

PRAYERS FROM PRISON

Intercession for persecuted Iranian believers,
led by persecuted Iranian believers.

SARA



*“God gave His peace to me while I was in prison and freed me from fear. I pray that He would **protect** the minds and bodies of those now in prison for His name.”*

SARA'S STORY

Sara was arrested as a young woman for planting house churches in Iran. During her first few days in prison, Sara was full of fear. She faced harsh interrogation, and was afraid of what would be done to her, her friends also in prison, and those she had left behind. But in that place of hopelessness, she truly learned how to trust in Jesus. He reminded her that He is alive, and that even suffering can be turned for His good purpose. She received His deep peace, and – more than 10 years on – she looks back on that experience as formative for her faith and fruitful future ministry.

VERSE FOR MEDITATION

I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Psalm 34:4-8 (ESV)

SARA'S POINTS FOR PRAYER

- As believers in Iran face the harsh reality of prison, pray that God would protect them - mind, body and spirit. Pray for His “peace that passes understanding” to take root in them.
- Pray for the Lord to heal physical, mental and spiritual wounds inflicted on Iranian Christians during persecution, whether recently or long ago.
- Pray that seasons of persecution would be times where believers grow closer to God and learn new things about His faithfulness that they will be able to lean on for years to come.

Scan the QR code to hear more of Sara's story on the *Jesus Speaks Farsi* podcast.



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MORAD



“Iranians are not just praying to be freed from persecution. We are praying for the boldness to speak about Jesus, even while we suffer.”

For security reasons, a pseudonym has been used.

MORAD'S STORY

Before Morad was arrested for his Christian ministry, he felt that God was preparing him, growing his faith for a hard season ahead. During the months he was incarcerated, he found there was great spiritual hunger among the inmates and he shared the Gospel, even the Scriptures, with many. By the time he was released on bail, Morad had planted a fellowship in the prison with dozens of members, most of whom were new believers. Morad and his wife truly believe God worked through them in a way He could not have done if Morad had remained free. His time behind bars has grown Morad's boldness to speak, and - he reports - has increased the authority of his witness.

VERSE FOR MEDITATION

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:29-31 (NIV)

MORAD'S POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Pray that all Christians in Iran, both new and mature believers, will have boldness to share the Gospel whatever their circumstances, and that God would perform His wonders through them.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to work through Christians detained and serving sentences for their faith. Pray for favor with guards, the ability to meet, pray and talk, and even for Scriptures to find their way into their hands.
- Pray for opportunities for believers in prison to safely communicate with their families and church communities on the outside, to remain supported and built up as they endure persecution and minister to their fellow inmates.

Scan the QR code to subscribe to monthly emails with fresh prayer needs and encouraging updates from the Iranian church.



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LADAN



*“God brought Scriptures to my mind in my cell to build up my faith. I’m praying that God would **encourage and comfort** His people amid persecution.”*

LADAN’S STORY

Ladan was arrested in Iran because of her Christian ministry and spent 25 days in solitary confinement. Ladan remembers moments during this time when, struggling with anxious thoughts, she sensed the church praying for her and was encouraged and comforted. God began to bring encouraging Bible verses to her mind, even ones that she had never actively memorized. Bravely, she took a pen from the interrogation room and began writing these verses on her cell wall, to encourage herself and any prisoners who came after her. Ladan prays that in heaven she will meet someone who came to faith because of those verses.

VERSE FOR MEDITATION

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

Isaiah 46:9 (ESV)

LADAN’S POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Pray that God would bring His Word to the minds of persecuted believers, to encourage them in the midst of interrogations, periods of solitary confinement, or during court hearings, as He did for Ladan.
- Pray that the loved ones - spouses and children especially - of those detained would know God’s peace and comfort today.
- Pray for comfort and encouragement also for those who have lost jobs or educational opportunities, have been forced to flee their homeland, or have suffered in any other way for their faith.

Scan the QR code to hear more of Ladan’s story on the *Jesus Speaks Farsi* podcast.



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FARSHID



*“I spent 1,820 days in prison. On each of those days, I thought about **freedom**... Now, I pray regularly that God would soften the hearts of Iran’s leaders.”*

FARSHID’S STORY

Farshid spent five years in prison in Iran because of his church-planting ministry. Within that period, he endured an entire year of solitary confinement. Not surprisingly, he spent a great deal of time meditating on the theme of freedom. He came to the conclusion that our calling as Christians is to stand up for the freedom of all. Since his time in prison, Farshid has been passionate about praying for and speaking out for the freedom of his fellow Iranians, both Christian converts and others who also suffer under the strictures of the regime. He invites us to join him in praying for justice and freedom for Iran.

VERSE FOR MEDITATION

...let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5:24 (ESV)

FARSHID’S POINTS FOR PRAYER

- Pray that the authorities would allow Persian-speaking Christians the freedom to gather for fellowship together in house churches.
- Pray for amplification of righteous voices that are seeking to hold Iran’s government to account for its abuses of Christians and other minorities. Pray for God-inspired new voices to join the chorus.
- Pray that Iran’s leaders would be moved by the Spirit to repent. Pray that, as a result, all Iranians would experience a new season of freedom from oppression, including freedom to worship Jesus.

Scan the QR code to hear more of Farshid’s story on the *Jesus Speaks Farsi* podcast.

