

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Thursday 23rd November

Pastor John Cao is serving a 7-year prison sentence in China. We pray for his mental, physical and spiritual health and that of his wife **Jamie** and adult sons.

Friday 24th November

We pray for blessing for **Pastor Bao Guohua** and his wife **Xing Wenxiang** (pictured) who have been in prison in China since 2015, serving 14 and 12-year sentences.



Saturday 25th November

Pastor Wang Yi of Early Rain Covenant Church in China is serving a 9-year prison sentence since 2018. We pray that God would be his "refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble". (Psalm 46v 1)

Sunday 26th November

Chinese **Pastor Zhang Shaojie** has been behind bars since 2013, serving a 12-year sentence. Ask the Lord to bless and keep Pastor Zhang and his wife **Wang Fengrui**, who is disabled. We pray that he would be released early.

Monday 27th November

Pastor Matthias Haghnejad is serving a six-year sentence in Iran since 2022. In summer 2023 he was transferred to a prison 1,600 km from his home. Please pray for strength for him, his wife **Anahita Khademi** and their daughter **Hannah**.

Tuesday 28th November

Mehdi Akbari was arrested in 2019 in Iran and is serving a ten-year sentence in Evin prison since 2020. We pray for comfort and hope for Mehdi.

Wednesday 29th November

Leah Sharibu was abducted from her school in Nigeria by ISWAP terrorists in 2018 and has been held captive since then. We pray that the Lord would protect her and her two babies and we pray for their release.

Thursday 30th November

Vietnamese **Pastor Y Yich** is serving a 12-year prison since 2013. We pray for better health and strength for Pastor Yich and encouragement and provision for his wife **Amying H'Dom** and their five children.

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



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

November 2023

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Matthew 10:16

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Wednesday 1st November

Today we pray for encouragement for Algerian church leader **Rev Youssef Ourahmane** as he awaits his appeal on 19 November against a two year prison sentence for holding an unauthorised religious assembly.

Thursday 2nd November

On 21 October Keith Chipperfield died after a short illness. Please pray for comfort and peace for the staff of Church in Chains who lost a beloved father and father-in-law.

Friday 3rd November

A court in China has ordered **Pastor Yang Xibo** and his wife **Wang Xiaofei** to pay a fine of approximately €52,000 for "organising an illegal gathering" in their house church. Please pray for provision and perseverance for them.

Saturday 4th November

Thank God that **Deng Tianyong** was released from prison on 1 July after serving a three-year sentence for selling audio Bible players. He is reported to be in good spirits although he has lost a lot of weight.

Sunday 5th November

Today on the **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church** we remember our brothers and sisters in Eritrea who are enduring severe persecution and we pray especially those who are in prison for their faith.

Monday 6th November

Please pray for provision and encouragement for **Pastor Bajarang Rawat** and his family in India! While he was detained for 23 days on baseless charges of fraudulent conversion in August, his wife Shashi and their daughters were left homeless and near starvation.

Tuesday 7th November

The Supreme Court of Nepal has upheld the decision of the Jumla High Court, affirming **Pastor Keshav Acharya's** one-year prison sentence for proselytising. Please pray for comfort, hope and strength for Pastor Keshav, his wife Junu Acharya and their children.



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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PRAY FOR IRAQ

Wednesday 8th November

Iraq remains in a constant state of political uncertainty, with regular protests and frequent terrorist attacks leading to an atmosphere of insecurity and unrest. Pray for peace and stability throughout the country.

Thursday 9th November

The Christian population in Iraq has reduced drastically since the Islamic State occupation of the Nineveh Plains region (where most of Iraq's Christians live) from 2014 – 2017. Pray for encouragement and protection for those who remain.



Friday 10th November

In July Iraq's president Dr Abdul Latif Rashid withdrew official recognition of Cardinal Louis Sako (the leader of Iraq's largest church, the Chaldean Catholic Church) in a move widely seen as gross violation of religious freedom. Pray that all churches in Iraq will be able to worship freely without any hindrance.

Saturday 11th November

Steadfast Global (our Iraq partner organisation) has provided the following prayer points: Pray that the governing authorities in Iraq and the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region will embrace their responsibility to safeguard freedom of religion or belief.

Sunday 12th November

Pray that despite all the instability Christians in Iraq and the Kurdistan region to the north will remain steadfast and bold in their witness.

Monday 13th November

Pray that Christians who have been displaced from their homes in the Nineveh Plains for over seven years will not lose heart but turn to God for hope and direction. Many travelled north to take refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Tuesday 14th November

Please pray for unity among Christian leaders from both the traditional and evangelical branches of the Church.

Wednesday 15th November

Pray for Christians reaching out to the Yazidi and other minority communities that they may do so with love and compassion. Becoming followers of Jesus is an enormous and often costly step. Please pray that new converts will be encouraged, strengthened and protected.

PRAY FOR UKRAINE (DONBAS)

Thursday 16th November

Since 2014 Russian-backed separatists in control of parts of Luhansk and Donetsk in eastern Ukraine's Donbas region have greatly restricted the freedom of Christians who do not belong to the Russian Orthodox Church. Their churches have been denied registration and regularly face harassment. Pray for wisdom and courage for all church leaders ministering under such pressure.

Friday 17th November

Persecution of non-Russian Orthodox Christians has intensified since the Russian invasion of Ukraine last year and the ongoing war. Pray for protection for all Christians living under occupation.



Saturday 18th November

Russian soldiers have issued threats to many evangelical Christians in the region, calling them "American spies," "sectarians," and "enemies of the Russian Orthodox people". Pray for courage and strength for Christians seeking to worship and witness amidst such hostility.

Sunday 19th November

Pray for the congregation of Holy Trinity Evangelical Church in Mariupol in Donetsk Region. Their building, which survived the 2022 fighting in the city, is now being used to house Russian military officers. Pray for the church members as they seek to gather together for worship.

Monday 20th November

Voice of the Martyrs Korea (VOMK) which is supporting churches in Donbas asks: "Pray that as church buildings are confiscated, the Lord will use these circumstances to spread the gospel into homes, surrounding communities, and into the countryside."

Tuesday 21st November

VOMK also requests: "Pray that as the occupying authorities demand that pastors and Christians change from Ukrainian to Russian citizenship, their heavenly citizenship in the kingdom of God will be especially real to them."

Wednesday 22nd November

Pray for VOMK's preparations to deliver Christmas Care packages to children of Christian families living in the Donbas region. The packages are prepared to meet local or family-specific needs. Each package is built around a Children's Bible or other Christian children's book. Pray for protection for those who are distributing the packs as well as the children who will receive them.