

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Tuesday 24th December

Pastor Kidane Weldou has been in prison in Eritrea since 2005. We pray for health and strength for Kidane and that he would be released soon.*

CHRISTMAS DAY (Monday 25th December)

Rev Haile Naizghe has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray that Rev Haile would know that Emmanuel is present with him in his cell today and every day.*



ST STEPHEN'S DAY (Tuesday 26th December)

Pastor and anaesthetist **Meron Gebreselasie** has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray for perseverance and good health for Meron.*

Friday 27th December

Mussie Ezaz, an evangelist and youth leader, has been in an Eritrean prison since 2008. We ask God to encourage Mussie and bless his wife **Frewrini** and their three sons, **Yoel**, **Hananuel** and **Basaliel**.*

Saturday 28th December

Shaguffa Kiran has been in prison in Pakistan since 2021. We pray for hope for her, her husband **Rafique** and their four children. We pray that her appeal against the death sentence imposed in September would be heard soon.

Sunday 29th December

Ashfaq Masih has been in prison in Pakistan since 2017 and on death row since July 2022. We ask the Lord to strengthen Ashfaq physically and mentally and to bless his wife **Nabeela** and their nine-year-old daughter.

Monday 30th December

Chinese **Pastor Wang Yi** has been in prison since 2018, serving a 9-year-sentence until 2027. We pray God would give Pastor Wang peace of mind.

Tuesday 31st December

Pastor Bao Guohua and his wife **Pastor Xing Wenxiang** have been in prison in China since 2015, serving 14 and 12-year sentences respectively, with expected release dates in 2029 and 2027. Lord, be their rock and fortress!

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

————— Thank you for praying with us and blessings for 2025! —————



CHURCH IN CHAINS

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Church in Chains Prayer Diary



December 2024

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Sunday 1st December

Today as we celebrate the first Sunday in Advent, please pray for peace and protection for the persecuted church during its Christmas celebrations.

Monday 2nd December

Saima Masih and her younger sister **Sonia Faryiad** were granted rare bail only weeks after they were arrested on blasphemy charges in Pakistan. Pray for the sisters and their families who are staying at an undisclosed location for their safety and may never be able to return to their homes and live normal lives.

Tuesday 3rd December

A court in Pakistan recently returned custody of a 16-year-old Christian girl, **Diya Ifikhar**, to her parents after a Muslim man had kidnapped, forcibly converted her to Islam and married her. Pray that Diya would recover from the abuse and violence she suffered at the hands of her abductor and be able to live a full life.

Wednesday 4th December

Thank God that in late September two Iranian prisoners were released! **Mehdi Akbari**'s sentence was reduced and **Anooshavan Avedian** was acquitted. We pray for both men as they adjust to life outside prison.

Thursday 5th December

Today is the last official date to post Christmas cards to Christian prisoners in China, Iran and Pakistan. We pray that **Li Juncai**, **Hakop Gochumyan** and **Shaguffa Kiran** would receive the cards that are sent and be greatly encouraged in their faith.

Friday 6th December

We thank God that we can meet tonight online to pray together for the needs of the persecuted church. Thank you for Your promise that You will be in our midst!

Saturday 7th December

On 20 October police and religious affairs officials raided multiple branches of Beijing Zion Church. We pray for comfort and peace for church members who were detained, especially **Elder Qin Guoliang** (detained for 14 days).

PRAY FOR CHINA

Sunday 8th December

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has increased restrictions on all religions in recent years, including Christians. Some observers describe the current situation as the worst since Chairman Mao was in power. We pray for the an end to this severe repression!

Monday 9th December

Seventy million Christians are members of house churches which refuse to register with the CCP (because of government interference). Members of these churches face constant harassment, raids, fines and imprisonment. We pray for hope and strength for them all.



Tuesday 10th December

President Xi Jinping views Christianity as a threat to his authority and is determined to make the church more subservient to the CCP. We pray that President Xi would have an encounter with God and that his life would be transformed.

Wednesday 11th December

Under 18s are officially banned from attending church in China. We pray for possibilities for children and young people to hear the Gospel and grow in their faith despite such opposition from the government.

Thursday 12th December

We thank God that in September Pastor **David Lin** was released after 18 years in prison and church worker **Wang Qiang** was released after nearly two years in detention. We pray for healing, blessing and guidance for both men and their families as they navigate life outside prison again.

Friday 13th December

Fu Xuanjuan was the head of a company which sold audio Bible players and has been serving a six-year prison sentence since 2020. She has developed multiple uterine fibroids while in prison. We pray for better health and peace of mind for Fu Xuanjuan and blessing for her husband **Deng Tianyong** and their daughter.

Saturday 14th December

We ask the Holy Spirit to fill Chinese Christians with creative ideas how they can meet together, worship and have fellowship despite all the restrictions.

Sunday 15th December

Today we join in prayer for provision and protection for the work of our partners **ChinaAid** and **Chinese Church Support Ministries**.

PRAY FOR CUBA

Monday 16th December

Cuba has been governed by the Communist Party since 1959 and it seeks to control the church according to its ideology. Church leaders who are critical of the regime face arrest, closure of their churches, prison sentences and harassment. We pray that there would be more religious freedom in Cuba.

Tuesday 17th December

Many Protestant churches have been denied registration and thousands of unregistered house churches meet across the country. We pray for blessing and joy for all these churches.

Wednesday 18th December

Pray that **President Miguel Díaz-Canel** would come to realise that Christians are a blessing to his nation.

Thursday 19th December

On 10 November, two strong earthquakes hit Cuba and the damage they caused has added to the suffering of a population that recently experienced storms and blackouts. We pray for the restoration of basic services and for spiritual strength for Cuban Christians.

Friday 20th December

Rev Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo is an Evangelical pastor imprisoned since July 2021 and facing four more years in prison for taking part in protests criticising the government's human rights violations. Pray for strength for Lorenzo in prison and hope for his wife **Maridilegnis Carballo** and their two children, **David** and **Lorena**.

Saturday 21st December

Members of the **Alliance of Christians of Cuba** (made up of pastors and ministry leaders) including **Maridilegnis Carballo** recently met a visiting European Union delegation to call for greater freedom. Pray that the Cuban government will respond positively to international advocacy.

Sunday 22nd December

There are no Christian bookstores in Cuba and a shortage of Bibles, which are very expensive. We pray for better access to Bibles and protection for those organisations which are distributing them.

Monday 23rd December

Pray for persecutors in the Communist Party who are so opposed the church. We pray that many would have their hearts transformed by the love of Jesus.

