

Prayer initiative

Christians are encouraged to pray regularly for the oppressed and persecuted - whether in Sunday church services or during the week.

Prayer topics in April:

Sunday, April 7: BANGLADESH

Since **Tobibul** converted to Christianity from Islam 11 years ago, he and his family have faced repeated threats and intimidation from the local community. Last November, the police arrested Tobibul after a neighbor accused him of blasphemy. In January, the 39 year old was released from prison on bail. But the charges against him have not been dropped.



- We thank God for Tobibul's release, and pray for all Christians in Bangladesh who face persecution.

Sunday, APRIL 14: ARMENIA

Vicken, a Lebanese-Armenian Christian, was captured by Azerbaijani soldiers during a visit to Nagorno Karabakh in November 2020. Although he is a civilian, he was charged with fighting as a mercenary in the 2020 Armenia-Azerbaijan war and sentenced to 20 years in jail. Vicken is in a bad physical and mental state.



- We pray for Vicken and his family, and for all Armenian Christian hostages being held in Azerbaijan.

Sunday, April 21: SOUTH SUDAN

Achok, aged 25, was born into slavery in Sudan. After her master sold her to another slave owner, she never saw her parents again. Achok's master mercilessly abused her, and took away three of her four children. In January, slave retrievers freed Achok and took her back to South Sudan. She is delighted to be free but prays to be reunited with her missing children.



- We thank God that Achok has been freed, and pray for all those enslaved in Sudan.

Sunday, APRIL 28: PAKISTAN

Noman, a 24-year-old Christian, was charged with blasphemy along with his cousin Sunny in 2019. In January last year Sunny was released from prison on bail. But in May, Noman was found guilty, despite a lack of evidence. Like all those convicted of blasphemy in Pakistan he was sentenced to death.



- We pray for Noman, who has been in jail for close to five years, and for all those charged under Pakistan's harsh blasphemy laws.

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