

22-28 May 2022



China is an economic and political giant. We may wonder what our puny efforts can do but, just like David before Goliath, we face the China Communist Party, 'in the name of the Lord Almighty' (1 Samuel 17:45). This week we pray for the many 'Davids' who have put their lives on the line to stand against evil and injustice. May our prayers sustain and protect them.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/china

Sunday 22 May

Human rights lawyers show immense courage by speaking up for freedom of religion or belief in the knowledge of what they stand to lose through government opposition to their work. Chang Weiping, detained since October 2020, has endured torture and is facing a charge of 'subversion' which can carry punishment of up to a life sentence. Pray for his release today, and for all lawyers and their families.

Monday 23 May

On 14 April 2021, Christian entrepreneur Lai Jinqiang was tried behind closed doors for making audio Bible players available. It's believed he has since been sentenced to five years in prison. Pray that the simple act of sharing scripture would not be a crime.

Tuesday 24 May

Today is the Catholic World Day of Prayer for the Church in China. We remember Catholic writer and activist Pang Jian, who has been detained for over a year on suspicion of 'inciting secession.' Pray that Pang can have regular family visits and that all charges are dropped.

Wednesday 25 May

In just one part of the country, a total of 117 Tibetans were detained in August and September last year, including many Buddhist monks. Many of them were arrested under suspicion of keeping images of the Dalai Lama. While most have been released, more monks have since been arrested and Buddhist statues demolished. Pray for their freedom today.

Thursday 26 May

'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.' (Isaiah 41:10) Pray this verse over all Christians living in fearful situations in China.

Friday 27 May

'I speak out for the Uyghur people because God loves everyone indiscriminately, so there is no one we shouldn't care for...' – the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen, Bishop of Truro. Please pray that groups of all different beliefs will continue to work together against the treatment of the Uyghurs, which bears the marks of genocide.

Saturday 28 May

Heavenly Father we lift up church leaders, Tibetan Buddhists, Falun Gong followers, and all those behind bars today because of their beliefs. Thank you for their courageous defiance. Please sustain and strengthen them today. Amen.