

connect & encourage

Write to someone facing injustice for their beliefs.

For someone who is experiencing harassment, violence or imprisonment because of their religion or belief, a letter from you can be a lifeline of hope. They also show prison authorities that the world is watching, which has led to prisoners getting better treatment in the past. Your words really can change lives! Find more tips at csw.org.uk/connectencourage

Is it ok to include Christian greetings and scripture verses?

Most of the people in Connect & Encourage are Christians, and we encourage you to write appropriate scripture verses and Christian greetings. Including the relevant Bible verse references is useful for non-English speakers so they can look it up in their own language.

However, some are not Christians – we have indicated this next to their names. Please be sensitive to this when writing to them.

If the person you are writing to is a Christian, it's okay to send them cards that are obviously Christian. However, if you want to be safe, or the person you are writing to is from a different faith, cards with colourful pictures or landscapes on the front are always appreciated.

What if I can't write in the person's language?

Even if the person receiving your card can't read English, receiving a card can still bring them hope and encouragement by reminding them that they are not forgotten. However, if you can write in the language of the person – even if it is just a phrase or two – please do! They will appreciate your effort.

Will my letters actually reach the intended person?

Although some letters may be intercepted, most will reach their destination. Even if the letter doesn't reach them, it can still have a powerful effect by reminding governments that their case is not going unnoticed by the rest of the world.

Is it safe to include my name and address on my cards?

It is up to you how much personal information you put in your card. A pen pal relationship with someone who is facing injustice for their faith can be extremely inspiring! However, you may receive letters requesting financial help. Always contact CSW regarding these requests before you respond to them.

Can I send letters to every country where CSW works?

In some of the countries where we work, sending letters and cards could further endanger the recipients. Instead, please remember these people in your prayers, asking God to give strength, protection and comfort.

CSW everyone
free to believe

Sample letter:

Dear [name],

I pray that God grants you strength and courage to persevere in this terrible situation.

Please know that you have not been forgotten by the world.

[Your name]

Writing tip: Many people appreciate a postcard with a bright picture on it: try to find something colourful and uplifting.

Eritrea

Many Eritrean Christians have been forced to flee their country due to the severe oppression they experience on account of their faith. As they waited to be relocated to third countries, they have established their own worshipping communities. These are essentially refugee churches. Many of these Christians still live cautiously because the Eritrean authorities have been known to track down and harass people even outside of Eritrea.

The cards you've sent to the church in Kenya have been an amazing encouragement to many.

**Ebenezer Foundational
Healing Church
GPO 16147-00100
Nairobi
Kenya**

Sudan

It may be difficult for cards to reach Sudan amid the current conflict. For now, we ask you to pray instead.

Your prayers are urgently needed as the war has caused a desperate humanitarian crisis. The people of Sudan are facing the trauma of displacement from their homes, violence (including conflict-related sexual violence), hunger and famine.

Both warring parties – the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) – continue to target civilians and civilian infrastructure, including places of worship.

Nigeria

The Most Rev Dr Benjamin Argak Kwashi and Dr Gloria Kwashi

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Archbishop Emeritus of Jos, Benjamin Argak Kwashi, is a prominent and eloquent advocate for Christians in northern and central Nigeria. His resilient family has experienced several attacks, but continues serving.

His wife, Dr Gloria Kwashi, established and runs Zambiri School, which educates over 400 primary and secondary students from deprived backgrounds. The students receive free education, uniforms, food, and medical attention, and around 70 of them live with the Kwashis.

The archbishop underwent successful treatment for cancer in the US following a recurrence. Please pray for the family's continued health, safety and strength, and for provision for the school amid the ongoing tensions in central Nigeria.

The Most Rev Dr Benjamin Argak Kwashi and Dr Gloria Kwashi
Anglican Diocese of Jos
PO Box 6283
Jos
Plateau State
930001
Nigeria

CSW Nigeria

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Our office in Nigeria works to promote freedom of religion or belief in an exceptionally difficult context and with limited resources. They are based in Kaduna, consistently among the three most insecure states in the country. Nevertheless, our staff work diligently to support victims of violations of freedom of religion or belief. At a time when abductions for ransom are rife and violence by non-state actors is increasing, please pray for protection as staff travel the country to assist communities and individuals experiencing violations, and for the safety of their families and the families of CSW Nigeria's volunteers in northern and central states.

CSW Nigeria c/o ECWA Gospel Church
Lemu Road
Tudun Nupawa
PO Box 619
Kaduna
Nigeria

Sample letter:

Dear [name],

I pray that God grants you strength and courage to persevere in this terrible situation.

Please know that you have not been forgotten by the world.

[Your name]

India

John Dayal

John Dayal is one of India's most prominent voices on human rights, and the situation of religious minorities in particular. He is a member of several governmental bodies, including the national Integration Council. The former president of the All India Catholic Union, he is also co-founder and secretary general of the All India Christian Council.

John Dayal
505, Link Apartments
18, I.P Extension
Delhi 11092
India

Nepal

Pastor Tanka Subedi

Pastor Tanka Subedi is a church leader and human rights defender in Nepal. He has worked with CSW on several religious freedom cases, including eight Nepalese Christians who were accused in 2016 of attempting to convert children to Christianity through the distribution of a comic book, and were subsequently acquitted. He is also a founding member and chair of religious freedom organisation Dharmik Chautari Nepal, and the Religious Liberty Forum Nepal.

Pastor Tanka Subedi
ITEEN
PO Box 8975
EPC 647
Kathmandu
45600
Nepal

Writing tip: It can be encouraging to tell them a little bit about yourself. What are your hobbies and interests? What is it like where you live? How long have you been a Christian? Have you got a favourite song or Bible verse? What did you learn about in church this Sunday?

Pakistan

CSW currently understands that raising the international profile of individual prisoners in Pakistan may worsen their conditions so, on the advice of local partners, we've not included them in Connect & Encourage. At any time, there are hundreds of people in detention, without a fair trial. We urge you to pray for them and their families whenever you can.

The Cecil and Iris Chaudhry Foundation (CICF)

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Michelle Chaudhry, the daughter of the late Cecil Chaudhry (Senior), is a key partner of CSW in Pakistan. In response to the growing and neglected needs of minorities, Michelle set up a foundation in memory of her parents, who spent their lives working to improve conditions for minorities in Pakistan. Pray for Michelle to have the necessary resources to run her programmes and projects, and for protection for the CICF staff. Please write to Michelle encouraging her.

Michelle told us, 'I want to say thank you to everyone who has sent me cards. We've received over 200 cards from CSW supporters. I'm so touched and it was overwhelming for me.'

Michelle and her team would be delighted to write back to you in thanks for your encouragement! If you'd like to receive a reply from them, please include your address in the card.

**16C/1-A, Gulberg II,
Lahore 54600
Pakistan
cicfpakistan@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/cicfpakistan**

Greetings from The Cecil & Iris Chaudhry Foundation!

I'm writing to express our gratitude to all CSW supporters who take out the time to send us messages of love and support. We are so touched and emotionally overwhelmed!

We in Pakistan live under very trying circumstances, religious persecution and intolerance at every level; there is so much pain and sadness in our world that frustrations and despair easily find their way into our lives, and it is at that time that we feel so encouraged and strengthened to know that we have wonderful people out there who care and are praying for us.

I thank each and every one of you for your concern, your sentiments, your prayers and your continuous support. It is people like you who give us the strength to carry on; it is people like you who give us hope that all is not lost in this bigoted and intolerant world.

You strengthen our resolve to stand firm in the face of evil as we fearlessly continue our fight for a just and tolerant Pakistan.

May God bless you all abundantly!

Michelle Chaudhry

President

The Cecil & Iris Chaudhry Foundation (CICF)

Christian Study Centre (CSC)

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CSC works to help churches in Pakistan gain a better understanding of the relationship between Islam and Christianity, and the particular nature of their calling as churches in a Muslim state. The centre undertakes academic research into Islam and Christianity in Pakistan and their relationship. They also promote dialogue between Christians and Muslims to foster mutual understanding, peaceful co-existence and promote cooperation in nation-building.

The CSC would like to thank everyone who sent cards to them with such beautiful thoughts. They mean a lot to them!

**Christian Study Centre
126 Murree Road
Rawalpindi Cantt
Pakistan**

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ)

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Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) is a leading research and advocacy organisation monitoring the implementation of international and national human rights, and producing accurate data on forced conversions, blasphemy, freedom of religion or belief, education and job quotas for religious minority communities. CSJ has almost 500 volunteer activists in 24 districts across Pakistan.

**CSJPJ@proton.me
www.csjpak.org
www.x.com/csjpak**

The Center for Law & Justice (CLJ)

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The Center for Law & Justice strives to protect the rights and interests of disadvantaged religious communities and women, and to protect labour rights. Since 2011, the CLJ has contested legal cases for disadvantaged religious minorities who face injustice. The CLJ also advocates for safety, dignity and appropriate payment for sanitation workers, who mostly come from religious minorities. Their campaign for sanitation workers was covered in the New York Times and many other international newspapers.

**House No. 311,
Block L,
Model Town Extension,
Lahore
Pakistan 54700**

**info@clj.org.pk
www.clj.org.pk**

National Commission for Justice and Peace (Pakistan) (NCJP)

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NCJP is one of CSW's key partner organisations in Pakistan. They are a well-organised Catholic institution with offices in all provinces and major cities of Pakistan. Please pray for the safety and security of the staff, especially those who travel to rural areas to conduct workshops and training. Pray for the leadership that they may guide the organisation and work in the right direction. Please do write to encourage the NCJP staff at the head office in Lahore. NCJP offices in Karachi, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan, Hyderabad and Quetta will receive mail through the Lahore office.

**E 64/A, Street No. 8
Officers Colony Walton Rd.
Lahore
Pakistan**

**ncjpihra@gmail.com
www.ncjp-pk.org**

Sample letter:

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Dear [name],

Thank you for all you do to pursue justice and peace. I pray that the Lord encourages you and protects you to be able to continue what he has called you to do.

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' (Colossians 3:17)

Blessings,

[Your name]

Sample letter:

.....

Dear [name],

'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!' (1 John 3:1a)

May the Lord be with you today, reminding you how much he loves and cares for you.

Grace and peace,

[Your name]

China

Information courtesy of China Aid Association and other sources.

Five important tips:

1) Positive messages:

Please don't mention CSW in your cards to Chinese people, and do not make any comment about the government or the political system. This could endanger the person you are writing to.

2) Bible verses:

Only write Bible verses by hand, as possession of printed Christian literature is illegal.

3) Card and envelope:

Use a completely plain envelope. Choose a plain card without embellishments like ribbons, stickers or glitter, which can be rejected as a hazard.

4) Address:

For the best chance of arrival, write the address in English and Chinese. Clearly state: 'Going to China'. You can print these out from our website, or get in touch if you need help.

5) Postage:

According to the Royal Mail, an international stamp costs £3.60 for a small letter. You could invite a friend to add their message, and share the cost of postage. The last posting date before Christmas is Friday 4 December, but please allow a couple more weeks when writing to people in prison.

UPDATES:

Chen Yu

Christian bookseller Chen Yu may no longer be able to receive letters at the previous address. He was sentenced to seven years in prison in September 2020 for 'illegal business operations'. The authorities confiscated and destroyed 12,864 books. After Chen was arrested, officials began a nationwide investigation of those who had bought Christian texts from his online bookshop.

Li Jie and Han Xiaodong

On 19 August 2022, police stormed a summer retreat in Shanxi Province, where around 70 members of Linfen Covenant House Church were gathering. Everyone was searched and interrogated, including pregnant women and about 40 children.

Two preachers – Li Jie and Han Xiaodong – were falsely charged with 'fraud' in June 2023, and in July 2025 were sentenced to three years and eight months each.

Both were released in April 2026 on completion of their sentences. Please continue to pray for them and for the church, which has been under huge pressure and intimidation from the authorities.

Important: Please don't mention CSW or China Aid in your cards to Chinese people, and do not make any comment about the government or the political system. This could endanger the person you are writing to.

Pastor Wang Yi

Pastor Wang Yi was detained along with over 100 other members of Early Rain Church on 9 December 2018, in a large-scale crackdown by the authorities. He is serving a nine-year prison sentence for 'inciting to subvert state power' and 'illegal business operations'. In October 2021, he was allowed to receive a visit from his wife for the first time.

Wang Yi
Jintang Prison
Huopen Road, Qingjiang Town,
Jintang County
Chengdu City, Sichuan Province
610409
CHINA

王怡牧师
四川省金堂监狱 四川省成都市金堂县清江镇火盆路
邮编: 610409

Sample letter:

May the Lord bless you this Christmas.

He is Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6-7).

There is no end to his greatness, peace and love.

Important: Please only write Bible verses by hand, as possession of printed Christian literature is illegal.

'If anyone attacks me, I will be as meek as a lamb. If anyone attacks the church, I will be as brave as a lion.'

Pastor Wang Yi

Important: Please don't mention CSW or China Aid in your cards to Chinese people, and do not make any comment about the government or the political system. This could endanger the person you are writing to.

Zion Church

Pastor Ezra Jin Mingri was released in July 2026, but eight others from Zion Church remain in detention, awaiting trial.

Please send words of encouragement to pastors Wang Lin, Gao Yingjia, Yin Huibin, Liu Zhenbin, and Lin Shucheng, to Wang Zhong (an elder), Wang Cong (a female pastor) and Wu Qiuyu (the wife of a pastor).

No. 1 Detention Center
Pingyang Road No. 8
Yinhai District, Beihai City
Guangxi Province, China
Postal Code: 536005

北海市第一看守所 广西壮族自治区北海市银海区高德镇平阳
 邮编: 536005

No. 1 Detention Center
Pingyang Road No. 8
Yinhai District, Beihai City
Guangxi Province, China
Postal Code: 536005

北海市第一看守所 广西壮族自治区北海市银海区高德镇平阳
 邮编: 536005

Important: Please don't mention CSW or China Aid in your cards to Chinese people, and do not make any comment about the government or the political system. This could endanger the person you are writing to.

Zhang Zhan

Zhang Zhan is a human rights defender and citizen journalist. Inspired by her Christian faith, she bravely reported on the COVID-19 pandemic in China, and paid with her freedom. She served a four-year sentence, during which she staged a hunger strike and became critically ill.

Zhang Zhan was released from prison in 2024. But just months later, she was detained once again on similar charges. Please pray for her as you write your message of hope.

Zhang Zhan
First Ward, Shanghai Women's Prison
1601 Zhangjing Road,
Sijing Town, Songjiang District,
Shanghai, China
Postal Code: 201601

张展
上海市女子监狱一监区
上海市松江区泗泾镇张泾路1601号
邮编: 201601

Sample letter:

Dear [name],

I am praying for you today from [your country].

Remember God's promise: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

(John 1:5)

Important: Please only write Bible verses by hand, as possession of printed Christian literature is illegal.

Sample letter:

This Christmas, may you be encouraged that the Lord Jesus is Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23).

He is with you today, and we continue to pray for you.

Malaysia

Susanna Koh

.....

Pastor Raymond Koh was abducted from a street in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia in broad daylight, in February 2017. He has not been seen or heard from since that day four years ago. His wife Susannah and their children are still seeking answers, fighting for justice and continuing to trust that God will help them find the truth.

Susanna Koh
A304 Prima 16 Chapter 1 Jalan 16/18
Petaling Jaya, 46350
Malaysia

liewsusanna@yahoo.com

Sample letter

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Dear [name],

I was deeply moved when I heard about your situation. I wanted to write to you and let you know that your story is being told all over the world and that people are joining together to pray for you.

With blessings,

[Your name]

Thank you!

‘[My wife] told me she received many cards from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. She said these people were all praying for me. It made me feel like I was part of a big family.’

(Nguyen Van Dai, Vietnamese human rights lawyer living in exile in Germany)

Colombia

The illegal armed groups that are present in large parts of Colombia continue to restrict religious activities, and churches are frequently extorted by them. Religious leaders are often in grave danger because of the influence they hold in their communities. To preach peace – or even praying out loud for an end to the violence – can be to risk everything.

One pastor from Aguachica was crying as he told us that they feel powerless and fearful for their families: *'We go into the streets with fear... Please do not leave us alone; today, every word of support means so much.'*

Members of indigenous communities

Members of indigenous communities who have converted to other faiths or no faith – and therefore away from the religious beliefs and practices promoted by their community leaders – face suffering and severe discrimination within their communities. They may be threatened with forced displacement or excluded from certain benefits by indigenous authorities.

In some indigenous reserves, religious minority children suffer daily discrimination because the school curriculum is designed to comply with traditional beliefs.

Please write to them care of the following address. Since there are so many, and new cases occur on a regular basis, it's best to address your cards generally and let our contacts distribute them.

RELIEC
Calle 45b # 24-24
Bogotá D.C
Colombia

Eudosia and Gerardo Zalabata

Eudosia and Gerardo Zalabata are a Christian couple who work with members of indigenous communities in northern Colombia. They have been targeted by traditional leaders who do not recognise freedom of religion or belief on indigenous lands. They were displaced from their own house.

Carrera 11 B numero 2-19 sur
Barrio Policarpa Salavarrieta
Bogota,
Colombia

Anna Cucha

.....

Together with the Christian Indigenous Community, Anna was displaced from her territory because of her defence of the Christian faith and her work with children. A few years later, her eldest son was murdered by guerrillas, and her husband abandoned her. Now, her very young daughter has been lured by a guerrilla group, and Anna is suffering deeply, fearing she might lose her as she lost her son.

Anna Cucha
Vereda Valparaíso asentamiento Nasa
Municipio de Piendamó
Departamento del Cauca, Colombia

Community of Betania

.....

Most members of the Betania community have been attacked for defending their faith in Christ by indigenous leaders who, at different times, have allied with guerrilla groups to persecute them. They were stripped of their school, where they taught biblical values, and their church, and several Christian leaders from the community have been physically assaulted.

One young man joined an armed group, believing they would help protect Christians from persecution; however, a few months later, he was killed. His cousin, also a teenager named Eydar, joined the guerrilla forces as well, but he managed to escape alive and later continued his studies in a school established by Christians outside the reservation. This school was created as an alternative to teach nonviolence.

The teachers there receive no salary and must remain vigilant to prevent attacks from violent groups on their new school. The pastor was threatened in October 2025 and ordered to leave the community because he refused to accept all the conditions imposed by the traditional indigenous leaders — such as reconciling without restitution or continuing to endure economic discrimination due to his Christian faith.

Letters should be addressed to Claudia Lorena Yonda, who will share them with others.

Claudia Lorena Yonda
Carrera 6 # 7-77
Popayan, Cauca
Colombia

Karen Niebles

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Karen and her husband were both evangelical pastors serving in a region of Colombia deeply affected by violence. Her husband was tragically killed in January 2025, and Karen was later threatened through rumours – forcing her to flee the area. After several months, she returned home with her family, but in October she was again directly threatened by armed men.

Karen has now been forced to leave her home and is living in another town with her son, Emmanuel, and daughters Rosa and Laura. She is far from her mother and the rest of her family. Please write to encourage Karen and her children, and pray for their safety.

Karen Niebles
Carrera 11B # 2-19 sur
Barrio Policarpa Salavarrieta
Bogotá, Colombia

Pastor Rodian and Pastor Kelly

.....

Pastors Rodian and Kelly have three children. They lost their home and church after an armed group burned down the entire structure, which was built with flammable materials. The attackers were angered by Rodian's preaching. The threats have continued, and although the house is now partially rebuilt, it is not yet habitable. They are currently renting another place to live and enduring ongoing hostility from neighbours allied with their persecutors, who have thrown dead animals onto the construction site and spread false rumours throughout the community.

Rodian Rodriguez & Kelly Medina
Carrera 24 calle 21 # 21 - 75
Barrio 7 de agosto.
Santa marta, Magdalena
Colombia

Cuba

Cuba has been experiencing a massive crackdown and the biggest wave of migration in decades, and many religious leaders – including Alain Toledano Valiente, Yordanys Díaz, Jatniel Pérez and Carlos Sebastián Hernández Armas – have fled Cuba under threat of imprisonment. Please keep them in your prayers.

Important: Please don't mention CSW or make any political comment in your cards to Cuban people – this could endanger them.

The Rigal family

.....

Ramón and Adya Rigal were released from prison in 2020. They had been imprisoned because of their decision to withdraw their children, Ruth and Joel, from the state-run school where they were severely bullied because of their religious beliefs, and instead enrol them for distance learning at an accredited school outside the country. The children were forced to return to the school, where they continue to be singled out and ridiculed.

Changes in Cuban law make it easier for the government to remove children from the custody of their parents, leaving the family living in fear.

La Familia Rigal
1075 Luz Caballero entre Donato
Mármol y Bernabe Varona
Municipio de Guantánamo
Provincia de Guantánamo
Postal Code: 95100
Cuba

Bernardo and Damaris de Quesada

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On 8 January 2016, government officials initiated the destruction of Reverend Bernardo de Quesada Salomon's church without warning. Numerous other Apostolic Movement church leaders in Camagüey and Las Tunas, as well as other parts of the country, were arbitrarily detained or confined to their homes by state security agents at that time – presumably to stop them from going to support the churches which were being demolished.

Nonetheless, the de Quesada family and their church continue to congregate and worship, and have since rebuilt their church.

Revs Bernardo and Damaris de Quesada
Calle 4ta No 27
Versalles, Camagüey
CP 70600
Cuba

Father Castor Álvarez Deveza

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Father Castor Álvarez Deveza is a well-known priest in Camagüey who is a target of the government. When he tried to help a young person who was being beaten by the police during the 11 July 2021 protests, he was himself beaten and briefly detained.

Since then, some of his parishioners have been harassed and warned by State Security to stop attending his church. In a few cases, the government has attempted to intimidate members of his church into acting as informants.

Father Castor Álvarez Deveza
Calle Padre Valencia #269
esq. Bembeta y Damas
Camaguey Cp 70100
Cuba

Dr Oscar Elías Biscet

.....

Dr Biscet is a devout Christian and pacifist, who was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

CSW has been supporting him for over 20 years, including while he was imprisoned because of his human rights work. He served eight years of a 25-year sentence before being released in early 2011, following a deal brokered by the Catholic Church.

Dr Biscet is now at home with his wife, Elsa, but they feel very unsafe. They rarely go out except to attend church on Sundays. He remains under constant state surveillance, and has been summoned and interrogated by State Security since the beginning of 2023.

Dr Oscar Elías Biscet and Elsa Morejón Hernández Acosta
464 e/ 8va y 9va
Lawton
Ciudad de la Habana
Cuba

Important: Please don't mention CSW or make any political comment in your cards to Cuban people – this could endanger them.

Maria Del Carmen Gort Henríquez

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Maria Del Carmen Gort Henríquez is the wife of Catholic layman Angel Maria Mesa Rodriguez, who was arrested on 11 July 2021 for demanding freedom for his homeland. Having never had a criminal record, he was sentenced to eight years in prison, for the crimes of attack, contempt and public disorder.

Maria is still fighting for her husband's freedom and welcomes the international support and prayers.

Maria Del Carmen Gort Henríquez
Avenida 51, No. 6001 A, entre 60 y 62.
Guanajay
CP 32200
Artemisa,
Cuba

Reverend Juan Carlos Núñez

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Rev Juan Carlos Núñez's church belongs to the Apostolic Movement, an unregistered network of Protestant churches.

In October 2017, he was found guilty of violating the environmental protection law following noise complaints from neighbours about his church's sound system. Following the complaints, Juan Carlos was given a one-year sentence of house arrest. This is not unusual in Cuba, where government agents sometimes try to instigate community hostility towards a local church by encouraging complaints.

Rev Juan Carlos Núñez
Calle Maceo No.20
Entre Joaquín Agüero y Ángel
Guardia,
Reparto Primero,
Cuba CP 75100

Father José Conrado

.....

Father Conrado is a Roman Catholic priest who has suffered harassment and threats for speaking out against human rights violations and allowing the families of political prisoners to attend Mass at his church.

Padre José Conrado
Iglesia y Convento de San Francisco
de Paula
Calle Fernando Hernández esq. a
Piro Guinart
Trinidad, Sancti Spíritus
Cuba

Pastor Reutilio Columbié

.....

In February 2012, Pastor Reutilio Columbié was beaten so violently that he suffered brain damage. It's believed that this attack was a direct result of his challenge to the authorities over their arbitrary confiscation of his church's truck. He was found unconscious in the street after the severe beating, and now struggles with his speech and with memory loss.

Reutilio Columbié Leiva
Iglesia Evangélica Centro
Cristiano Shalom
Calle Cabaña, Reparto Monterrey
Moa, Holguín
Cuba

Maranatha First Baptist Church of Holguín

.....

The Maranatha First Baptist Church has a history of difficulties with the government. It took them years to obtain permission to go ahead with their new building, and religious freedom violations against other members of their denomination continue to occur.

Primera Iglesia Bautista Maranatha
Fomento 298 e/ Martí y Luz
Caballero
Ciudad de Holguín, Holguín 80100
Cuba

Reverend Alexey Sabón

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Reverend Alexey Sabón leads the El Recreo Familia Cristiana Church. Reverend Sabón was a high-ranking soldier who tried to live out his faith even in the military. However, when higher-ranking officers learned that he was also working as a pastor, he was summarily discharged. He was left homeless, without a salary and or a pension despite his 23 years of military service. He was then offered a full-time job by his denomination. The pastor is frequently visited by government officials, including State Security.

Alexey Sabón
Carretera Country Club Km 1 ½
Finca San Fernando 119
El Caney,
Santiago de Cuba CP 90100
Cuba

Important: Please don't mention CSW or make any political comment in your cards to Cuban people – this could endanger them.

Dagoberto Valdez

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Dagoberto Valdez is a Catholic lay leader who has been the target of threats and harassment because of his activities in independent civil society, including working on independent Christian publications. Dagoberto and his family are under constant surveillance from Cuban State Security.

Dagoberto Valdez
Polvorín #8 e/ San Juan y Raverio
Pinar del Rio CP 20100
Cuba

Pastor Onel Pardillo Garcia

.....

Pastor Onel Pardillo Garcia and his church have been under pressure, including government surveillance and threats to confiscate his home. His son was drafted for compulsory military service, where he resisted pressure to act in ways that violated his beliefs. Pray for provision and permits as they seek to undertake new constructions to their church buildings. Please also pray for protection for Onel and his family.

Pastor Onel Pardillo Garcia
Calle 97a No. 3802A e/38 y 38a,
Loteria, Cotorro
CP14000, Ciudad de la Habana
Cuba

Rev Roberto Rodríguez

.....

Reverend Rodríguez and his family continue to live in difficult circumstances. They are grateful for your continued prayers and cards of encouragement.

Rvdo Roberto Rodríguez y Familia
Princesa No. 52 e/ Laborde y Gene
Cardenas, 42110
Matanzas
Cuba

Thanks from Cuba:

Dear CSW,

We are very grateful and moved with so many letters that come to us... You do not know how much encouragement those postcards and letters gave me when I was in prison!

Pastor Ramon Rigal, Cuba

Yaguajay Baptist Church

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As part of a dispute over the ownership of this church's property, the local authorities claimed that the church's land had been nationalised in October 1980. Subsequently, the church property was confiscated and handed over to government businesses. The historic church building belonged to the Western Baptist Convention prior to the Revolution.

Pastor Yuri Castellanos Pérez
Yaguajay Baptist Church
Calle Quintín Banderas #15
Yaguajay
Sancti Spíritus CP 65100
Cuba

Pastor Tomasa Victoria Ayala Zeller

.....

Pastor Tomasa Victoria Ayala Zeller and her family were evicted from their home (which also served as the church) in May 2009. Tomasa and her husband Jorge had lived there for almost 30 years and were the legal owners. When they were evicted, the authorities gave them documents prohibiting Tomasa from holding any religious services, and the police chief threatened to imprison her for 'dangerousness'.

Pastora Tomasa Victoria Ayala Zeller
Calle 23 # 33 entre 8 y 10
Santa Lucia Colombia
Las Tunas
Cuba

Pastor Adrián Alarcón

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Pastor Adrián Alarcón leads La Familia Cristiana church, which continues to be under pressure from the government. The previous leader, Reverend Arcadis Solano Silvera, was forced to flee Cuba with his family in 2023 and has received asylum in a safe country. They are grateful for all the letters that arrived over the past decade and ask that cards now be directed to the new pastor, his wife Melba, his son Abraham and daughter Anna Lorena.

Pastor Adrián Alarcón
Carretera Country Club,
km 1 y 1/2, No. 106.
El Caney
Santiago de Cuba
Cuba

Important: Please don't mention CSW or make any political comment in your cards to Cuban people – this could endanger them.

Apóstol Marcos Antonio Perdomo Silva

Apóstol Marcos is a pastor from the Apostolic Movement whose church was destroyed in July 2014. Since then, he has had his house taken from him, turning him into a tenant. He has been imprisoned, his family have been abused, and his children have been persecuted in school for being pastor's children.

**Apóstol Marcos Antonio Perdomo
Silva, Ministerio Apostólico y
Profético 'Estableciendo el Reino
de Dios', Calle C número 147
reparto Acerradero
Guamá
Santiago de Cuba
Cuba**

Daniel Josué Pérez Naranjo

Baptist pastor Reverend Daniel Josué Pérez Naranjo has been waiting decades (since 1997) for his denomination to be re-registered and legalised. Without registration, Reverend Naranjo cannot carry out vital repairs on his church (which is also his home) or start new churches in his local area.

**Daniel Josué Pérez Naranjo, Iglesia
Bautista Misión Bereana (Berean
Baptist Mission Church)
Arroyon Chaparra
Las Tunas
77300
Cuba**

Pastor Mario Jorge Travieso Medina

Pastor Mario Jorge leads the Mighty Winds Ministry, an unregistered denomination. Due to the 'illegal' status of his church, he is constantly harassed by the police and remains under surveillance.

A travel ban on Mario Jorge has been lifted and he has been encouraged to leave Cuba on the condition that he doesn't return. However, his wife Velmis is still not allowed to leave Cuba, so he is staying as well, in order to avoid a potentially lengthy separation. Their daughters have already been forced into exile and the separation has been very hard on the pastor and his wife.

**Pastor Mario Jorge Travieso Medina
Leonardo Gamboa 15.
Entre C. Cienfuegos y J. Espinosa.
Buena Vista
Tunas, Las Tunas
Cuba**

Jorge Martín and Marta Perdomo

.....

Jorge and Marta are Christians, whose two adult sons were imprisoned for participating in the peaceful protests of 11 July 2021. Their sons, Jorge and Nadir, have been blocked from receiving a Bible and visits from a chaplain in prison.

Meanwhile, the Cuban authorities have used tactics to try to isolate Jorge and Marta and stop them speaking out for their sons. For example, they were barred from attending the Baptist church they have attended all their lives, after the pastor was threatened by the government. Jorge and Marta tried to attend other churches, but the authorities threatened the leaders of those churches too.

Jorge Martín y Marta Perdomo
Calle 54 número 2914 entre 29 y 31
San José de las Lajas, Mayabeque
Postal Code 32700
Cuba

Yeremi Blanco and Yarian Sierra

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Pastors Yeremi Blanco Ramírez and Yarian Sierra Madrigal are tutors at the William Carey Biblical Seminary in Matanzas. They are associated with the Berean Baptist denomination.

Both pastors were arbitrarily detained amid the unprecedented protests which swept Cuba on 11 July 2021. For two weeks, they were held incommunicado in the women's prison in Matanzas.

During this time, Pastor Yarian's wife and young child were forcibly evicted from their home. Their landlord had been threatened by Cuban State Security that he'd lose the property if he didn't evict them. As a result, Yarian's family stayed at the local church during his detention, but following his release they are now living with Yeremi.

Pastors Yeremi Blanco and Yarian Ramirez
Calle 280 # 12515 entre Calle 125 y
Calle 127
Barrio Pueblo Nuevo, Matanzas
Matanzas
Cuba

Thanks from Cuba:

"God always talks to me through the letters [from CSW supporters] and gives me the word I need at that moment." (Anonymous Cuban pastor)

"Today I got very excited. This hasn't happened for months. Receiving so many letters from different people from other nations, my brothers and sisters in faith, saying they pray for us is a very beautiful thing. They all arrived together, as if [the authorities] been holding them."

"I received several letters of encouragement from the UK...They are such a blessing and encouragement. Thank you."

Pastor Lorenzo: 'I saw the love of Christ reflected'

So many of you wrote to Pastor Lorenzo Rosales Fajardo in maximum-security prison, and we were blessed to receive several letters in return. He was sentenced to seven years for peacefully protesting on 11 July 2021. But we praise God that he walked out of the prison gates in January 2025, having served three and a half years.

He sends his heartfelt thanks for all you did to call for his freedom and encourage his family:

"During the darkest moments, when the walls seemed to close in and human hope dwindled, your supportive voice and Christian witness reminded me of the words of the great apostle Paul:

'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.' (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

You were living evidence that the body of Christ transcends walls, governments and geography.

Thank you for every word you sent me. In every action taken for my cause, I saw the love of Christ reflected, who is not silent in the face of injustice."

Please keep Pastor Lorenzo and his family in your prayers, and send them an encouragement:

Lorenzo Rosales and family
Calle Lora 203, entre Paraíso y Avenida libertad.
Palma Soriano CP 92610
Santiago de Cuba,
CUBA

Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan government – led by husband and wife co-Presidents, Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo – continues to crackdown on fundamental freedoms in an effort to silence their critics. Even preaching about unity or justice can be considered criticism of the government, and treated as a crime.

Scores of religious leaders have been jailed, forced into exile and stripped of their citizenship. Please pray and write to those who have been forced from the country.

Susana Marley Cunningham

Susana Marley Cunningham (affectionately known as Yapta Tara or Mamá Grande) is a Nicaraguan indigenous leader who was forced into exile in Costa Rica.

Mamá Tara helps members of the Miskito indigenous community who fled into exile after being targeted by the government. The government in Nicaragua is confiscating land belonging to the Miskito indigenous community and as a result, religious minorities, particularly those belonging to the Moravian Church, have been prevented from congregating, praying, and preaching freely.

Susana Marley Cunningham

Av. 61A, San José,

La Carpio, en Uruca,

Costa Rica (tercera parada 100 m. al Norte 100 metros al Este, a la derecha. Casa Verde, piso 2)

Mexico

Please send cards of encouragement to religious minority indigenous families, including those who have been forcibly displaced, care of the following addresses ordered by state. Since there are so many, and new cases occur on a regular basis, it's best to address them generally and let our contacts distribute them.

General

Connect & Encourage
Calle Justina #20
Nativitas
Benito Juárez
Ciudad de México
C.P. 03501
México

Chiapas State

Attn Maria Dolores Hernandez Bonifaz
Calle Gonzalez Bocanegra No. 16-C
Barrio de San Antonio, CP 29250
San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas
CP 29250
México

Guerrero State

Eliel Galindo Osorio
Angel Heladio Aguirre Rivero S.N.
Colonia La Mira
Ometepec, Gro. C.p.41700
México

Hidalgo State

Casa de traducción Bíblica- Iglesia la Gran Comisión
Calle Paseo de las Palmas # 7,
Colonia Jacarandas
Huejutla de Reyes, Hidalgo
CP 43000
México