

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Tuesday 24th June

Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel is a former maths lecturer and pastor who has been in prison in Eritrea since May 2004. We pray for hope and strength for Dr Kiflu.*

Wednesday 25th June

Rev Gebremedhin Gebregioris (pictured) is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and theologian who was arrested in November 2004 and remains in prison. We pray for faith, courage and perseverance for Rev Gebremedhin*



Thursday 26th June

Rev Dr Tekleab Menghisteb is an Eritrean Orthodox priest and physician who was arrested in November 2004. We pray that Dr Tekleab would have a palpable sense of God's presence in his prison cell. We also pray for the release of these three prisoners, who have all been locked up for over 20 years.*

Friday 27th June

Vietnamese religious freedom activist **Nay Y Blang** was arrested in May 2023 and sentenced to four and a half years in prison. He is expected to be released in November 2027. We pray for his physical and mental health in prison.

Saturday 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 body, mind and soul.

Sunday 29th June

Pastor Y Yich has been serving a 12-year sentence since 2013 in Vietnam. Pastor Y has suffered torture and poor health in prison, so we pray that God would bring healing and recovery to his battered body.

Monday 30th June

22-year-old **Leah Sharibu** has been a prisoner of Boko Haram terrorists in Nigeria since 2018. We pray for protection and rescue for her and her young children born in captivity.

* All Eritrean prisoners have remained in prison since arrest, held incommunicado and with no release date set.

Thank you for praying with us this month!



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

June 2025

Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Sunday 1st June

Chinese Pastor Yang Rongli is still waiting for her trial after she has been in detention for nearly four years on a fraud charge. Pray for her health as she is diabetic and went on a hunger strike in April.

Monday 2nd June

In late April ten young children, aged five to six, were detained by police while attending a Sunday School class in a private home in Fuyang City in eastern China. We pray for peace of mind and healing for the children, as at least one child experienced significant psychological distress following the incident.

Tuesday 3rd June

Pray for Church in Chains staff as they start working on the summer issue of the quarterly magazine, to be published in July (the main focus will be on India).

Wednesday 4th June

Lida Alexani, wife of Iranian house church leader Joseph Shahbazian, was released on bail (around €45,000) in May. Pray for provision for their family, which has had to pay such a large bail, which will make it difficult to also afford to pay for the release of Joseph, who remains in custody.

Thursday 5th June

Hakop Gochumyan, who is serving a ten-year prison sentence in Iran, recently wrote a letter from prison. He recounted human rights violations in custody and death threats. Pray for mental and physical health for Hakop in prison.

Friday 6th June

Thank God for **Senator Aubrey McCarthy** who joined us at our vigil outside the Chinese Embassy in Dublin in May! We pray that our presence outside and the receipt of our petition would have an impact in the embassy and in China.

Saturday 7th June

We pray for hope and a future for ten Christian families in India's Chhattisgarh state who were expelled from their village in late April and have received death threats should they return.



CHURCH IN CHAINS

PO Box 10447, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland. CHY 23070

T 01-282 5393 E info@churchinchains.ie W www.churchinchains.ie

PRAY FOR IRAN

Sunday 8th June

The church in Iran continues to be one of the fastest-growing in the world despite such intense persecution. One factor in this is that many Persian speakers outside of the country are coming to faith and sharing the Gospel with loved ones back home. Praise God for this growth!

Monday 9th June

We pray for protection for all secret house churches and believers as they live out their faith in face of opposition and oppression.

Tuesday 10th June

Masoud Pezeshkian, who become president of Iran in July 2024, is considered a reformer, but nothing has improved for Christians since his election. We pray that he would start to ensure that the human rights of religious minorities are better protected.



Wednesday 11th June

Mansour and **Mahmoud Mardani-Kharaji** are brothers who were sentenced to four years in prison in March. The Christian converts were arrested in 2021. We pray for their mental and physical well-being as they serve their sentence.

Thursday 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 safety for Iranian Christians and for the Gospel to continue to be able to spread through these channels.

Friday 13th June

Last month Christian converts **Abbas Soori, Narges Nasri, and Mehran Shamloui** were told to report to Evin Prison to begin serving long sentences. It is believed that they may have left the country to avoid prison. We pray for provision and welcome for them wherever they now are.

Saturday 14th June

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

Sunday 15th June

Thank God also for **Mansour Borji** at **Article 18**, which promotes religious freedom in Iran by publishing reliable news about persecuted Christians, advocacy work, training, and assisting victims of persecution. We pray for blessing for their work.

PRAY FOR UKRAINE (DONBAS)

Monday 16th June

Since Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022 the war has continued with ongoing loss of life and destruction of infrastructure. We pray that serious peace negotiations will start soon and have a successful outcome.

Tuesday 17th June

One of the most painful consequences of the Russian war in Ukraine is the growing number of widows and orphans. We pray for provision for churches and organisations who are reaching out to bereaved families of fallen soldiers.



Wednesday 18th June

In the Donbas region (occupied by Russian-backed separatists since 2014, with more territory taken by Russia since 2022) pastors have been killed and churches destroyed. We pray for protection for the remaining churches and clergy.

Thursday 19th June

In the occupied region many churches have had to close and pastors have left Ukraine or are serving in the military. We pray for enough Christians to be raised up and equipped to minister in churches across the Donbas.

Friday 20th June

Many Ukrainians are looking for and finding protection in churches, where they are warmly welcomed. As a result, thousands of previously unchurched people are turning to Christ. Praise God that even in these dark times, the church is growing and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!

Saturday 21st June

Today we pray for courage for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters that they may continue to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom, bind up broken hearts, and bring comfort to all who mourn. (Isaiah 61:1-2).

Sunday 22nd June

In Russian-controlled areas baptisms are prohibited and Protestants have been hindered celebrating weddings. We pray for safety and protection for Christians who are planning to celebrate events like these.

Monday 23rd June

We pray for the hope of the Gospel to continue to shine in the darkness and for our Father's will to be done in Ukraine as in heaven. We also pray once more for an end to the war and lasting peace in Ukraine!