

PRAY FOR PRISONERS

Saturday 22nd February

Zafar Bhatti has been behind bars in Pakistan since July 2012 on blasphemy charges. Zafar has multiple health conditions including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease most recently gangrene in his right foot. We pray that he would receive all the healthcare he needs and also for his immediate release on bail.

Sunday 23rd February

Ashfaq Masih (pictured) has been in prison in Pakistan since 2017, also accused of blasphemy. We pray that his death sentence will be overturned and that he will be acquitted and reunited with his wife and daughter.



Monday 24th February

Pastor Y Yich has been serving a twelve-year sentence in prison in Vietnam since 2013 and is expected to be released later this year. We ask God to protect and care for Pastor Yich in prison and also his wife **Amying H'Dom** and their five children.

Tuesday 25th February

Y Pum Bya is a Vietnamese church leader, who has been serving a fourteen-year prison sentence since 2019. We pray for peace of mind and good health for Y Pum Bya and for provision for his wife **H'Bleng Nie** and their seven children.

Wednesday 26th February

Jang Moon Seok is an ethnic Korean who ministered to North Koreans who crossed the border into China. He was abducted in 2014, brought across the border into North Korea and sentenced to 15 years in prison. We pray that God would be his *"refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble"*. (Psalm 46)

Thursday 27th February

Kim Jong Uk is a South Korean missionary who has been serving a life sentence in a labour camp in North Korea camp since 2013. We pray for strength and hope for Missionary Kim.

Friday 28th February

Dr Kiflu Gebremeskel is a former church leader and maths lecturer who has been in prison in Eritrea since 2004. We pray for his physical, mental and spiritual health and ask that he would be released.



Church in Chains Prayer Diary

February 2025

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you.” Colossians 1:9

PRAY FOR NEWS AND EVENTS

Saturday 1st February

Over fifty Christians were killed in attacks over Christmas in Nigeria's Plateau and Benue states. We pray for recovery and provision for the affected communities and particularly for the families of the bereaved.

Sunday 2nd February

Thank God that **Rhoda Jatau** was finally acquitted of blasphemy in Nigeria. Pray for provision and guidance for Rhoda, her husband **Ya'u Adamu** and their five children. They had moved to a neighbouring state while awaiting the verdict.

Monday 3rd February

On Sunday 29 December **Pastor Marlon Lora**, his wife and two adult children were murdered in Colombia. We pray for comfort for friends and relations and members at Prince of Peace Villaparaguay Church grieving their loss.

Tuesday 4th February

In early December, Eritrean security police raided a house where 27 secondary school students were gathered for prayer and worship. The boys and girls who were arrested are mostly between 14 and 16, and are still being held in Mai Serwa prison. We earnestly pray for their protection and their immediate release.

Wednesday 5th February

Pray for **Kunika Kashyap** in Chhattisgarh state India as she recovers after suffering a miscarriage following a violent attack by a village leader who suspected that she was going to pray for a sick woman in the village.

Thursday 6th February

Praise God that **Pastor Matthias Haghnejad** was released early from prison in Iran. We pray that Matthias remains free in 2025 and will be acquitted of the charge that still hangs over him. Pray for hope and peace of mind for Matthias, his wife **Anahita Khademi** and teenage daughter Hannah.

Friday 7th February

Pray for Church in Chains staff working on preparing resources for this year's Lent Prayer Project.



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 COLOMBIA

Saturday 8th February

In 2016 a fragile peace agreement between the government and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) was achieved, but it has not brought more security to Colombians. In January there was an upsurge in violence between FARC and another rival rebel group. We pray that God would transform the hearts of the warring parties and for lasting peace in Colombia.

Sunday 9th February

Today we pray for the church in Colombia, a majority-Catholic country which experienced a Pentecostal explosion in recent decades. We pray for continued growth and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the church as well as protection from extortion attempts by armed groups and criminal gangs.



Monday 10th February

Church leaders are specifically targeted by cartels and rebels as they oppose violence, speak out against the drug trade and defend human rights, and they are seen as competing for influence over young people whom the groups want to recruit. We pray for protection and wisdom for church leaders who are constantly at risk of attack, kidnapping or murder.

Tuesday 11th February

When leftist **President Gustavo Petro** took office in 2022 he promised to bring “total peace” to Colombia. We pray that the Lord would give him the determination, strength and skills necessary to work toward this goal, particularly now as his government seeks to deal with the escalating violence.

Wednesday 12th February

Colombians with an indigenous background who come to faith in Jesus can experience intense hostility from their communities who view their conversion as a betrayal. We pray for encouragement and hope for new believers.

Thursday 13th February

Female converts in areas controlled by gangs are at risk of being pressurised into marriage to non-Christians or abandoned by their husbands and separated from their children. Young girls can be targeted for trafficking by cartel leaders. We ask God to keep our sisters in Colombia safe from these dangers!

Friday 14th February

Thank God for all Christian NGOs working to bring more of God's kingdom from heaven to Colombia. We pray for blessing and provision for these organisations as they distribute Bibles, provide trauma care, training and emergency relief, run community development projects and assist with legal proceedings.

PRAY FOR PAKISTAN

Saturday 15th February

Christians in Pakistan continue to be considered second-class citizens and experience social hostility. Most Christians are from very poor backgrounds, with little education, and work in badly-paid, dirty and sometimes dangerous jobs. We pray for hope, courage and joy for our Pakistani brothers and sisters.

Sunday 16th February

We thank God for the church in Pakistan. We ask God to strengthen it so it can be a beacon of hope. Lord, pour out Your love on the church to help it overcome hate and division!

Monday 17th February

While a new government coalition was established in February 2024 with **Shehbaz Sharif** as prime minister, the political situation in Pakistan remains uncertain and highly polarised. We pray for stability and protection over all religious minorities in this climate.



Tuesday 18th February

Today we pray for an end to mob violence against Christians in Pakistan. We pray for recovery and healing for all communities that have been affected by violent attacks in the past, such as Jaranwala in 2023.

Wednesday 19th February

In a worrying escalation of blasphemy cases, human right lawyers reported in January that an Islamist gang has trapped more than 450 people in false charges in recent years, including five victims who were tortured to death in custody. We pray that this group would be broken up and for an end to their evil enterprise. We also pray for the release of all those imprisoned on false charges.

Thursday 20th February

Today we pray for one of our partners **Ashley Trask** who is going to visit Christians in Pakistan this month to spend time helping families by paying them pastoral visits and bringing them food packages. He said many Christians need pastoral care as they suffer greatly from poverty, persecution and institutionalised discrimination. We pray for travelling mercies for Ashley and good health and strength for him on this trip.

Friday 21st February

Thank God that the National Assembly recently approved a bill for the establishment of specialised children's courts, which will create child-friendly judicial environments for victims of rape and sexual violence. We pray that these courts will be operational soon and deliver justice to young victims.