

A man wearing a white turban and a light-colored zip-up shirt is shown in profile, working with large, rectangular bricks. He is holding a brick with his right hand, and his left hand is also visible near the bricks. The background is filled with stacks of similar bricks, suggesting a brick kiln or a construction site. The lighting is natural, and the overall tone is somber and focused.

# 12

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## Prayers *for* Persecuted Christians

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IN PAKISTAN'S BRICK KILNS

GLOBAL  
CHRISTIAN  
RELIEF

## INTRODUCTION

**Thank you for accessing this special prayer resource from Global Christian Relief. We exist to meet the needs of millions of persecuted Christians around the world—so they can be a light for the gospel in their communities and advance the Great Commission.**

This prayer guide will take you on a journey into the daily lives of suffering believers in Pakistan. The South Asian nation is home to an estimated 20,000 brick kilns—and Christians make up a large percentage of the laborers.

Brick kiln managers entice impoverished believers into the kilns with predatory loans that are extremely difficult to pay off. Soon, entire generations of families become trapped for life. Read onward to discover how your prayers and support can provide an invaluable lifeline to our persecuted brothers and sisters.

## PRAYER ONE

### Shield the kiln workers from persecution & discrimination.

In Muslim-majority Pakistan, Christians represent less than 2% of the population. As such, they are frequently subjected to threats, violence, false blasphemy charges and more. Additionally, believers are often denied education and high-quality jobs as a form of religious discrimination. Ask God to protect the Christian minority.

*He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes ...*  
— **Psalm 18:17**



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## PRAYER TWO

### Meet the needs of Christian widows and sole providers.

Maryam's journey into the kilns began when her husband contracted a serious illness. Little did the couple know that an \$862 loan for medical bills would keep them in bondage for two decades. Sadly, Maryam's husband passed away from severe asthma. "My trust in Jesus has helped console me," the widow says. Ask God to be her provider.

*Pure and genuine religion ... means caring for orphans and widows in their distress ...* — **James 1:27**



### PRAYER THREE

Father, protect the children of the kilns from harm.

Maryam's children must labor alongside her due to an unspoken danger within the kilns: widowed women and young girls are often subjected to sexual abuse. Since her husband died, she tearfully explains, "The girls have to come with me to work. It's the only way to keep my daughters safe." Ask the Lord to be their safeguard.

*Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor ...*  
– **Psalm 82:3**

### PRAYER FOUR

May the hope of the gospel strengthen weary souls.

While Christian kiln workers start and end their days in prayer to Jesus, a sad fact remains: they cannot afford their own Bibles. Additionally, 40% of the Pakistani population is illiterate. That's why audio Bibles are lifting the spirits of these hardworking believers as they labor from dawn to dusk. Read Alishba's story and please hold her in prayer.

*... And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. – Romans 5:2*



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### PRAYER FIVE

Fulfill the kiln workers' dreams of a prosperous future.

Hassan's family had been in the kilns for decades. "My grandfather and father worked here, too. It's been 3 generations," he explains. "I did not have hope." GCR and our partners paid off his debt and helped him start a new career selling produce. "God gave me my own business to run. We are so grateful."

*... Open the windows of heaven and pour out for you blessing without measure. – Malachi 3:10*

## PRAYER SIX

# Give the next generation hope for a better life beyond the kilns.

Young Pakistani Christians are often bound to the kilns, knowing they will inherit their parents' unpaid debts after they pass away. Through a combination of financial relief and small business training for youth, GCR is laying the foundation for their long-term economic success. Pray for the children to prosper.

*For I know the plans I have for you ... to give you hope and a future.*  
– **Jer. 29:11**



*“The training has given me a roadmap for my business, an opportunity to fulfill my dream. With the income, I will support my brothers and sisters in their education ... Our financial situation will be changed. May God bless GCR and all those people who have great concern for us.”*

– **ROSHAN, A 25-YEAR-OLD SMALL BUSINESS TRAINING RECIPIENT**



## PRAYER SEVEN

# Let Christian kiln workers be a light to their Muslim neighbors.

Pakistan is home to 243 million people and 96% of the population identifies as Muslim. As such, our persecuted brothers & sisters have an opportunity to spread the gospel with their non-believing colleagues in the kilns. Pray for boldness as they dare to share the love of Christ with those who are far from God.

*So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers ...* – **Matt. 9:38**



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### PRAYER EIGHT

## God, strengthen the family bonds of those in the kilns.

At age 65, Sayad wasn't basking in retirement; he and his loyal wife, Ruth, were still making bricks—together. "We've spent our whole lives here," he laments. After GCR paid off their debt, the couple was ecstatic. "We are deeply grateful to Jesus. Our children can now pursue different paths."

*Love bears all things ... hopes all things, endures all things.*  
— **1 Cor. 13:7**

### PRAYER NINE

## Amid a challenging environment, meet any physical needs.

Impoverished workers like Ahmed are regularly exposed to smoke and dust inside Pakistan's brick kilns, but a trip to the doctor is often a luxury they can't afford. "My health has not been very good," he shares. Sadly, his daughter and brother both died in poor health. Ask God to heal the sick.

*Praise the Lord, my soul ... who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.* — **Psalms 103:2-3**



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### PRAYER TEN

## May Christians be treated with dignity and respect.

In the kilns, important financial information is withheld from believers. "It feels as if we are slaves," explains Ahmed. Regarding his debt, he shares, "We don't get to know the principal, interest, or anything ... We can't ask." Pray that the kiln owners would raise the standard of care for Christian workers.

*Speak up ... defend the rights of the poor and needy.* — **Proverbs 31:8-9**





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## PRAYER ELEVEN

# Move the kiln owners to eliminate predatory loans.

In South Asia, impoverished families must sometimes take on debt due to a centuries-old requirement: wedding dowries. “When my daughters got married, I was forced to take a loan,” says Azeeb. “It’s what the poor man must do.” Pray that the kiln owners would offer compassionate, low-interest loans for such occasions.

*Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice. – Psalm 112:5*

## PRAYER TWELVE

# Lord, free our brothers & sisters from bonded labor.

Faqeeria’s unpaid debt became a matter of life or death; his wife needed a surgery they simply couldn’t afford. So GCR and our partners stepped in to help. Of their newfound freedom, he says, “We have an amazing glow on our faces. If you wouldn’t have paid off our debt, she would have died. We’re very grateful.”

*He lifted me ... out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. – Psalm 40:2*



\*Please note that believers’ names have been changed for their personal safety and anonymity.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Persecuted Christians in Pakistan’s brick kilns are crying out for relief from modern-day slavery. That’s why Global Christian Relief has an unprecedented opportunity available to our readers. You can help to free 50 Christian families from the nightmare of bonded labor. Please visit us online to learn more. **[GCRelief.org/Pakistan](https://GCRelief.org/Pakistan)**



“We prayed ... that God would help us pay our loans so our children can be free. Now, He has given this to us. We are so blessed.”

— MARYAM, A PERSECUTED CHRISTIAN WIDOW  
IN PAKISTAN'S BRICK KILNS