

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January

**Leah Sharibu** was abducted from her school in Nigeria by Islamist terrorists in 2018. We pray that she would be treated well and for good health for her and her two children born in captivity. We also pray that she would be freed soon!

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January

South Korean **Pastor Choi Chun-gil** was arrested in North Korea in 2014 and sentenced to hard labour for life. We pray for strength and hope for Pastor Choi today and every day.



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January

**Pastor Kim Kuk-gi** is also serving a life sentence in labour camp in North Korea, since December 2014. We ask God to encourage and strengthen him while he remains there.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January

**Mina Khajavi** was arrested in Iran in 2020 and has been in prison since January 2024. She is not expected to be released until December 2029. We pray for hope and healing as Mina is struggling with pain due to a car accident.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

**Laleh Saati** was arrested in February 2024 in Iran and one month later was sentenced to two years in prison for her Christian activities. We pray for better mental health for Laleh and for close fellowship with other Christian prisoners.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

**Hakop Gochumyan** has been serving a ten-year sentence in Tehran's Evin Prison (Iran) since August 2023. We pray for faith and perseverance for Hakop and his family.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January

We pray for good mental, spiritual and physical health for **Asif Pervaiz** who has been in prison in Pakistan since 2013 and on death row since 2020. We ask the Lord to sustain him and for a successful appeal and release in 2025.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Pakistani **Pastor Zafar Bhatti** has been in prison since 2012 and on death row since 2022. Pray for better health for Zafar and his wife Nawab. We also pray that his appeal would finally be heard this year and that he will be acquitted.

Thank you for praying with us!



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# Church in Chains Prayer Diary

## January 2025

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out,  
till he has brought justice through to victory. Matthew 12:20

### PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Thank God that Christian convert **Javad Amini** was released on bail after ten days in detention in Iran. We pray for wisdom, hope and guidance for Javad and his wife Farzaneh as to how to live out their faith.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Since November 2024 one hundred Christians in Chhattisgarh state (India) have been banned from eight villages by their village leaders for refusing to renounce their faith. We pray for provision for all the affected families.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Today we pray for the board of trustees of Church in Chains which is meeting this month, for wisdom and guidance as it makes decisions.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January

151 Christians in Mexico's Hidalgo state, forced out of their villages in April 2024 were displaced again in November because local authorities reneged on an agreement allowing them to move back into their homes. We pray for hope and provision for them as they seek to build new lives in Veracruz state.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Pray for wisdom and guidance for Church in Chains staff as they seek to make arrangements to present the petition (to end repression of Christians) to the Chinese Embassy in Dublin.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Praise God that in October UNICEF nurse **Alice Loksha** escaped from Islamist militants, who had held her captive in Nigeria for six-and-a-half years. Pray that Alice would recover from the trauma and that she and her son Mohammad (born in captivity) will be accepted by their family and community.

## PRAY FOR SYRIA

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January

**President Bashar al-Assad** fled Syria in December 2024 when, almost overnight, Islamist rebels led by the HTS group overthrew his totalitarian regime. Bashar al-Assad ruled the country for more than 20 years, taking over from his father who ruled for nearly 30 years. As the future is far from clear we pray for peace, stability and protection for all Syrians in this new chapter for their country.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Pray that all armed groups would lay down their arms, and violence would completely cease.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January

**Mohammed al-Bashir**, Syria's new interim prime minister, has pledged to protect minority rights. Pray that his declarations supporting religious freedom and tolerance will be upheld in the long term.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January

An estimated 250,000 Christians now live in Syria – much reduced from a pre-civil war total of 1.4 million. Pray for wisdom for all Christian leaders as they navigate the uncertainty of the current situation.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January

There are about 30,000 Christians now living in Aleppo, Syria's second city, down from hundreds of thousands before the civil war. Church services resumed safely before Christmas. We pray for the safety of Christians and for wisdom as many consider whether to stay or to leave.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January

In Idlib province, under HTS control since 2015, Christian clergy are not allowed to appear publicly in religious clothing, crosses were removed from church buildings and the number of Christians dropped from 20,000 to 600. In 2022, Mohammad al-Bashir promised to protect Christians and allowed a historic Armenian Orthodox church to re-open. Pray for more freedom for Christians.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Pray that as discussions are held about the long-term governance of Syria, decisions are made to adopt an inclusive constitution with freedom for all, rather than a fundamentalist Islamist constitution in which freedom of religion is limited.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Pray for all aid organisations working in Syria to providing critical relief (food, medical care, hygiene kits and shelter) to displaced families. We pray for provision and protection for their vital work.



## PRAY FOR INDONESIA

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January

The Republic of Indonesia is a vast country made up of over 17,000 islands and has the world's largest Muslim population. We pray for blessing for the 28 million Christians who make up around 12% of the country's population.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Christians in some areas face obstacles when practising their faith including intimidation, violence and obstruction to building new places of worship. We pray for all Christians to be sustained by the Holy Spirit in their daily lives.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January

In October 2024 former general **Prabowo Subianto** was inaugurated as president of Indonesia. He was dismissed from the military in 1998 because of alleged human rights abuses. We pray that Prabowo and his administration will act justly despite his personal history.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Many converts from Islam experience pressure from their families in the form of isolation, verbal abuse and ostracism. We pray for comfort and strength for all Christians who are having a hard time due to their newfound faith.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January

In September 2024 fifty government officials dragged **Pastor Herri Soesanto** from his shop-house in Jombang where his church met and the building was sealed. We pray for provision of a place of worship for the church and encouragement for Pastor Herri and everyone in his congregation.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January

Authorities in Yogyakarta city (Central Java Province) are allowing two years of uncollected rubbish to pile up next to St Antonius Padua Catholic Church and the nearby Jesuit campus of Sanata Dharma Catholic University. We pray for a resolution as it is an increasing health concern for the affected Christians.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

**Muhammed Kece** is a Christian YouTuber who has been in prison on a blasphemy charge since 2021. It was reported that he was beaten and tortured by fellow inmates. His ten-year prison sentence was reduced to eight years upon appeal. We pray for Muhammed's welfare in prison and that he would be released early.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Today let's pray for the work of aid organisations that are providing Bibles and other Christian literature, socio-economic projects, persecution survival training and relief aid to Christians in Indonesia.

