providing them with literature, leadership and discipleship training, socio-economic development projects, advocacy and relief aid.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

**Y Pum Bya**, a pastor from the Central Highlands, has been serving a 14-year prison sentence since 2018. We pray that he would be released early and for blessing for his wife **H'Bleng Nie** and their seven children.