

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January

**Anooshavan Avedian** is a house-church leader who has been serving a ten-year prison sentence in Iran for house church activities since 2023. We pray for good friendships with other prisoners and mutual support.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Thank God that **Matthias Haghnejad** (pictured) was allowed to visit his family in December. We pray for God's grace and strength for him.



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

**Kim Jong Uk** has been serving a life sentence in a labour camp in North Korea since 2013. We pray for strong faith and perseverance for him.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January

**Pastor Kim Kuk-gi** is also serving a life sentence in labour camp in North Korea, since 2014. We pray that the Lord would fill him with the Holy Spirit and be his comforter, counsellor, encourager, and helper.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January

**Asif Pervaiz** has been in prison in Pakistan since 2013 and on death row since 2020. We pray that Asif would be moved back to Lahore District Jail, so he would be closer to his family and could have more regular visits. We also pray for a successful appeal hearing soon.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

We pray for the mental, spiritual and physical health of Chinese **Pastor Wang Yi** who is serving a 9-year prison sentence since 2018. We ask the Lord to sustain him today, tomorrow and for the remainder of his prison sentence.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Online Christian bookseller **Chen Yu** has been in a Chinese prison since 2019, serving a 7-year sentence. Today we pray for courage for Chen Yu and also his elderly parents, who both have health issues.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January

**Pastor John Cao** is serving a seven-year prison sentence in China since 2017. We pray that he continues to be physically and mentally healthy as he nears the end of his sentence (scheduled for March 2024).

— Thank you for praying with us! —



### CHURCH IN CHAINS

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## Church in Chains Prayer Diary

### January 2024

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” 2 Cor 4:7

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January

Praise God for the New Year in which we can partner with Him in serving the persecuted church. Please pray for strength, health, guidance and wisdom for our staff, trustees and volunteers to continue the work according to His will.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

**Pastor Keshav Acharya** in Nepal is continuing to minister in his church while waiting to be called to prison for a one-year sentence. We pray for strength and hope for him and his wife **Junu** who plans to care for the congregation and lead worship services when Keshav is imprisoned.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

**Li Shanshan** recently went to Yaodu District Prison in Linfen (China) where her husband, **Pastor Li Jie**, has been held since August 2022 awaiting trial. She prayed outside the prison for him as she is not permitted to visit. Let us join Li Shanshan and pray for Pastor Li Jie - for strength, hope and release!

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Thank God that over 80 young Eritrean Christians who belong to the **Mahalian** praise group have been released from prison in recent months. We pray that the remaining 20 young people will be released from prison very soon.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January

We pray for healing and comfort for the students at Mindanao State University in Marawi in the Philippines. Four Christians were killed and 54 others were injured in a bomb attack on a Catholic mass in the university in December.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Thank God that healthcare worker **Rhoda Jatau** from northern Nigeria, who was accused of blasphemy and jailed in May 2022, has been granted bail and freed. We pray that the charges against her will be dropped.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Pray for Church in Chains staff as they prepare through planning, researching and writing for our annual Lent Prayer Project.

## PRAY FOR AZERBAIJAN

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Azerbaijan, the largest nation in the Caucasus region, has great oil wealth but also huge poverty due to rampant corruption. The government keeps tight control of religion and Christianity is frequently negatively associated with Russia and Armenia (with which it has fought several wars). We pray that despite these obstacles many people would come to faith in Jesus in Azerbaijan!

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Authoritarian **President Ilham Aliyev** has ruled the country since 2003, after the death of his father Heydar Aliyev who first came to power in 1969 when the country was part of the Soviet Union. We pray that President Aliyev would come to faith in Christ and change how the country is governed.



Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Most Christians in Azerbaijan belong to the Russian Orthodox Church and enjoy relative freedom to worship. But young Azeris do not speak Russian, and the church does not speak the Azeri language. We pray for a change in this dynamic and a revival in the church.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January

There are up to 20,000 Evangelicals, many of whom are converts from Islam, and while some face persecution they have suffered fewer police raids in recent years. We thank God for these brothers and sisters and pray for courage and strength for them.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Up to three-quarters of Evangelical churches are dominated by a single charismatic leader and there are concerns, grounded in experience, about the dangers posed by a lack of accountability. We pray for protection for these churches and good, upright leadership.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January

We pray for peace for Azeri Christians living in the countryside where they are more closely monitored in their activities by local authorities than in the city.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Today we pray for the 120,000 Armenian Christians who were driven from their homes in the enclave of Nagorno Karabakh by Azerbaijan's military takeover in September 2023. Some have had to flee as many as three times in their lifetime.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January

We pray for hope and a future for all Armenian refugees - many Christians who are temporarily staying with family and friends in Armenia while others are being housed in camps for the displaced.

## PRAY FOR CHINA

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Christians in China are under growing pressure as the Communist Party seeks to limit all threats to its power by tightening restrictions and increasing surveillance. New restrictions on internet and social media as well as previous regulations on religion are severely limiting Christian freedom. We pray that the church in China will continue to see growth, despite intensifying persecution.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Many house churches have stopped meeting in large groups and have split into smaller groups. For churches that used to meet online, this has become more difficult. We pray for blessing for these churches and for unity among their members despite the separation and difficulties they face.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Thank God that **Elder Li Yingqiang** of Chengdu Early Rain Covenant Church, was released from detention in November and returned home to his family. We pray for protection and blessing for Elder Li, his wife **Zhang Xinyue** and their two children.



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Today we pray for strength and hope for converts from a Muslim or Buddhist background who also face severe persecution in China, with opposition coming from families and communities as well as the authorities.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January

We pray that young Christians who have not previously experienced persecution will be equipped to stand strong in their faith.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Bibles in China can only legally be bought through government-approved churches which means Christians from unregistered churches cannot legally access copies of the Bible. Pray for the safe-keeping of those who work at great risk to print and distribute the Word of God.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Recently the case of ten Christians who have been detained for over two years finally went to trial. They are accused of "illegal business operation" for buying Bibles from a government-approved church and reselling them at a lower price. We pray for them - several are elderly and struggle with illnesses that make their suffering in the detention centre even greater.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Today we join in prayer for the provision and protection for the work of our partners **ChinaAid** and **Chinese Church Support Ministries**.