

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Monday 24th June

Chinese **Pastor Wang Yi** is serving a nine-year prison sentence since 2018. Pray that Pastor Wang would know the peace and presence of Jesus, have courage to maintain his faith and integrity and be released early.

Tuesday 25th June

Fu Xuanjuan (pictured) is serving a six-year prison sentence in China since 2020 for selling audio Bible players. She is in poor health as she has developed uterine fibroids in prison and is in great pain. We pray for healing and that Fu receives the medical care she needs.



Wednesday 26th June

Ashfaq Masih has been in prison in Pakistan since 2017 and on death row since 2022. When his wife Nabeela visited him in prison in 2023 he was very disturbed because so much time had passed in jail and he asked his family to urge the lawyer to start his case in court. We pray that an appeal hearing would soon be set for Ashfaq and for his mental health.

Thursday 27th June

Zafar Bhatti has been in prison since 2012 and is Pakistan's longest serving prisoner on a blasphemy charge. In May a court hearing began but no judge was willing to hear his appeal against the death sentence, so the appeal is still pending with no new hearing date set. We pray for freedom for Zafar and we also pray for improvement in Zafar's and his wife Nawab's health.

Friday 28th June

Y Pum Bya is a church leader from Vietnam who is serving a 14-year prison sentence since 2018. We pray that he would be treated well in prison and that God would strengthen him in his inner being.

Saturday 29th June

Pastor Y Yich is seeing a 12-year sentence since 2013 in Vietnam. We pray that God would keep him safe and protect his body, mind and soul.

Sunday 30th June

21-year-old **Leah Sharibu** has been a prisoner of Boko Haram terrorists in Nigeria since 2018. We pray for her protection and rescue!

Thank you for praying with us this month!



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

June 2024

So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 2 Tim 1:8

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Saturday 1st June

In May 83-year-old **Rev Ghirmay Araya**, who had been incarcerated for almost three years in Eritrea and was suffering from diabetes and other related illnesses, died in prison. We pray for comfort for his family and also for release of his son **Samuel Ghirmay**, who has been imprisoned for his faith for the last seven years.

Sunday 2nd June

We pray for wisdom and direction for the staff and board of Church in Chains as they move forward in updating important governance policies.

Monday 3rd June

Pastor Lian Changnian has been in detention in China since August 2022 for his house church activities. When a defence lawyer visited him in April, he reported that Pastor Lian's health was "severely damaged" in detention. We pray for healing and for Pastor Lian's release.

Tuesday 4th June

Pray for Church in Chains staff as they finalise work on the next issue of our magazine, due to be published at the end of June (main focus will be on China).

Wednesday 5th June

Rev Paul Musa and his wife **Ruth**, both pastors from northeast Nigeria, have been held hostage by Boko Haram since March 2023. In a video that was published recently they plead for their release. We pray for the miracle of release or rescue, as their church and the Nigerian government do not pay ransom to terrorists.

Thursday 6th June

Pray for wisdom for Mark Lipdo, director of our Nigeria partner Stefanos Foundation, as it brings aid, assistance and counselling to persecuted Christians.

Friday 7th June

Algerian church leader **Rev Youssef Ourahmane** recently lost his appeal against his one-year prison sentence for holding an unauthorised religious assembly and holding worship in a building not permitted for worship. We pray for a successful appeal to Algeria's Supreme Court which is currently being prepared.



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PRAY FOR IRAN

Saturday 8th June

Iran is in a period of uncertainty following the sudden death of **President Ebrahim Raisi** in a helicopter crash in May. However the most powerful authority 85-year-old Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** remains in overall control. As emotions run high in Iran we pray Christians would be a source of peace and wisdom in the country.

Sunday 9th June

Today we pray for protection and courage for our Iranian brothers and sisters as they share about the comfort, hope and healing of Jesus. Lord, bless them and build them up we pray!

Monday 10th June

Holy Spirit, we pray for a justice and mercy-loving president to be elected at the General Election on the 28th June.

Tuesday 11th June

We pray for safety for all Christians in prison for their faith and we pray that Christian prisoners can strengthen and support each other on a daily basis. We also pray for hope and provision for their families as they wait for their release.

Wednesday 12th June

Many Iranians are coming to faith in Jesus through Christian content they see on satellite TV and social media platforms. However their online activity (as well as their movements and purchases) are being monitored by the government. We pray for protection online for Iranian Christians and for the Gospel to continue to spread through these channels.

Thursday 13th June

Many Christian converts continue to be forced to leave Iran and try to start a new life elsewhere. We pray that they would receive asylum and be welcomed in the countries to which they flee.

Friday 14th June

Thank God for our partner **Elam Ministries** which helps to strengthen and expand the church in the Iran region and beyond. We pray for blessing and provision for their vital work.

Saturday 15th June

Laleh Saati has been serving a two-year sentence since February. Her mother recently visited her and said Laleh is struggling with her mental health in prison and needs psychological help. We pray for peace, healing and help for Laleh!



PRAY FOR MEXICO

Sunday 16th June

In Mexico's southern states Catholicism is often blended with native Mayan religious practices and there is continuing persecution of Protestants who refuse to take part in local festivals involving heavy drinking and Mayan elements. We pray for more tolerance towards minority groups in these states.

Monday 17th June

The Mexican church lives in danger of persecution from criminal gangs and drug cartels which consider it a threat to their operations. We ask the Lord to touch the hearts of criminal leaders, so they turn from violence and hatred to Jesus.

Tuesday 18th June

We thank God for the courage of pastors and priests who speak out against violence and promote peace in Mexico. We pray for their protection as they are at risk of being kidnapped or killed and regularly face threats and intimidation.

Wednesday 19th June

Over 150 members of a Baptist Church in Hidalgo state were forced to flee two villages in April, after village leaders cut off their electricity, vandalised and blocked access to their church and some of their homes, and posted guards at the entry points to the villages. We pray for hope, future and provision for this group of Christians which includes 75 children and babies.

Thursday 20th June

Today we pray for wisdom and strength for **Pastor Rogelio Hernández Baltazar** and church leader **Nicolás Hernández Solórzano** who head up this group of displaced Baptists.

Friday 21st June

Local and national authorities seem to tolerate serious violations of freedom of religion or belief in Mexico. Pray for motivation and protection for advocates as they bring unseen violations to light.

Saturday 22nd June

Thank God for all the Christian NGOs who minister to persecuted Christians with legal support, trauma care, socio-economic aid and Biblical training.

Sunday 23rd June

We pray for continued healing for **Maria Concepción** from Hidalgo state. Maria spent time in intensive care after she was violently attacked at the end of 2022, and while she is in better health now she still has problems with her eyesight.

