

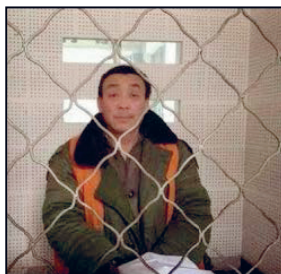
PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Saturday 24th August

Pastor Hao Zhiwei has been serving an eight-year sentence in China since 2019. Pray for good physical and mental health for her and her sons **Paul** and **Moses**.

Sunday 25th August

Pastor Zhang Shaojie (pictured) has been serving a 12-year sentence in China since 2013. We pray that Pastor Zhang would be well in body and mind and for strength for his wife **Wang Fengrui** who is disabled.



Monday 26th August

Chinese-American **Pastor David Lin** has been in prison in China since 2006. In 2022 his life sentence was reduced to a scheduled release in April 2030. We pray that he would be treated well in prison and be able to share his faith there.

Tuesday 27th August

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

Wednesday 28th August

Pastor Matthias Haghnejad has been serving a six-year sentence in Iran since 2022. Please pray for comfort and peace for him, his wife **Anahita Khademi** and their daughter **Hannah**.

Thursday 29th August

Pakistani **Zafar Bhatti** has been in prison since 2012 and is facing the death penalty. We pray for better health and strength for Zafar and his wife **Nawab**. We also pray that his appeal will be heard soon and that he will be acquitted.

Friday 30th August

Asif Pervaiz has been in prison in Pakistan since 2013 and on death row since 2020. We pray that Asif, his wife **Marilyn** and their children will experience God's grace in their daily lives and for freedom for Asif.

Saturday 31st August

Y Pum Bya a church leader from Vietnam has been in prison since 2018. He is serving a 14-year prison sentence. We pray that he would be treated well in prison and that God would strengthen and encourage him.

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



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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Church in Chains Prayer Diary

August 2024

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners,
so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:3

PRAY FOR NEWS/EVENTS

Thursday 1st August

We are thankful that our petition to the Chinese **President Xi Jinping** for more freedom for Christians in China has been signed by many supporters. We pray that many more signatures will be gathered over the summer.

Friday 2nd August

In July 27-year-old **Ehsaan Shan Masih** was sentenced to death under Pakistan's blasphemy laws. He was accused of sharing a video on TikTok showing a desecrated Quranic text. We pray for safety and strength for Ehsaan in prison and for protection and provision for his family.

Saturday 3rd August

We pray for release for the six Christians from Tahae village in central Laos who were arrested in June at the request of their village chief. They belong to an unregistered church and were arrested during a prayer meeting.

Sunday 4th August

We will have a stand at the Kinfire Christian festival in Kilkenny later this month (15 - 18 August). Please pray that many attending the festival will take time to find out more about our work on behalf of the persecuted church worldwide.

Monday 5th August

Church in Chains partner **Bob Fu** (China Aid) is visiting Ireland later this month to speak at the Bangor Worldwide Convention and also at meetings in Drogheda and Swords. Pray for God's blessing on Bob's ministry in Ireland.

Tuesday 6th August

Our annual conference will be held at Trinity Church, Dublin on Saturday 28th September and will also be live-streamed. Please pray for all the preparations and that our speaker **Mark Lipdo** (Nigeria) will receive his visa in good time.

Wednesday 7th August

Thank God that 70-year-old Chinese **Pastor Lian Changnian**, whose health was severely damaged in detention, has recently shown some improvement. We pray for full recovery and that he would be released.

PRAY FOR EGYPT

Thursday 8th August

Conditions for Christians in Egypt have improved in recent years, with **President Abdel al-Sisi** promoting religious tolerance and supporting churches. We pray God's blessing on President al-Sisi and pray that Christians would have freedom to worship and live their lives in safety throughout the country.

Friday 9th August

Thank God that more churches and affiliated service buildings are being legalised by the government. Pray for blessing over these church buildings, the church leaders and all the congregations.



Saturday 10th August

There has been growth in recent years in the number of Christians from a Muslim background – such converts can face issues such as ostracism, divorce and loss of employment. We pray for strength and protection for these converts.

Sunday 11th August

In April, Muslim fundamentalists attacked two predominantly Christian villages in Upper Egypt to prevent construction of church buildings. The attackers hurled stones and set fire to Christians' houses and shops, destroying several properties before police restored order. We pray for peace and blessing for the communities of Al-Fawakher and Al-Koum Al-Ahmar.

Monday 12th August

Pray that Egyptian Christians would continue to be encouraged and blessed by Christian broadcaster **SAT-7**'s ministry and pray that as they watch church services and other programmes the Lord will speak to many.

Tuesday 13th August

Christian women and girls in Egypt are vulnerable to forced conversion, marriage and rape. Pray that the Lord would protect them, keep them safe and rescue those who been abducted.

Wednesday 14th August

Irene Ibrahim Shehata, a 21-year-old Christian medical student from Assiut was kidnapped in January by a group linked to the Muslim Brotherhood. Pray that God would intervene to deliver Irene and bring her back to her family.

Thursday 15th August

Today we pray for those who perpetrate hatred in Egypt, that their hearts would be opened to the love of God.

PRAY FOR VIETNAM

Friday 16th August

While Christians living in Vietnam's cities enjoy limited freedom, many Christians from ethnic minorities like the Hmong and Montagnards who live in the Central and Northwest Highlands face ongoing persecution. Their homes are sometimes destroyed and they are forced to leave their villages. We pray that God would protect them and strengthen them in their faith.

Saturday 17th August

Church meetings in these areas face constant surveillance and frequent raids. We pray for more freedom for churches and that authorities' suspicion of Christians will ease.



Sunday 18th August

Tô Lâm became the new president of Vietnam in May. We pray that he would come to appreciate Christians and their contribution to Vietnamese society and allow them to worship freely.

Monday 19th August

Eleven Montagnard Christian prisoners (six Protestant and five Catholic) who should have finished serving their sentences, have not been released and their families recently raised the alarm after they lost contact with their loved ones. We pray for their safety and release.

Tuesday 20th August

Today we pray for hope and courage for converts from Buddhist or animist backgrounds who face the most severe persecution from the authorities and their families, friends and neighbours.

Wednesday 21st August

Pray for evangelist **Nay Y Blang** from the Central Highlands who was given a four-and-a-half year prison sentence in January 2024 for resisting a government order to close his house church and stop holding prayer meetings in his home.

Thursday 22nd August

In recent months, Vietnamese security police have been targeting Hmong and Montagnard Christians who have fled to Thailand to seek asylum. We pray for the safety of those who have fled Vietnam because of persecution.

Friday 23rd August

We pray for provision for the organisations that support Vietnamese Christians by providing them with literature, leadership and discipleship training, development projects, advocacy and relief aid.