

## PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June

Pastor **Hao Zhiwei** is serving an eight-year prison sentence in China. Pray for good health, as she has a history of acute pancreatitis, and for early release.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Pastor **Wang Xiaoguang** (pictured) is serving a sentence of over nine years in prison in China. Pray that he would be allowed a Bible and that he would remain in good health. Pray also for his imprisoned wife **Yang Rongli**.



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

**Rev Dr Futsum Gebrenegus** is a psychiatrist and Eritrean Orthodox priest who has been in prison since November 2004, with no release date set. Pray for good mental and physical health and that Dr Futsum would be released.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June

**Meron Gebreselasie** is a pastor and anaesthetist who has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004, with no release date set. Ask God to encourage Pastor Meron and keep him safe and well, and pray that he would be released.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June

**Haile Naizghe** is a church leader and former accountant who has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004, with no release date set. Pray for encouragement and good health for Haile, and pray that he would be released soon.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Armenian citizen **Hakop Gochumyan** is serving a ten-year prison sentence in Iran for "proselytising" based on possessing Bibles and attending church. He's due to be released in 2033. Pray for protection, good health and early release.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June

**Leah Sharibu** (23) has been a prisoner of Islamic State West Africa Province in Nigeria since 2018. Pray for protection and pray that Leah and her children born in captivity would be rescued and brought home to her family.

**Thank you for praying with us this month!**



# Church in Chains Prayer Diary

## June 2026

*On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. (Acts 4:23, 24)*

## PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June

Six Christians from a house church in Guizhou province in China have been arrested on charges relating to Sunday school ministry. Pray for God's strength for the five men – **Wei Yongqiang, He Jinbao, Quan Xiaolong, Long Jian** and **Cheng Yongbing** – and a woman named **Zhou Guixia** as they await trial.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

Former prisoner **John Cao** has returned home from hospital in China after being diagnosed with late-stage prostate cancer. He is receiving care at home and is undergoing chemotherapy. John has asked for prayer for his recovery and for permission to return to the United States to reunite with his family.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

**Pastor Xing Wenxiang**, who was released in November after ten years in prison in China, remains under close surveillance and is unable to return to ministry. Pray that the Lord will supply all her needs and encourage her heart.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Christian convert **Mahshar Parandin**, an artist who is around 50 years of age, is serving a two-year sentence in Tehran's Evin Prison. She has two tumours and severe heart disease. Pray that the Iranian authorities will allow her to receive the medical care (including an operation) that has been recommended for her.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June

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

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Pray for encouragement for **Dr Augustinos Samaan** (37), a Coptic Christian scholar and YouTuber who is in prison in Egypt but has filed an appeal against a five-year sentence on charges relating to his Christian teaching videos.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Praise God for the solidarity shown at the annual Prayer and Protest Vigil at the **Eritrean Embassy in London** in May and continue to pray for an end to repression in Eritrea and the release of all Christian prisoners.



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## PRAY FOR NIGERIA

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country and its leading oil producer, but the majority of its over 200 million population live below the poverty line and corruption is widespread. Violence from various armed groups – some of which is religiously motivated – is also widespread. Pray that these long-standing issues will begin to be tackled effectively.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June

In May, **President Bola Tinubu** (74) announced that he would be running for a second term as President in elections to be held in 2027. Pray that he and his government will make wise and righteous decisions that benefit all Nigerians.



Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Last year, US President Donald Trump threatened military action against Nigeria if it “continued to allow the killing of Christians” and the US and Nigerian governments later worked together on strikes against terrorists. Pray that all outside interventions would be well-informed and useful.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June

According to figures compiled by Church in Chains partner organisation **Stefanos Foundation**, there were 437 incidents of attacks against Christians between January and April in which 1,720 people were killed and 1,484 people abducted. Pray for peace in Nigeria and an end to violence.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Pray for strength and wisdom for **Mark Lipdo** and all his colleagues at **Stefanos Foundation** as they seek to support the victims of the violence and pray for provision and protection as they gather information, visit communities affected by the violence and also organise various relief projects.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June

The Board of Church in Chains recently approved a proposal from Stefanos Foundation for funding to run a **Trauma Counselling Workshop** for 40 women and widows who survived militia attacks in Bokkos, Plateau State. Pray that this week-long course will be of great benefit to these women who have suffered so much.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Pray for all other relief projects being run by Stefanos and other organisations – that they bring blessing and hope to those in great need.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June

Pray for pastors and all church leaders ministering in difficult and dangerous regions of Nigeria – pray for protection and courage as they seek to teach, encourage and lead their congregations.

## PRAY FOR UKRAINE (DONBAS)

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

The war between Russia and Ukraine (ongoing since the Russian invasion in February 2022) shows no sign of ending as death and destruction continue on a daily basis. Pray for an end to the war and a just peace.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June

In the Donbas region (occupied by Russian-backed separatists since 2014, with more territory taken by Russia since 2022) the Russian-backed authorities have sought to restrict religious freedom to those churches who accept the authority of Russia. Pray for wisdom for all church leaders in the Donbas region.



Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June

The Russian-backed authorities in Donbas have been trying to force all religious groups to register with local government and accept Russian control including requiring church leaders and members to apply for Russian passports. Pray for God's protection on all congregations that have resisted this pressure.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Many churches in the Donbas region that have not registered have had their buildings confiscated. Pray for congregations that have lost their buildings – that they may find ways to continue to meet for worship.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Many churches routinely meet in home groups but these too have been raided by police resulting in arrests and fines for those leading them. Pray for peace and courage for all who have suffered in this way.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June

In March Russia's Migration Service expelled 66-year-old Baptist pastor **Vladimir Rytikov**, who has lived all his life in the Luhansk region of Donbas, from what they regard as Russian territory within two weeks. After praying with his wife Lyudmila, he decided to stay. Pray that Vladimir and Lyudmila will be able to remain.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Pastor Vladimir Rytikov's church in **Krasnodon** has been repeatedly raided by Russian officials in recent years and he and several church members have been fined. Pray that the congregation would be able to continue to worship together.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Pray for courage and strength for Pastor **Leonid Ponomaryov** who was recently fined for leading the Baptist church in Mariupol – the latest action by Russian officials in a long campaign against the church.