



**CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE
USA**
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

PRAYER CALENDAR
August 2018

August 1: Lord, we pray for China. Move in powerful ways to bring religious freedom. Grant strength, courage and freedom to brave church leaders and human rights defenders.

August 2: Please pray for house churches in China, which are facing increased opposition from the government. The Chinese government is also strictly restricting the spread of the Christian faith among students.

August 3: Pray for house church leaders in China who are arrested for their Christian work. Most of them can't afford a lawyer, so their chance of a fair trial is small. Pray for God's protection over the *China for Christ Church* network which has over 10 million

members.

August 4: The Chinese government treats religion as something which has to be controlled and as a potential threat to national security. Pray for safety of Christians in China and for religious freedom.

August 5: Under Xi Jinping, control of religious life in China has become a new priority. The right to freedom of religion or belief, for both registered and unregistered religious communities, has been severely restricted. Pray for peace among Christians in China.

August 6: Recently the Chinese government introduced revised "Regulations on Religious Affairs" to tighten control over religious activities. Pray revised regulations do not lead to further crackdown on Christians.

August 7: It was recently announced that the Communist Party of China will oversee all ethnic and religious affairs. Pray this doesn't lead to the Party leadership bypassing laws and regulations to control Christians.

August 8: Please pray for CSW's East Asia advocacy team as it raises concerns about the new regulations in China with the European Union and the United Nations. Pray human rights concerns would be a high priority.

August 9: The Golden Lampstand Church in China was recently destroyed by armed police with explosives. This was part of a campaign of forced demolition of churches, cross removal and destruction. Pray for provision and strength for Christians who have seen their churches destroyed or crosses removed from their church.

August 10: Pray for Living Stone Church in Guiyang, China, which has experienced severe government harassment since 2013. Pray for courage and protection for the congregation facing intense intimidation.

August 11: Please pray God would grant members of Living Stone Church a spirit of unity and courage. Some people have left the church due to extreme pressure from Chinese government.

August 12: Pastor Yang Hua, of Living Stone Church, was arrested in 2016 and sentenced to two and a half years in prison on national security charges. Pray Pastor Yang would be unconditionally released and all charges against him dismissed.

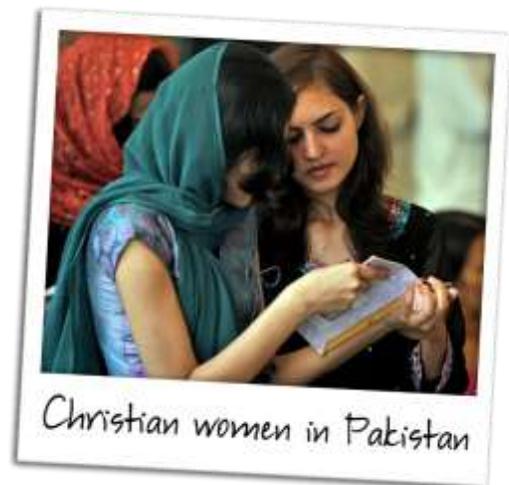
August 13: God, we pray for Your protection and power upon Christians in China as they cope with increased persecution and intimidation since a 2015 government crackdown on religious minorities. Shield them from danger as they faithfully serve You.

August 14: Dear Lord, please embolden Your children in China. Bless and protect them as You guide them with Your strength. Comfort those living in fear, and give the church leaders wisdom and courage as they serve Your Church.

August 15: Almighty God, we lift up the nation of Pakistan into Your hands and pray for Your hope, light and truth to spread through the land. We pray for the grip of extremist forces to be loosened so peace can come to the Pakistani people.

August 16: Pray for school children in Pakistan, taught from biased curriculum that teaches them to hate those who follow different faiths and promotes Islam. This longstanding problem exacerbates religious freedom issues, as children are taught hatred. Please pray curriculum is changed.

August 17: Students in Pakistan are exposed to biased curriculum, which breeds discrimination against religious minorities. Christian students face discrimination as well as physical and mental abuse from fellow classmates and teachers. Pray for change in the education system, and for unbiased textbooks and non-discriminatory curricula.



August 18: Lord, watch over all those who defend religious freedom in Pakistan. Protect the lawyers and human rights defenders working so that one day everyone in Pakistan will be able to worship freely, without fear.

August 19: Pray for human rights defenders in the aftermath of recent terror attacks on Pakistani churches. They recently attended a series of skills sharing and training workshops on how to keep themselves safe while they work for the safety and freedom of others.

August 20: Thank God for the success of recent training workshops in Pakistan. Pray for the lawyers, journalists and activists, from diverse religious backgrounds in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan who took part.

August 21: CSW has been working in Pakistan for over 20 years. Life is increasingly difficult for Christians in Pakistan, but CSW is able to work quickly and effectively in response to emergencies and human rights abuses. Pray for the long-term advocacy, training and fact-finding.

August 22: Christians in Pakistan not only face the prospect of being targeted in a violent attack, but also face daily institutional and social discrimination. Pray for an increase in tolerance and peaceful co-existence between religious communities.

August 23: Restrictive blasphemy laws are often used to settle personal scores and convict Christians unjustly. Please pray God softens the hearts of officials in Pakistan who often discriminate against Christians in the education and employment sectors.

August 24: Please pray for the blasphemy laws in Pakistan to be repealed. These vaguely worded laws don't define blasphemy yet they make it a crime, leading to innocent people being imprisoned.

August 25: Pakistan's blasphemy laws make it a criminal act to insult another's religion. Blasphemy laws are widely misused to settle personal scores and target religious minorities. Pray the blasphemy laws would be amended or repealed.

August 26: Pray for Asia Bibi, also known as Asia Noreen. She's a Christian mother of five, sentenced in 2009 to death for blasphemy. Her final hearing was supposed to be in 2016, but the judge recused himself and she remained in prison. Pray for her unconditional release.

August 27: Christians are the largest religious minority in Pakistan, where 95% of the 180 million people are Muslim. Pray God enables Christian leaders in Pakistan to fight against religious persecution and discrimination.

August 28: Please pray for Michelle Chaudhry, founder of the Cecil and Iris Chaudhry Foundation in Pakistan. Pray God provides for the Foundation, as they tirelessly work to protect human rights, especially freedom of religion or belief. This is often dangerous work with limited resources.

August 29: Pray for Michelle Chaudhry and her brother, Cecil Chaudhry, Jr., long-standing CSW partners in Pakistan. They work with CSW providing invaluable insight into the situation for religious minorities. Pray God provides strength, good health and endurance for their vital work.

August 30: Pray for isolated believers in Pakistan who live in hiding and cannot worship freely. Almighty God, please bless them with Your peace and joy that surpasses all understanding.

August 31: Pray for the persecuted Christian community in Pakistan to be anchored in God's perfect peace. Pray for strength and courage for Christians with Muslim backgrounds, living under life-threatening conditions because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

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