

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Tuesday 23rd April

Leah Sharibu has been held as a slave in Nigeria since 2018. We pray that she will be treated well and released, along with her children born in captivity.

Wednesday 24th April

Asif Pervaiz has been in prison in Pakistan since 2013 and on death row since 2020. We pray that Asif's appeal would be heard soon.



Thursday 25th April

Zafar Bhatti has been in prison in Pakistan since 2012 and is currently on death row. He was recently visited in prison by our partner and his health is poor. We pray that he would be acquitted, freed and receive the medical care he needs.

Friday 26th April

Anooshavan Avedian is a house-church leader who has been serving a ten-year prison sentence in Iran since 2023. We pray for courage and strength for him, his wife and his children.

Saturday 27th April

Pastor Matthias Haghnejad has been imprisoned several times because of his house-church activities in Iran. He is currently serving a six-year sentence. We pray for good physical, mental and spiritual health for Pastor Matthias.

Sunday 28th April

Chinese-American **Pastor David Lin** has been in prison in China since 2006 and is not scheduled for release until 2030. We pray for hope, protection and strength for David as he continues to live behind bars.

Monday 29th April

Pastor Hao Zhiwei has been serving a eight-year sentence in China since 2019. We pray for perseverance for Pastor Hao and that she will know God's peace.

Tuesday 30th April

Fu Xuanjuan is the CEO of a company that sells audio Bible players in China. She has been serving a six-year prison sentence since 2020. We ask the Lord to sustain her every day in prison.



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

April 2024

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Isaiah 58 v 6

PRAY FOR NEWS/EVENTS

Easter Monday 1st April

Praise God for the Easter message of salvation and the triumphant resurrection of Jesus (the Lord of the church). Pray that the risen Lord Jesus will comfort and encourage all who suffer in His Name.

Tuesday 2nd April

Pray for comfort for the family of **Ebrahim Firouzi**, who died of a heart attack at the age of 37 in February. Ebrahim was imprisoned for six years and then exiled for his house-church activities in Iran.

Wednesday 3rd April

14-year-old **Sunil Masih** was shot dead in a market in Pakistan in February. We pray for comfort and strength for his parents **George** and **Gladys** and family.

Thursday 4th April

Pray for wisdom and guidance for our staff and board working on arrangements for the 2024 Church in Chains conference in September.

Friday 5th April

Thank God that **Pastor John Cao** was released from prison in China in March at the end of his seven-year sentence. His wife Jamie is waiting for him in the USA – pray that he will be allowed to leave China and join her!

Saturday 6th April

Thank God for our worldwide network of partners and pray for continuing fruitful links as we work together on providing support and aid to persecuted Christians and their families.

Sunday 7th April

Pray for all the continual work behind the scenes in governance and administration, providing a solid foundation for our ongoing mission.

Monday 8th April

Thank God that a Church in Chains delegation met with Nigerian embassy officials in March to discuss the ongoing attacks on Christians. Pray that the Nigerian government will do all that it takes to stop the violence.

Thank you for praying with us this month!



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PRAY FOR PAKISTAN

Tuesday 9th April

Christians in Pakistan are considered second class citizens and most are from poor backgrounds, with little education, and work in badly-paid, dirty and sometimes dangerous jobs or are trapped in slavery. We pray that they can hold onto their identity as precious children of God.

Wednesday 10th April

We pray that God would bless and provide for our partners **CLAAS** and **Caring 4 God's People** who provide practical and much-needed aid to Christians in Pakistan.



Thursday 11th April

In March **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** was elected by parliament for a second term. We pray that his government would create a fairer and safer Pakistan for all citizens.

Friday 12th April

Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws are a constant threat to Christians. They are often misused to settle personal scores and result in many innocent people spending years enduring appalling conditions in prison awaiting trial, their families forced into hiding for fear of attack by extremists. We pray for reform and ultimately repeal of these laws.

Saturday 13th April

Today we remember **Shagufta Kiran** who has been waiting for trial in prison for almost three years on a blasphemy charge. We pray for her protection in prison and that the Lord would encourage and strengthen her. We also pray that Shagufta would be acquitted and freed soon.

Sunday 14th April

Every year hundreds of Christian and Hindu girls and women are kidnapped and forced to convert to Islam and marry their abductors. We thank God that the Lahore High Court has recently issued a landmark interim order to enforce laws preventing the marriage of minors. We pray that this ruling would make a difference in protecting the rights and well-being of girls in Pakistan.

Monday 15th April

We also thank God that earlier this year the Religious Education curriculum in Pakistan was reformed, finally making Islamic studies optional for non-Muslims. We pray that the next generations in Pakistan would learn to be tolerant of those who hold different religious beliefs.

PRAY FOR NICARAGUA

Tuesday 16th April

Even though 6.5 million of the 6.9 million people in Nicaragua are Christian (80% Catholic, 20% Protestant), they are increasingly vulnerable to persecution due to dictatorial paranoia and post-Communist oppression. Following nationwide anti-government protests in 2018, President Ortega's government became increasingly hostile to Christians, viewing them as political opponents. Pray that God would renew the strength of all Nicaraguan Christians today.

Wednesday 17th April

Christian leaders are seen as a potential threat due to their influence in society, and even speaking about unity or justice can be seen as critical of the Nicaraguan government. We pray for protection of all church leaders.



Thursday 18th April

Today we pray that **President Daniel Ortega** and his wife **Vice-President Rosario Murillo** would be convicted of the injustices they have committed and that their hearts would be softened to let go of their desire for total power and control.

Friday 19th April

Pray for all those who have been threatened, harassed or prevented from attending religious services because of their faith. May God grant them peace and encourage them.

Saturday 20th April

In 2022 the Catholic **Bishop Rolando Álvarez Lagos** was sentenced to more than 26 years in prison for his criticism of human rights abuses committed under President Ortega. In January 2024 the bishop was released from prison, but he was stripped of his nationality and expelled to the Vatican. We pray for comfort and courage as he is forced to live in exile.

Sunday 21st April

The government of President Ortega has closed down over 3,500 NGOs in the last two years, at least 256 of which are evangelical associations. We pray for provision for all those who used to be supported by these groups.

Monday 22nd April

We pray for the release of the one hundred evangelical pastors who are currently in prison. We pray also that the Lord would keep them safe and well, fill them with hope and bless their families and congregations.