

VOM Canada's Ministry Funds

A LIST OF MINISTRY FUNDS AND THEIR DESCRIPTIONS

Give Them the Tools

“Often, after a secret service, Christians were caught and sent to prison. There, Christians wear chains with the gladness with which a bride wears a precious jewel received from her beloved.”

- Richard Wurmbrand, *Tortured for Christ*

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, founder of The Voice of the Martyrs international, did not intend it to be a rescue mission. He did not envision the liberation of Christians behind the Iron Curtain by bringing them to the West where they would be free from persecution. Pastor Wurmbrand understood that the best hope for those living in Communist countries was Jesus Christ, as revealed in God’s Word and proclaimed by His faithful church.

Instead, Pastor Wurmbrand implored Christians in the West to fervently pray for their brothers and sisters in chains – challenging them to provide tools to persecuted Christians, so they could fulfill the work of the church in these restrictive nations. Such giving needed to be an act of love, bathed in prayer; for as surely as these tools would be used, persecution would increase. The price was high, but many unwavering Christians were willing to pay that price for deploying the Gospel to counteract the hollow and deceptive philosophies that held many of their fellow citizens captive.

The strategy of The Voice of the Martyrs has not changed, although the scope of our international ministry has grown immensely. Today, while Bibles remain in high demand, there is a plethora of opportunities to help persecuted Christians stand and endure the fires of persecution, as well as advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In response to these opportunities, The Voice of the Martyrs Canada has developed several funds to which our Canadian supporters can give. Though the number of projects may vary each year, our prayer remains that those currently representative of each designated fund will be mightily used to encourage, strengthen and equip believers as they persevere in their faith and, while doing so, fulfill our Lord’s Great Commission throughout the persecuted nations of the world.

It is our hope that you will continue to pursue a life of prayer, mindful to include your persecuted family, and that you will be led to stand with us in helping a new generation of persecuted believers fulfill their calling as they grow into the fullness of Christ.

BIBLE FUND

The *Bible Fund* makes it possible for VOMC to work with ministries that provide Bibles (in full or in part; print, digital or audio) to persecuted Christians in their own local languages. Many of these believers would otherwise never have a Bible of their own, as Christians residing in regions of persecution are often denied access to God's Word. This fund also supplies Bibles to frontline missionaries, pastors and evangelists, for the purpose of evangelism and distribution to those who desire to learn more about the Lord and His infallible Word.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Psalms 119: 97-105 - English Standard Version (ESV)

"Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep Your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word. I do not turn aside from Your rules, for You have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Proverbs 30: 5 - English Standard Version (ESV)

"Every word of God proves true; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him."

2 Timothy 3: 16-17 - English Standard Version (ESV)

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

CHRISTMAS BLESSING FUND

The *Christmas Blessing Fund* is designed specifically to be a means whereby Canadian Christians can express love and encouragement to their persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. As gifts are typically given to family members and loved ones during the Christmas season, this fund provides a unique opportunity to remind persecuted Christians of the ultimate gift given by the Father: the gift of His one and only Son, Jesus Christ. Every year, VOMC focusses on a specific persecuted nation, working closely with in-country ministry partners to provide packages containing practical items such as books, Bibles, toys, clothing, food, household necessities, hygienic supplies, etc.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Matthew 2:11 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“And going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

Romans 12:6-8 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Hebrews 13:20-21 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints – and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.”

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FUND

The *Equipping the Saints Fund* helps meet the strategic educational needs of Christians living in persecuted and monitored nations. In consultation with local ministry partners, this fund makes it possible for qualified teachers and trainers to facilitate essential in-depth teaching. Supplied with Biblical resources and other Christian materials, persecuted believers are equipped to carry out the ministry of the church – namely the work of evangelism and discipleship – despite opposition.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Ephesians 4:11-16 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

2 Timothy 3:10-15 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that...I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 13:20-21 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

FAMILIES OF MARTYRS FUND

The *Families of Martyrs Fund* enables VOMC to provide encouragement and assistance to martyrs and their families who have been left destitute by the imprisonment, death or exile of a parent or spouse because of their Christian faith and witness. Those helped by this fund are primarily widows and orphans. This fund also helps elderly Christians (living martyrs) who have endured long years of persecution and, as a result, have no adequate means of support in their 'retirement' years.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Psalms 68:5-6 - English Standard Version (ESV)

"Father of the fatherless and Protector of widows is God in His holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land."

Isaiah 1:17 - English Standard Version (ESV)

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."

James 1:27 - English Standard Version (ESV)

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

LEGAL DEFENCE FUND

The *Legal Defence Fund* provides resources for believers who have been arrested because of their Christian witness. Many of them are often denied, or cannot afford, adequate legal representation. Legal fees can bankrupt families and churches. Court cases can drag on for months and even years. The difference for those who have no legal representation, and those who do, can be a significant reduction in the number of years detained in prison. This fund enables persecuted Christians to receive the best legal assistance possible under the circumstances.

The *Legal Defence Fund* also seeks to educate and equip persecuted Christians so they will be effective advocates in their own communities, not only for religious freedom but also when dealing with other important social issues that affect their faith community.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Proverbs 28:4-6 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law strive against them. Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand it completely. Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.”

Isaiah 58:6 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”

Hebrews 13:3 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.”

MEDICAL FUND

The *Medical Fund* provides first-rate medical treatment for Christians who have been injured as a direct result of their Christian faith. This assistance covers all of their patient-care needs – including medical and surgical expenses, hospitalization, medicines and other necessary supplies, as well as transportation to and from appointments for treatment. At times, this fund provides meals and lodging for patients requiring additional rest and recovery time immediately after their medical treatment.

The *Medical Fund* also supports those who require specialized treatment – ranging from the purchase and fittings of artificial limbs to trauma counselling services.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Psalm 30:2 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“O Lord my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.”

Matthew 25:37-40 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.’”

Luke 10:33-35 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’”

RAISING A VOICE FUND

The *Raising a Voice Fund* is especially designed to assist VOMC with the expensive, yet crucial, task of communicating the truth and experience of today's persecuted church to believers in Canada and around the world. This is being accomplished through the use of, but not exclusive to, modern electronic media such as the Internet, video documentaries and television. This aspect of the ministry's communication features testimonies of enduring faith, while also highlighting the immediate needs resulting from persecution.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Isaiah 1:17 - English Standard Version (ESV)

"...learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."

Proverbs 31: 8-9 - English Standard Version (ESV)

"Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

The *Relief & Development Fund* assists Christians in persecuted and monitored nations by providing relief aid to desperately poor families. This initiative includes projects such as: job/skills training, microfinancing, relocation and reconstruction, refugee assistance, and other practical means of extending meaningful encouragement to a besieged church or individual – before, during and after persecution.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Romans 12:10-13 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”

1 John 3:17 – English Standard Version (ESV)

“But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?”

2 Corinthians 8:3-5 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints – and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.”

UNDERGROUND CHURCH FUND

The *Underground Church Fund* aids and encourages believers in severely restricted areas where church worship gatherings and all other Christian activities are conducted “underground.” This is an increasing reality in many persecuted nations, where those in opposition to the Gospel are actively seeking to eradicate Christianity. Assisted through this fund are ministries focussing on evangelism and spiritual training centres, safehouses, Bible smuggling, balloon (Scripture) launches, Christian radio programming, and specialized ministries geared towards the spiritual growth of new converts.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

Acts 2:1 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.”

Acts 8:1-3 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.”

1 Peter 4: 12-19 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgement to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the Gospel of God? And ‘If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?’ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.”

WOMEN'S MINISTRY FUND

The *Women's Ministry Fund* addresses the unique needs of Christian women who suffer for their faith by providing practical assistance, spiritual encouragement and emotional support. Some of these women are themselves incarcerated in prison cells, without their basic practical needs being met. Others are forced to labour under great duress, providing for their families because their husbands have been imprisoned or martyred for their faith. Many are mistreated and sexually abused, highlighting the very real issue of vulnerability; a fundamental root as to why Christian women suffer in ways very different to that of men.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES:

2 Kings 4: 1-7 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, ‘Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.’ And Elisha said to her, ‘What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?’ And she said, ‘Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.’ Then he said, ‘Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbours, empty vessels and not too few. Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside.’ So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, ‘Bring me another vessel.’ And he said to her, ‘There is not another.’ Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, ‘Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest.’”

Psalms 68:5 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Father of the fatherless and Protector of widows is God in His holy habitation.”

James 1:27 - English Standard Version (ESV)

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”