

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Pakistani **Pastor Zafar Bhatti** has been in jail on a blasphemy charge since 2012 and is currently on death row. Zafar has had many physical and mental health problems since his imprisonment and his wife Nawab is also struggling with her deteriorating health. We pray for healing for their broken hearts and bodies and that Zafar would be acquitted and released.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September

**Mussie Ezaz** (pictured) was an evangelist and youth leader in Eritrea before his arrest in 2008. We pray that *the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard his heart and mind in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:7)



Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September

**Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray for good health and hope for Kiflu and his wife Elsa and their adult children.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

Eritrean pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** was arrested in 2004 and has remained in prison ever since. We ask the Lord to comfort him and pray for his release.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September

**Pastor John Cao** is serving a seven-year prison sentence in China since 2017. We pray that John continues to be well in body, spirit and mind and for blessing for his wife, children and his mother.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September

**Pastor Kim Kuk-gi** is serving a life sentence in labour camp in North Korea since 2014. We pray that the Lord will encourage and strengthen him.

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Chinese Christian **Jang Moon Seok** has been serving a 15-year sentence in prison in North Korea since 2014. We pray for hope and strength for him today.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September

South Korean missionary **Kim Jong Uk** has been serving a life sentence in a North Korean labour camp since 2013. We pray that God would keep him safe and sane in this difficult place.

Thank you for praying with us!



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# Church in Chains Prayer Diary

## September 2023

*That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Cor 12:10*

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Please pray for provision, comfort and hope for the Christian community in Jaranwala, Pakistan. In mid-August, a mob numbering several hundred Muslim men vandalised and burnt 21 church buildings and 500 houses in the area following allegations of blasphemy made against two Christian brothers.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

Members of Zion Church in China have been continuously persecuted since 2018. Recently **Pastor An Yankui** was detained after police raided a summer youth camp. Please pray for the pastor, his wife **Yao Congya** and their children.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Pray for all those involved in preparing for Church in Chains' Annual Conference which is being held in Dublin this coming Saturday (9 September).

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Praise God that thirteen Christians were released from Mai Serwa prison in Eritrea in late July! Please pray for these seven women and six men, who had been in prison for about ten years, as they adjust to life outside prison.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

**Elder Zhang Chunlei**, leader of the banned Ren'ai Reformed Church in China was sent to hospital in August after suffering a bout of gall bladder inflammation in prison. Please pray for healing for Elder Zhang, who has been in detention since March 2021.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Today we pray for **Pastor Harendra Singh**, his wife **Priya** and their 3-year-old son who were arrested in late July during a prayer and worship service held in their home in Haidargarh, Uttar Pradesh in northern India and detained for nine days.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September

69 Christians were arrested across eleven Iranian cities in June and July and at least ten of those are still in detention. Some of those who have been released on bail report that they were forced to sign commitments to refrain from further Christian activities or even ordered to leave Iran. Please pray for wisdom, courage and strength for all 69 brothers and sisters and their families.

## PRAY FOR ERITREA

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September

The Eritrean army has been involved in widespread human rights violations in the conflict in the Tigray region of neighbouring Ethiopia. A peace agreement was signed in November 2022, but Eritrea was not a party to this agreement. We pray for the complete withdrawal of all Eritrean forces and for peace and justice in the region.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September

We are thankful that **Dr Berhane Asmelash** from Release Eritrea is speaking at our annual conference today to give us an update on his work. We will also hear from ex-prisoner **Twen Theodros** by video link. We ask the Lord to bless them both.



Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Today we want to pray for strength and hope for the 103 young Christians who were arrested in April when they gathered to record worship music to release on YouTube. We also pray for their release!

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September

We pray that God would convict **President Isaias Afewerki** of the many human rights violations his regime has committed during his thirty-year rule. We pray for a righteous and just government to rule in Eritrea.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

For many years, the regime has been forcibly conscripting thousands of Eritreans (men and women, including the underaged and older people) to serve indefinitely in the army for little or no pay. Pray for an end to compulsory military service and that all those who were forcibly recruited would be demobilised.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Thousands of Eritreans (including 400 Christians) are currently imprisoned without charge or trial in detention centres where they are tortured and access to food, water and health care is limited. Please pray for the release of all captives!

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September

We pray for courage, strength and sustenance for the underground church in Eritrea, especially church leaders. We pray that they can meet and encourage one another in safety.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Thank God that the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Eritrea was renewed this summer as it keeps the country under UN scrutiny. Every year Eritrea opposes the renewal and the vote can be close.

## PRAY FOR AFGHANISTAN

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Afghanistan has been under the rule of the Taliban for two years now and faces a growing humanitarian crisis. We pray for food security, access to education and medical help for all Afghan people but especially women and girls who bear the brunt of the suffering. We also pray for an end to this cruel regime!

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Afghanistan is currently one of the most hostile countries in the world to the Christian faith. Thousands of Afghan Christians left the country in August 2021 following the Taliban take over. We pray that God would encourage and strengthen these Christian refugees. We pray that they would all be granted asylum somewhere safe and be made feel welcome in their new homes.



Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Christians who have decided to stay in Afghanistan are at risk of being killed or reported to the authorities by family members or neighbours, especially Christian converts when they are no longer seen worshipping at the mosques. We ask the Lord to put a hedge of protection around all Christians who remain in the country.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September

We pray for blessing for all Christians and those who are seeking Christ that they would all find places to be nurtured and discipled. We also pray that they will be filled with joy through the Holy Spirit and *"will prophesy, see visions and will dream dreams"*.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Since the Taliban takeover, moderate Muslims in Afghanistan are considering, questioning and evaluating what they believe and where they place their trust. We pray that they find hope and life in Jesus and for the small church in Afghanistan to grow.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Today please pray for protection and provision for all organisations and individuals as they navigate minefields and other dangerous parts of the country to minister to Christians.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

The following is a prayer request from an Afghan refugee: *"Please continue to pray; not only for us, but also for the Taliban. Of course, the Taliban are our enemies, but I ask you to pray for their salvation."* We want to Amen this prayer!