



CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE USA

VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

PRAYER CALENDAR

October 2019

October 1: Dear God, we lift the nation of China to You. Strengthen Your children, persevering in their faith despite the intense pressure on them. Protect them and fill them with courage and boldness.

October 2: Pray for Christians in China, fleeing for their lives amid the crackdown on the Church, saying they are no longer safe. President Xi Jinping has ordered all religions must "Sinicize" to ensure they are loyal to the officially atheistic party or face the wrath of the Communist regime.

October 3: The Ministry of Education in China is removing religious references from children's books. They are censoring words like Bible, God, and Christ from classic children's stories in an effort to help middle schoolers "understand other cultures."

October 4: Chinese Pastor Bob Fu, founder of ChinaAid, a nonprofit working for religious freedom and rule of law in China, says "The government's repression against the churches increasingly appears aimed at removing the Bible and its teachings from Chinese Christianity." Pray for believers in China bravely take a stand for Truth.

October 5: Pray for Christians in China facing daily harassment, economic exploitation, intimidation and violence from the government. They are followed, arrested and even beaten and tortured simply for their faith.

October 6: In 2018, new Regulations on Religious Affairs came into effect in China that have further restricted freedom of religion or belief, and there has been a ban on minors attending church in some regions. Pray these unnecessarily harsh restrictions would be lifted.

October 7: Pray for churches in China experiencing growing harassment since the new Regulations on Religious Affairs. Even many registered with the government endure increased intimidation, closures and demolitions. Children are banned from attending services and religious items are forcibly removed from churches.

October 8: Pray for believers in China facing high levels of persecution. The current crackdown on churches is described as the worst since the Cultural Revolution in 1966. The government is waging the severest suppression of Christianity since religious freedoms were granted by the Chinese constitution in 1982.

October 9: Pray for Early Rain Church, an unregistered church in Chengdu, China, which has been under constant Orwellian watch by the state since 1989. Over 100 members, including its Pastor, Wang Yi and his wife Jiang Rong, were recently detained and/or charged with national security crimes following a police raid.

October 10: In September 2018, officials in Beijing shut down Zion Church, one of the largest unregistered Protestant churches in the city, after months of pressure. Pray the congregation finds a safe place to meet together and worship.

October 11: Pray for Pastor Su Tianfu of Living Stone Church in China, sentenced in 2018 to one year in prison, suspended for two years, with a further six months of "residential surveillance." Prior to his sentencing, Pastor Su had been under house arrest for three years.

October 12: Almighty God, we lift the churches of China to You. Grant courage and safety to the congregations of churches that have been shut down or harassed. China has seen exponential growth in Christian believers since the Cultural Revolution and is set to have the largest Christian population in the world by 2030.

October 13: Please pray for safety of imprisoned Christians in China. Bible passages are smuggled in on small pieces of paper. They memorize it as fast as they can so that, if paper is taken away, it is hidden in their heart.

October 14: Pray for Christian leaders of the underground Church in China. They teach believers how to witness to their executioner if they find themselves being led to their execution.

October 15: Lord God, the situation in China seems increasingly bleak, but we know that You are watching over that country and Your children. We commit them to You, asking that You uplift them with Your comfort and strength.

October 16: Dear God, we pray for the nation of Cuba. Protect those risking their safety to defend human rights and freedom of religion or belief. Provide the resources needed as they work tirelessly in extremely trying circumstances.



October 17: In July, three evangelical leaders were prohibited by Cuban officials from leaving Cuba to participate in the Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Washington DC. Pray Cuban government removes all arbitrary travel restrictions on these leaders.

October 18: The Cuban government seeks to control religious groups and religious expression. Christians are harassed and intimidated, and access to education and employment restricted. Pray God provides for all their needs to stand firm against harassment.

October 19: Cuba recently passed a new constitution that undermines religious freedom protections. The government pressured church leaders to urge their congregations to vote yes on the referendum, but many spoke out publicly against it. Officials are now harassing and threatening them for their opposition. Pray for safety of Christians in Cuba.

October 20: CSW has documented a steady increase in religious freedom violations in Cuba. There are concerns that the current draft of the new constitution significantly reduces protections for freedom of religion or belief, as well as notably separating and weakening references to freedom of conscience. Pray for religious freedom in Cuba.

October 21: Church leaders in Cuba received calls from government officials threatening them with arrest and imprisonment if they did not instruct their congregations to vote yes on the new constitution. Pray for the interdenominational campaign calling for stronger protection for religious freedom.

October 22: There is a crackdown on dissident voices inside Cuba, using pressure tactics. Pray for religious leaders in Cuba who are increasingly outspoken calling for freedom of religion or belief.

October 23: Christian leaders in Cuba report frequent visits from state security agents and Cuban Communist Party officials to intimidate and raise awareness they're under close surveillance. Pray for safety of religious leaders defending the rights of Christians.

October 24: CSW receives reports of increased religious freedom violations in Cuba. Cuban human rights defenders documented 151 separate violations of freedom of religion or belief in 2018. Pray for Christians being harassed and denied the right to attend church services.

October 25: Even registered churches in Cuba must apply for permits to carry out a number of activities such as owning and operating a vehicle or holding a public event. Permits are frequently withheld. Pray for churches intimidation and threats.

October 26: Rev. Daniel Josué Pérez Naranjo has waited over a decade to re-register and legalize his denomination in Cuba. Without registration he can't carry out vital repairs on his church (also his home) or start new churches in his local area. Pray Rev Naranjo is able to register soon.

October 27: Praise God, Ricardo Fernandez Izaguirre, a Cuban religious freedom defender, seized off the street in July by Cuban state security in Havana, was released from prison after spending seven days unjustly held in detention. Pray Cuban authorities stop any further harassment of him or his family.

October 28: Rev. Mario Barroso and his wife Yoaxis are Cuban human rights activists, forced to move to the US for the safety of their family. Pray for them and their two daughters, Rocío and Rachel, as he continues speaking up for human rights and religious freedom in Cuba.

October 29: Dear God, change the hearts and minds of powerful government leaders in Cuba, so they will work for a peaceful democracy that protects the rights of all their citizens.

October 30: Pray for CSW's Latin America team as they bring cases of religious freedom violations to light. Pray the international community puts increased pressure on Cuba to improve their human rights record.

October 31: Pray for freedom and justice for the nation of Cuba. Please pray for safety and renewed strength for the Persecuted Church in Cuba. Lord, lift them up with wings like eagles and not grow weary or faint.

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