

**28. ERITREA** – pray with the representatives of *Church in Chains, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Release Eritrea, and Human Rights Concern Eritrea* as they mark the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closure of all independent churches in Eritrea and call for the release of Christian prisoners.

**29. CHINA** – Six Christians were recently arrested for leading Sunday School. The six are leaders in the house-church in Guizhou province and include 5 men – **Wei Yingqiang, He Jinbao, Quan Xiaolong, Long Jian, and Cheng Yonbing** – and a woman named **Zhou Guixia**. The charge of ‘organizing minors to engage in activities undermining public order’ is unprecedented in the context of church ministry and has traditionally been applied only when minors are incited to fight, steal or engage in other acts that threaten public safety. Pray for each of these detained Christians – that they may know God’s presence and strength with them as they await trial. Pray for the children of the church – that they will grow in their own faith through this experience.

**30. COLOMBIA** – pray for Christians in Colombia’s ‘Red Zones’, dangerous areas controlled by violent Marxist guerilla groups. Pray for **Pastor Santiago** and his family who were forced to flee their village to a safe location, leaving most of their personal belongings behind. He has also received death threats for preaching the gospel. Fearing for their lives, most members of his church have either left the village or plan to leave.

*“And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”*  
Luke 18:7,8

These words were spoken by the Lord Jesus at the end of a parable which Luke tells us was told with the purpose of showing his disciples that they should always pray and not give up. This month, as always, our news is of Christians suffering injustice – some like Pastor John Cao in China and pastors in Eritrea have suffered injustice for many years and it’s difficult for us to understand why they have not yet got justice. Jesus’ words don’t address this dilemma but rather challenge us to keep faith and keep praying. – *Church in Chains*

“Yes I am coming quickly.”  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

SOURCES:

CHURCH IN CHAINS; CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE; Mission Network News; OPEN DOORS; PRISONER ALERT; RELEASE INTERNATIONAL; VOICE of the MARTYRS; WORLD MAGAZINE; WORLD WATCH MONITOR

Thine O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty; Thine is the dominion, O Lord, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. 1 Chronicles 29:11

## STANDING IN THE GAP

for the Persecuted Church

June 2026

**1. IRAN** -- Human rights observers say Iran has been killing more protesters since the war began in late February. Executions have taken place nearly every week since mid-March. At the same time, a UN panel chose Iran to oversee a committee that shapes global human rights policy. Lana Silk of Transform Iran calls the appointment ridiculous, given the regime’s human rights record. While atrocities advance, so does the Gospel. Pray for believers as they plan mission trips.

Call to action

- Pray for comfort, courage, and hope for believers in Iran.
- Pray for believers as they plan mission trips.

**2. INDIA**— This week’s elections have brought the Hindu nationalist party under India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi back from its 2024 losses. Duane Friesen with Voice of the Martyrs Canada says this raises many questions for India’s Christian minorities. They already face persecution under anti-conversion laws and other social pressures. Yet God’s call to share the gospel is not dictated by political change. So pray for strength and joy for India’s believers. Ask God to open even more doors for the gospel in the days ahead.

Call to action

- Pray for continued strength, courage, and joy for India’s believers even as political pressure rises.
- Pray for opportunities for Christians to share the gospel with more and more people.

**3. KENYA** — Below-average rainfall in parts of Kenya in late 2025 and again this spring has led to another severe drought. Already, an estimated 3.3 million Kenyans are facing crisis levels of food insecurity, with that number projected to grow by 400,000 by the end of June. Bryan Haley with Kenya Hope says they are working to maintain the wells they have dug in 17 communities. Haley says clean water opens the door to education, food security, and dignity. This opens the way to share the hope of the gospel. Pray for increased rainfall to ease the drought. Pray for the Gospel to go forth in Kenya.

**4. ISRAEL** – pray for **Erik Mock** and the *Slavic Gospel Association* which supports Russian-speaking churches in Israel. Mock reports that people in northern Israel are constantly in fear because of the war. SGA encourages these people with aid and Jesus’ love. Pray for peace and strength in the midst of the conflict. Pray for SGA’s ministry to local churches.

**5. MALI** – pray for Christians in Mali as a key city in northern Mali has been captured by radical fighters. The attackers were al-Qaeda-linked Islamists and Tuareg separatists- two groups united to destabilize the government and set up an Islamic caliphate. Ask God to protect minority Christians in Mali and comfort those struggling with fear. Pray for stability in the region.

**6. IRAN** – praise God that on April 29 Iranian Christian convert **Amir-Ali Minaei**, 32, was released from Evin Prison after 2 years in detention on a charge of ‘propaganda activities against the regime through establishing a house-church.’ Pray that he will be able to access suitable medical treatment for his heart condition.

7. **CHINA** – continue praying for **Li Yingqiang**, an elder at Early Rain Covenantal Church in Chengdu, along with his wife and 2 children. He writes about the ‘Sinicization of Christianity’ in China, a sinister plan the enemy has executed against the church. It uses ‘legalization’ as a violent weapon, silencing and imprisoning those who dare to speak the truth. The lies have deceived many honest hearts, leading to compromise. Pray for the church in China to stay strong.
8. **CHINA** – Since China ended its strict Covid-zero policy in 2023 and re-opened its borders, many Christians have left China and settled in Thailand, Japan and Indonesia. They have started Chinese churches there. Praise God that, even when His people are scattered beyond their home countries, He does not abandon them! Even outside China, He is still building His church among Chinese people. Pray for Chinese believers in these countries.
9. **IRAN** – continue praying for Christians in Iran. Todd Nettleton of VOM says that believers in Iran are using the moment ‘for good and eternal purposes.’ “They are proactively talking to people about Jesus in a time when everything is in chaos, in a time when people are dying and so people are thinking about eternity.” Nettleton continues, “One of the things that I heard from our Middle East team after the war started was that they were consistently hearing a sense of optimism from the believers they were talking to. None of the Christians asked for help fleeing to Europe or to the US amid the conflict. They instead said, ‘We want to be here, this is a spiritual turning point for Iran.’ Our Iranian brothers and sisters would appreciate our prayers for protection, prayers for provision. But also prayers for opportunities to be a witness, to faithfully share the Gospel and to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ.”
10. **EGYPT** – pray for Coptic **Dr Augustinos Samaan**, 37, who recently filed an appeal against his conviction on charges of ‘contempt of religion’ and ‘misuse of social media.’ Augustinos has been in detention since October 2025 for posting apologetics videos answering questions about Christianity and Islam, to a channel with over 100,000 subscribers. Pray that his sentence will be overturned.
11. **CHINA** – praise God that on April 26, **Pastor John Cao**, 65, was reunited with his wife, **Jamie Powell**, after 9 years apart. She was able to visit him in hospital in China with their 2 children. John was imprisoned in China from 2017-2024 and has now been diagnosed with late-stage prostate cancer and a spinal tumor, with cancer cells having spread to his bone marrow. Pray for healing and hope for Pastor John, and for wisdom for the doctors treating him. Pray for peace and comfort for his family.
12. **NORTH KOREA** – continue praying for South Korean missionary prisoners, **Choi Chun-gil, Kim Jong-uk, and Kim Kuk-gi**, all serving life sentences in labor camp in North Korea. Pray for their families. Pray that these men will know God’s presence and that they will be released soon.
13. **CHINA** – pray for **Pastor Huang Yizi**, who faced trial in late April on a charge of ‘illegal business operations’ for selling recordings of his sermons. Pastor Yizi is a well-known pastor from Wenzhou in China’s Zhejiang province. Pray that he will be acquitted.
14. **MALAYSIA** – pray for Christians in Malaysia. A recent directive from Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim ordered local councils to deal with unauthorized places of worship and it is feared that this may impact churches that don’t meet in traditional church buildings. Pray that this directive will not result in churches losing their places of worship.
15. **MALAYSIA** – continue praying for the family of **Pastor Raymond Koh** who was abducted in 2017, and his family still doesn’t know what happened to him. Pray for his wife, **Susanna**, and their grown-up children, **Esther, Jonathan, and Elizabeth**.
16. **ERITREA** – A church meeting in a house in the town of Adi Keyh was recently raided by police who arrested 13 Christians. Separately, 30 Christians were arrested in a police raid in a home in Asmara. Pray that all those arrested may know the Lord’s presence and strength.
17. **CHINA** – continue praying for **Pastor Bao Guohua** who is serving a 14-year prison sentence with an expected release date of 2029. Pray that he will be granted early release.
18. **CHINA** – continue praying for **Fu Xuanjuan** who is serving a 6-year prison sentence for selling audio Bible players in China. She is suffering severe pain from uterine fibroids. Pray that she will be freed before her scheduled release date in July 2026.
19. **IRAN** – continue to pray for prisoners in Iran:
  - **Naser Navard Gol-Tapeh** sentenced to 10 years in October 2025 for his house-church activities. Pray for improved health and for early release.
20. – **Joseph Shahbazian**, an Iranian church leader who was also sentenced to 10 years in October 2025. Pray for good health and hope for Joseph.
21. **VIETNAM** – continue praying for **Nay Y Blang**, a Vietnamese religious freedom activist serving a 4.5 -year sentence for his religious activities. He is expected to be released in November 2027. Ask God to bless and keep Nay.
22. **HAITI** – Haitians are fleeing new waves of gang violence in Port-au-Prince. The UN reports that so far this year, over 1,600 Haitians have been killed. **Greg Yoder** with *Christian World Outreach* says they had to shut down one of their training centers due to unrest. Yet, for CWO’s partner churches in rural Haiti, the crisis is bringing new faces through their doors as people escape the violence in the capital. Pray for peace in Haiti and endurance for church leaders on the spiritual frontlines.
23. **CHINA** – pray for **Chang Yuchun**, 58, a Christian printer from Xi’an City, capital of Shaanxi province, who is serving a seven-year prison sentence for printing religious books. His wife, **Li Chenhui**, 49, is also serving a seven-year prison sentence in a women’s prison. Chang is seriously ill and his father reports that the medicines no longer help. Pray for restored health for Chang and that he and his wife will be released soon.
24. **CHINA** – pray for **Xing Wenxiang** of Holy Love Christian Church in Jinhua, Zhejiang province who was released from prison in November 2025. She is struggling with the loss of her home, her ministry and her income. She is also under the burden of a huge court-imposed fine. Ask God to supply all her needs and to encourage her heart.
25. **CHINA** – *China Partnership* asks for prayer for the Chinese church as it struggles with the Three-Self Church which must register with the Chinese government. These pastors are trained and approved by the Communist Party and their teachings are limited and even directed by what the government allows them to teach. But the house-churches refuse to come under the governance of the state. Pray for continued courage for these faithful churches.
26. **UKRAINE** – continue praying for Christians in Ukraine. Pray for **Viktor Kostenko**, a member of Light of Life Baptist Church. This congregation has devoted much of its outreach to the city of Zaporizhia’s beleaguered residents. Viktor also directs *Pereval*, an aid organization whose mission is to deliver clean water, which can become scarce in conflict zones. Pray that the war will end soon.
27. **IRAN** – pray for **Mahshar Parandine**, 50, an artist serving a two-year prison sentence in Tehran’s Evin Prison. The case of the Christian convert hadn’t been previously publicized. Despite having 2 tumors and severe heart disease, Mahshar is being denied the medical care she badly needs. Pray that she will receive the necessary medical care. Pray also for her teenage son who suffers from a chronic illness.