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The Voice of the Martyrs Canada

**GOD'S GIFT
TO THE
WORLD**



What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus in the World?

By Floyd A. Brobbel,
CEO for The Voice of the Martyrs Canada

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

John 3:16

My mom’s favourite Bible verse is John 3:16. “It is the best news in the Bible,” she says. Indeed, the declaration of God’s amazing love in this verse is the same message that the angel proclaimed in Luke 2:10-14 to the lowly shepherds who were keeping watch in their fields that momentous day. According to Luke’s report, the angel’s important birth announcement was so significant, it resulted in the praises of a multitude of heavenly host:

“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!’”

Today, followers of Christ continue to declare this “Good News,” which is best demonstrated through their testimonies of God’s goodness, mercy and grace. It is a message this world desperately needs to hear; and every Christian becomes a messenger of God’s love when they point others to Jesus Christ, the hope of their salvation. Our great desire is that as many people as possible would respond to the Gospel by submitting to the Lordship of Jesus – and thus discover new life in Him! Even though others may reject Him and lash out against His bearers of the Gospel, the glory of God will ultimately be established in the

praises of His faithful people as they declare with one voice, “Our God reigns!”

**“THE LORD REIGNS;
HE IS ROBED IN MAJESTY;
THE LORD IS ROBED; HE HAS PUT
ON STRENGTH AS HIS BELT....”**
PSALM 93:1

Historically, in every generation, there have been rulers who did all they could to ensure their thrones would be secure, so they could lead supremely throughout their reigns. When confronted by a people who chose to acknowledge the supremacy of Christ over the authority of worldly rulers, these kings of the earth forcefully sought their subjects’ devotion, instead of rightfully directing them to worship the Almighty God alone. Such was the way of King Herod when he sought the newborn King – not to bow in Jesus’ holy presence, but to kill this Promised Messiah to whom every knee would one day assuredly bow. Though King Herod’s attempt to annihilate Jesus failed, his ruthless actions caused great suffering throughout the land: *“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more”* (Matthew 2:18).

Today, followers of Jesus can expect to suffer for righteousness, as the Christian life is not without difficulty and trouble. Many come in the spirit of King Herod, outwardly expressing a desire to worship but inwardly seeking to destroy the reason for the church’s hope. Their hatred and disdain for those belonging

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The goals of VOMC are expressed in our "Ministry Purposes" as follows:

1. To encourage and empower persecuted Christians to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
2. To give practical relief and spiritual support to the families of Christian martyrs (Matthew 25:36).
3. To equip persecuted Christians to love and win to Christ those opposed to the Gospel (Romans 12:14).
4. To help believers rebuild their lives and Christian witness in countries where they have formerly suffered oppression (Nehemiah 1:3; 2:5).
5. To promote the fellowship of all believers by informing the world of the faith and courage of persecuted Christians, thereby inspiring believers to a deeper level of commitment to Christ and involvement in His Great Commission (Hebrews 13:3; Galatians 6:2).

Spending of funds is confined to board-approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution designated towards a board-approved program or project will be used as designated with the understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most. Gifts from individual donors of \$10 and more are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.



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to Christ may cause pain; but, unlike Rachel, Christians will be comforted and strengthened by the Holy Spirit as they keep their focus on Christ. In moments of affliction, holy people are not shattered, but they instead look to the "King of kings" who sovereignly reigns over all the thrones of the earth.

When God's people declare the Lordship of Christ, they make known that He reigns in incomparable splendour, for His sovereignty is unlimited and matchless in power. As a result of God's eternal nature, His reign is endless, and He rules triumphantly because He is all-powerful. Though lies and deceptions draw many away from Him, the Lord reigns in truth and holiness over this broken world. Therefore, even as the church experiences persecution from those who are unrighteous, it stands on a firm foundation; one established by the Almighty God Himself, as conveyed through His Son Jesus – the "Prince of Peace."

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."

John 14:1-4

I pray that the wonder of the Christmas story will fill you with awe as you remember that the newborn King worshipped at the manger is also the risen "Lord of Life" celebrated at Easter time. In this world of trouble, may the message of Christ fill your soul with hope, peace and anticipation for that great and glorious day of His return!

Grace and peace,



INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

Reflecting on God's Provision for 2023

As we conclude this year of 2023, it's important that we acknowledge God's provision for Christians in areas of the world where persecution is prevalent. Thanks to your faithful support of His ministry work through The Voice of the Martyrs Canada, together we are providing needed practical assistance, access to Bibles and other Christian resources, discipleship and leadership training, trauma counselling, and many other forms of specialized ministry to persecuted believers in 53 restricted/hostile nations. The following regions include these countries where more than a hundred of VOMC's International Ministry projects have been facilitated this year, with additional projects presently in development.



NORTH AMERICA

Mexico: ES

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia: CB
Cuba: B
Venezuela: B

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICA

Algeria: UC, ES, LD
Burkina Faso: FM
Egypt: B, LD
Ethiopia: ES, RD
Ghana: FM
Kenya: B
Liberia: WM, RD
Mauritania: RD, ES, UC
Morocco: LD, UC
Mozambique: ES
Niger: ES
Nigeria: ES, FM, RD, B, WM
Somalia: B
South Africa: ES
South Sudan: RD
Sudan: ES
Tanzania: RD
Tunisia: LD
Zambia: ES

RUSSIA

Russia: UC

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh: ES
Bhutan: ES
India: ES, LD, RD, VM, FM, B
Maldives: UC
Nepal: ES, B
Pakistan: WM, ES, RD, LD
Sri Lanka: ES, LD, RD, FM

EAST ASIA

China: UC, B, RD
North Korea: UC, B

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Laos: B
Malaysia: B
Myanmar: ES
Thailand: RD
Vietnam: UC, ES

MIDDLE EAST

Bahrain: UC, ES
Iran: UC, WM, B
Iraq: ES, B, UC, LD
Jordan: LD, UC
Lebanon: ES, LD
Palestine: ES
Saudi Arabia: UC, ES
Turkey: ES, B
United Arab Emirates: UC, ES
Yemen: UC, ES

CENTRAL ASIA

Afghanistan: B, UC, RD
Kazakhstan: ES
Kyrgyzstan: UC, ES
Tajikistan: ES
Uzbekistan: ES, WM

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECT FUNDS (WITH ABBREVIATIONS)

Bible (distributions) = B
Families of Martyrs = FM
Relief & Development = RD

Christmas Blessing = CB
Legal Defence = LD
Underground Church = UC

Equipping the Saints = ES
Medical (assistance) = M
Women's Ministry = WM

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Reflecting on God's Provision for 2023

The following list outlines the individual project titles and designated fund abbreviations (as mentioned on the previous page) relating to the more than 100 International Ministry projects* that were facilitated by The Voice of the Martyrs Canada during 2023. The majority of these projects are currently still assisting Christians in the listed restricted/hostile nations. As you will see from the provided list, some of this year's ministry projects are serving persecuted believers in multiple countries.

AFGHANISTAN: Dari Bible Translation (B), Pamir Radio Ministry (UC), Pamir Operational Budget (RD)

ALGERIA: CAN Production Relaunch (UC & ES), ICA School (ES), Legal Support (LD)

BANGLADESH: Glenn Penner Scholarship Award (ES)

BAHRAIN: Gulf & Iraq Mission Schools (UC & ES)

BHUTAN: Annual National Youth Conference (ES)

BURKINA FASO: Bibles for Burkina Faso (B), Educational Support (FM)

CHINA: Underground University (UC), China Bibles (B), Persecution Relief (UC & RD)

COLOMBIA: 2023 Christmas Blessing distribution (CB)

CUBA: iBible Project (B)

EGYPT: Egypt Bible distribution (B), Religious Freedom Course (LD), iBible Project (B)

ETHIOPIA: Additional Tentmaker (ES), Administration Support (RD), Hanicha Region Tentmaker (RD)

GHANA: North Ghana Persecuted (FM)

INDIA: Indigenous Christian Workers Conference (ES), ADF India Initiative (LD & RD), Arise & Restore (WM), Religious Liberty Commission of EFI (LD), Medical Fees (M), Orissa Orphan Support (FM), Persecution Helpline (LD), Sahataya: persecution response (RD), Project Ezra (ES), Sideras Children's Home (FM), Bibles for Pastors (B), Glenn Penner Scholarship Award for UCTM students (ES), Manipur Relief & Development Work (RD), iBible Project (B)

IRAN: Women Multi-Media Outreach (UC & WM), Geranbaha (UC), House of Worship (UC), Church SeVen (UC), House Church (UC), iBible Project (B)

IRAQ: R&D Ministry Support (ES), Shai Fund Chaldean Dialect Bibles (B), Kurdistan Printing Books (B), From Darkness to Light (ES), Gulf & Iraq Mission Schools (UC & ES), Religious Freedom Course (LD), iBible Project (B)

JORDAN: Religious Freedom Course (LD), Deep Discipleship (UC)

KENYA: iBible Project (B)

KAZAKHSTAN: Evangelistic Educational Initiative (ES)

KYRGYZSTAN: Deep Discipleship (UC), Evangelistic Educational Initiative (ES)

LAOS: Laos Bibles (B)

LEBANON: Campus Renos (ES), Religious Freedom Course (LD)

LIBERIA: Ministry Advancement (WM), Sending Persecuted Kids to School (RD), Prevention & Response for Persecuted Women and Girls (WM)

MAURITANIA: Business Support (RD), Housing Support (RD), Tyrannus Missionary Training School (ES), Deep Discipleship (UC)

MALAYSIA: Bibles to Believers in Malaysia and Brunei (B)

MALDIVES: TVOM Maldives (UC)

MEXICO: Iglesia Cristiana del Tepehuaje (ES)
MOROCCO: Religious Freedom Course (LD), Deep Discipleship (UC)

MOZAMBIQUE: Discipleship Mission Directors Training (ES)

MYANMAR: Summer Outreach (ES), EBS Operational Support (ES)

NEPAL: International Nepal Fellowship (ES), iBible Project (B)

NIGER: Annual Equipping Event (ES)

NIGERIA: Discipleship Care & Training (ES), Crisis Care Children (FM), Theological Seminary Student Dorms Renovation (RD), Mr. M. Relocation and Fish Farm Set Up (RD), Audio Bibles (B), Audio Bibles for Hospital Ministry (B), Skills Training (WM), Pastors Conference (ES), Glenn Penner Scholarship Award (ES), Mara's House (WM)

NORTH KOREA: Underground University (UC), True VOM (UC), NK Bible Distribution (B), UNKCM (UC), Underground Technology (UC), Hanawon (UC)

PALESTINE: Glenn Penner Scholarship Award for BBC students (ES)

PAKISTAN: Sewing Centre (WM), Persecution Training Seminars (ES), TG Resettlement (RD), Emergency Relief for the Victims of Jaranwala (RD), Theological Seminary (ES), M. Family Support and Relocation (RD), Religious Freedom Course (LD)

RUSSIA: Underground University (UC)

SAUDI ARABIA: Gulf & Iraq Mission Schools (UC & ES)

SOMALIA: iBible Project (B)

SOUTH AFRICA: Glenn Penner Scholarship Award for SATS students (ES)

SRI LANKA: Church Empowerment (ES), RLC Support (LD), Volunteer Teacher Support (RD), Kids Camp (FM)

SOUTH SUDAN: South Sudan Project: One Orphan One Widow (RD)

SUDAN: Leadership Training in North Sudan (ES)

TAJIKISTAN: Evangelistic Educational Initiative (ES), Summer Evangelistic Camps (ES)

TANZANIA: Support A. & Family (RD), Support S. & Family (RD)

THAILAND: Hope and Help Center (RD)

TUNISIA: Religious Freedom Course (LD)

TURKEY: Timothy Project (ES), iBible Project (B)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Gulf & Iraq Mission Schools (UC & ES)

UZBEKISTAN: Women Working Together (ES & WM), Evangelistic Educational Initiative (ES)

VENEZUELA: Bibles for Venezuela (B)

VIETNAM: Hmong Leadership Training (UC & ES), Project Equip (ES)

YEMEN: Leadership Training (UC & ES)

ZAMBIA: Discipleship Mission Directors Training (ES)

** Several of VOM Canada's International Ministry projects are being facilitated in partnership with VOM offices located in other countries.*

Table Talk

The World

Line It Up!

How to Play:

Complete the definitions below by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the "Word Bank." Once you've matched each word with the correct symbol, fill in the flow activity by drawing a line from the first letter of each word to its corresponding symbol. Each space must be used, with no lines overlapping. Pencils are recommended. Answers and printables are available online at: vomcanada.com/TableTalkWorld

Word Bank:

-  Worldview
-  Karma
-  Secularism
-  Nirvana
-  Christianity
-  Utopia
-  Hinduism
-  Islam

Definitions:

-  Buddhists seek _____; their believed final state.
-  _____ is a compilation of many traditions and philosophies.
-  Communists attempt to achieve _____ through complete control of citizens and government.
-  _____ legislates that each adherent performs five ritualistic prayers each day.
-  The cause-and-effect relationship of the universe, called _____, is a belief held by both Buddhists and Hindus.
-  Adherents of _____ rely solely on the natural world for meaning and purpose.
-  The belief that Jesus is fully God and fully man is unique to _____.
-  A person's _____ is the lens through which they see and interpret the world.

Christmas Gift Pack Strengthens
Child's Faith in "Emmanuel":

"God With Us"

Along the Way

Anila is a young girl who lives with her older sister, mother and alcoholic father. This child's family has experienced much emotional trauma and financial loss because of her father's addiction, resulting in her mother's suicide attempt. As the family couldn't afford to buy a backpack for Anila, who is in the fourth grade, she had to carry her schoolbooks in a sack. Thanks to the influence of a kind neighbour, Anila began attending Sunday school. In addition to learning God's Word and memorizing verses of Scripture, she is also praying for Jesus to change her Dad's heart.

When Anila received a VOM Christmas gift package, which included a backpack containing several needed items, she was overjoyed to receive a children's Bible. Imagine her added delight realizing that she no longer had to carry her schoolbooks in a sack! Through this gift, Anila's hope in God greatly increased. A ministry worker reports, "...she now believes that one day her father will be changed by the grace of God, and the joy of their family will be restored." Pray that Anila's faith will grow, and that her father will accept Jesus as his Saviour through his daughter's example. As her family anticipates this answer to prayer, may they find joy and peace in Christ.

Veronica Brown

December 2023

His Way

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 ESV

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 AFGHANISTAN Pray that the needs of Afghan Christians will be met.	4 INDIA Pray for Christian families who were attacked by villagers while pumping water.	5 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Pray that those who relocate from more restricted nations will learn of the Gospel.	6 UGANDA Pray that the truth of God's Word will be revealed to those who are spiritually searching.	7 CAMEROON Pray that God will raise up Christian leaders who are rooted in Biblical knowledge and wisdom.	8 LIBYA Pray that those using digital Bible formats will remain undiscovered by the authorities.	9 NORTH KOREA Pray for a Christian in China who runs a discipleship centre for trafficked North Korean women.
10 TUNISIA Pray that Bibles will become widely accessible to Christians, as well as to spiritual seekers.	11 PAKISTAN Pray for Christian ministries that are reaching Afghans who have taken refuge in Pakistan.	12 MAURITANIA Pray that Christian leaders will remain above reproach for the sake of the Gospel.	13 INDONESIA Pray for Christian ministry workers like Mina and Mehri as they proclaim the message of Christ to non-believers.	14 SRI LANKA Pray for pastors who are planting house churches in unreached villages.	15 TANZANIA Pray for the pastors and evangelists who are receiving resources to help them carry out their ministry work.	16 IRAN Pray that those following false ideologies will be open to the Gospel.
17 SOMALIA Pray that the many young people who are currently disillusioned with Islam will turn to faith in Christ.	18 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray that Christians will reflect Christ's love and forgiveness to their persecutors.	19 UZBEKISTAN Pray that Christians will be inspired with creative ways to gather for worship, so they won't be fined.	20 SUDAN Pray for believers in the Nuba Mountains who are receiving care packages and other means of practical aid.	21 OMAN Pray that new believers will be welcomed into thriving Christian communities so they can grow in their faith.	22 ERITREA Pray that Christians will continue to worship together despite the threat of arrest and imprisonment.	23 BURKINA FASO Praise God for Christians in the south who boldly continue to worship despite attacks on their churches.
24 ALGERIA Pray that the government will cease its church closures and permit Christians to worship freely.	25 IRAQ Pray that God will provide for the many Christians who have been forced to flee their homes.	26 MOZAMBIQUE Pray for believers' efforts to rebuild churches that were destroyed in attacks by militant Islamists.	27 BANGLADESH Pray that the love and boldness of the church will draw non-believers to Christ.	28 TURKMENISTAN Praise God for Christians who take great risks to share the Gospel with Muslims.	29 EGYPT Pray that women who've been expelled from their homes because of their Christian faith will receive safe shelter.	30 CUBA Pray for the peace of those who have been denied education and jobs for following Christ.
31 JORDAN Pray that believers receiving Biblical training will be emboldened in their witness for Christ.	 (The First Christmas)					



Scan to access
Digital Calendar



Artist: Vanessa Brobbel
 Artwork Title: Acacia Tree
 Mediums: Acrylic, Molding Paste, Oil on Canvas

Wander around The World

Weigh In

1. Secularism is experientially living for the natural world, not for any god or afterlife. All energy and focus must be directed towards this life and self-gratification, since it's believed that this tangible life is all that exists.
2. Eastern religions like Buddhism and Hinduism place a large emphasis on the state of mind in order to reach a perfect state of being – Nirvana, meaning to overcome difficulty. This is achieved by losing the sense of self through meditation, spiritual and physical labour, and good works.
3. Communism's overarching goal is to create paradise, or "utopia," on earth. However, over the past 100 years, more than two dozen countries have tried to implement Communist ideology into their nation with varying degrees of failure. "Utopia" has never been reached to this day.
4. "Dharma" is the code of living which governs behaviour and social order, and is essential to the Hindu faith. Considered to be the foundation of the universe, adherents follow this code meticulously to ensure a supremely happy and prosperous life.
5. The Muslim world is daily filled with prayer, rituals, and an awareness of the Muslim god, Allah. These practices must be constantly and accurately completed for a chance to earn salvation. There is no assurance of salvation until the "Day of Judgement."

1. Read what 1 John 2:15-17 says about living apart from the world and then compare secularism with Christianity. Are these two beliefs diametrically opposed? If so, are there persecution implications for disciples of Jesus facing a largely secularist society? Why?
2. Adherents of Buddhism and Hinduism believe that evil and suffering are illusions created by our own minds. How does this statement measure up in the real world? Hint: Can an individual truly cause evil and suffering to disappear by altering their state of mind?
3. Communism strives to fix the problems in society through radical reforms; ultimately resulting in another futile attempt of humankind to be its own saviour. Why do you think Communism failed so many times in history? Are there things within the human heart that could contribute to this? Support your answer with Scripture.
4. The Dharmic code has ten rules that adherents follow to achieve salvation and prosperity. There's a notable distinction between these rules and the fruit of the Spirit – the evidence of salvation freely provided by Christ. Why does this distinction make a difference?
5. Muslims seek salvation through spiritual practices. Read Romans 10:10-11. For Christians, the Bible clearly states that salvation is earned through faith in Christ, not through spiritual practices. Imagine having no assurance of salvation, though believing in Jesus as a human prophet. How would your behaviour change with this thinking? What feelings would arise if salvation wasn't certain?

One Way

How to Play:
Match each symbol of the major religions and worldviews with the corresponding definition that answers the question: How does God relate to humanity, if at all?



God relates personally to humans. He revealed this by His proclaimed name: "Emmanuel," meaning "God with us."



Receiving revelation from God isn't the key idea; understanding identity in the universe through deep meditation to reach enlightenment is.



God, the Supreme Being, is unknowable, but various gods and goddesses reveal His characteristics.



God relates to humanity only through prophets and authoritative teaching.



There is no God. Rather, each person essentially becomes "god" by living their own way.

Way Out

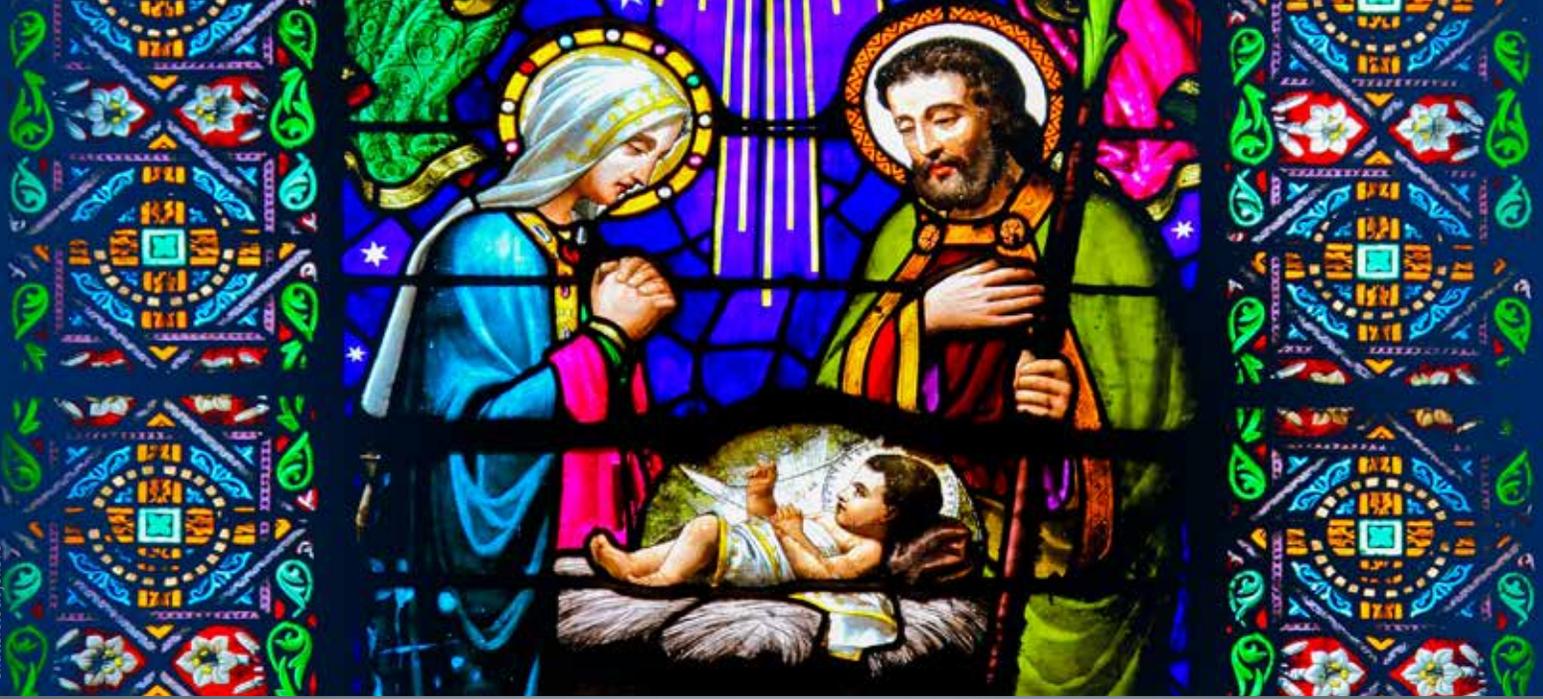
VOMC facilitates many projects that each fulfill a unique need around the globe. These projects have been a huge blessing to numerous communities of persecuted believers. One such project is the *Christmas Blessing* distribution, which will be taking place in Colombia this year. To see the full scope of VOMC's international projects, see page 6 of this December issue. For more information on the ministry, visit vomcanada.com.

Line It Up Answers: 1. Nirvana 2. Hinduism 3. Utopia 4. Islam 5. Karma 6. Secularism 7. Christianity 8. Worldview

Recommended Reads

So What's the Difference? by Fritz Ridenour - Adult
World Religions in a Nutshell by Ray Comfort - Adult
101 Questions: Volume 9 by Art Ayris - Teen

Sources:
<https://www.learnreligions.com/what-is-dharma-1770048>
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/buddhism/>
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rainerzitelmann/2020/03/16/socialism-the-failed-idea-that-never-dies/?sh=3b925dde23ce>
Understanding the Times – A Survey of Competing Worldviews by Dr. Jeff Myers and Dr. David A. Noebel.



Don't Believe Only in a **HISTORICAL CHRIST**

Message by the late Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand
International Founder of The Voice of the Martyrs Ministry

Not all Christians think alike. Some believe that Christ was born in Bethlehem only for our salvation, and so they celebrate this event just at Christmastime. Others, rejecting the spiritual contraceptives of unbelief and pride, have allowed Christ to also be born in their own souls after being touched by the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, these believers have kept worldliness and false teaching from bringing the Divine embryo to abortion. He lives within their hearts.

When Michelangelo used a stonemason as a model while making a statue of Christ, he was criticized by his teacher Ghirlandaio. Michelangelo defended himself: "But Christ was also a working man, a carpenter." The master replied, "[The people of] Florence won't accept a working-class Christ. They are used to having Him as a nobleman."

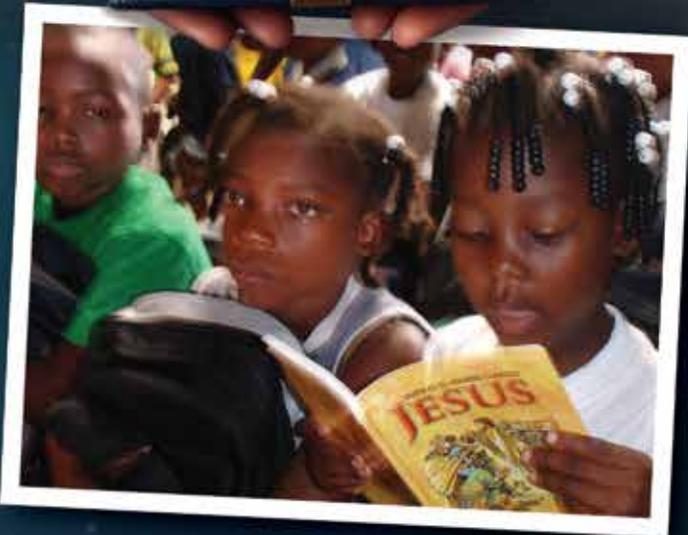


Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand and his wife Sabina.

Some are only accustomed to a historical Saviour. They would not accept an inner Christ, even though to be real, Christ must

dwell within their hearts. To all outward appearances, Jesus was a Jewish carpenter and rabbi. Thousands knew Him without observing that He was more.... His being Christ became visible only through spiritual insight. The same applies today. We must become Christian "*in the inward parts*" (Psalm 51:6).

A Christmas focussing only on the outward historical event is perilous to the soul. It brings death in the disguise of merriment; whereas Christ born "*within*" brings eternal life. Once Christ lives within us, we become children of God and partakers of His divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), serving as the "*light of the world*" and the "*salt of the earth*" (Matthew 5:13-14). 🌱



God's Greatest Gift

“Christmas Blessing” Project Update

By Sarah Yvonne



This Christmas season, as we celebrate God's greatest gift of love to us, His Son Jesus Christ, we rejoice that He has provided The Voice of the Martyrs Canada so many opportunities to reach out with His love to multitudes around the world. In collaboration with the mission's various credible International Ministry partners, VOMC's *Christmas Blessing* project has indeed been a wonderful blessing to persecuted believers in different countries year after year. Through this project, both practical support and meaningful gifts have been distributed over the years to thousands of Christian families and their children – specifically those who are living in regions that are hostile towards their faith.

Living under the constant threat of persecution is deeply traumatizing for children who are exposed to harassment, violence, and even the loss of loved ones. The gift of a Bible, along with practical necessities and toys, can make a real difference in a child's life. It serves to remind them of the hope and joy we all share through our Lord Jesus, plus the fact that they are loved and prayed for by fellow Christians around the globe. We thank God for the generous donations of our supporters, through which this project has touched the lives of so many Christian families and children in need.

“...whoever welcomes one such child in My name welcomes Me.”

Matthew 18:5 NIVUK

This year's *Christmas Blessing* project, which will be focussing on persecuted Christian communities in Colombia, is being facilitated through VOMC's partnership with the Colombia Para Cristo Society. Not many families residing in persecuted regions of this South American country are able to celebrate a “normal” Christmas with their loved ones, due to a tremendous lack of resources. In addition to the financial hardships experienced by these families, our ministry partners from Para Cristo Society report that “Colombia has a very strong history of child abuse, including child recruitment to hostile groups and persecution towards families who choose to exercise their Christian faith despite opposition from many factions – including the

cartel, mafia and insurgent groups.”

In response to VOMC’s sponsorship commitment, our ministry partners report, “The Gospel is the only solution for Colombia, and we believe this investment in [the lives of these] children is something they will always remember, as well as an opportunity to create significant changes in these dangerous regions.” The project’s goal for this year involves the delivery of bicycles, “family care” baskets containing Bibles and additional Christian literature – plus toys, school supplies and other practical necessities – to more than 500 children directly and over 1,000 families indirectly.

As this year’s project progressed, our ministry partners received word that there are now even more needy children residing within these selected communities than initially expected. One of our Colombia ministry partners further explained: “We prayed to the Lord to let us see His hand [in this project], because it’s our desire that no child will be left without a gift. And we praise the Lord because He is helping us.”

Many bicycles have already been purchased for distribution among three Christian communities in Colombia. These communities are located within one of the most dangerous territories of the country. As it’s an area controlled by radical natives, drug lords, as well as guerrilla ELN and FARC paramilitary groups, there are concerns over the resulting high level of delinquency. In addition, Christians residing within this area encounter severe persecution from the rebel factions.

Our ministry partners acknowledge that safely travelling within this territory for the *Christmas Blessing* distributions can be a great challenge. Nevertheless, the Lord has clearly shown them that this is where the gifts will have the most impact. Please join us in praying for the safety and wisdom of our ministry partners as they joyfully undertake this year’s distributions, serving as the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus in this dark place.

By the grace of God, we are also expecting to distribute over 4,000 Bibles in other Colombian Christian communities. Although we are reaching out among remote areas that have not seen a missionary in decades – if ever – thankfully thousands of pastors and congregations are spiritually thriving. As revival



continues to take place in the remote regions of Colombia and its neighbouring country of Venezuela, there is an immense need for more Bibles in various tribal languages. In the midst of these countries’ grim political and economic situations, huge numbers of spiritually seeking souls are surrendering their lives to our Lord Jesus! We praise God for allowing us to take part in His expansive ministry work during this time of great harvest.

As the children in Colombia receive their *Christmas Blessing* gifts this year, it is our prayer that they will be greatly encouraged by the assurance of God’s tremendous love for them, and that their suffering families will be uplifted and further strengthened spiritually so they can victoriously overcome the trials of persecution. As there will also be opportunities for evangelism, we’re asking the Lord to prepare the hearts of their unchurched neighbours so that even more South Americans will be receptive to the “Good News” of the Gospel.

**“Thanks be to God for
His indescribable gift!”
2 Corinthians 9:15 NIVUK**

We rejoice over His blessing of our collaborative efforts with such diligent and courageous ministry partners, and hope that throughout this Christmas season and beyond, the light of Christ will shine brightly in the dark places of our world. As a result, may multitudes more in Colombia – and every other part of the globe – experience eternal salvation through the provision of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all! 🙏



VOMC RESOURCES



NEW!

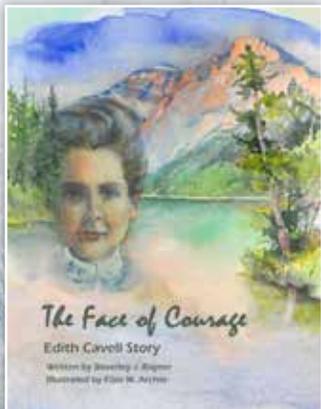
Artisan Gift Cards Special Trio Collection

\$10 per set

This triptych containing artisan gift cards is beautifully packaged in a clear plastic tri-fold casing and specially tied with ribbon.

Each card features a 5" x 6 7/8" print of an original painting, the story behind the artwork, a Scripture verse, blank space for a personalized note, and an envelope.

It's an ideal way to bless a friend or loved one with a personal note of encouragement – while also helping to raise awareness and support for our international persecuted family!



The Face of Courage

Based on the Historical Account of Edith Cavell

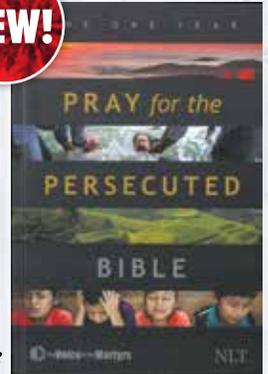
\$19

The Face of Courage, a beautifully illustrated children's storybook, features the fascinating venture of two Canadian children who travel to England for a vacation with their Nana. While touring England's historical sites, their grandmother relates the true account of Edith Cavell's dedicated life as a nurse during World War I. This heart-warming story, which has garnered three awards, will truly inspire young readers (*suitable for ages 8 to 12*) and their families. It's also an ideal addition to any library collection of historically based children's books – whether at home, school or church. Hardcover, 64 pages

The One Year "Pray for the Persecuted" Bible

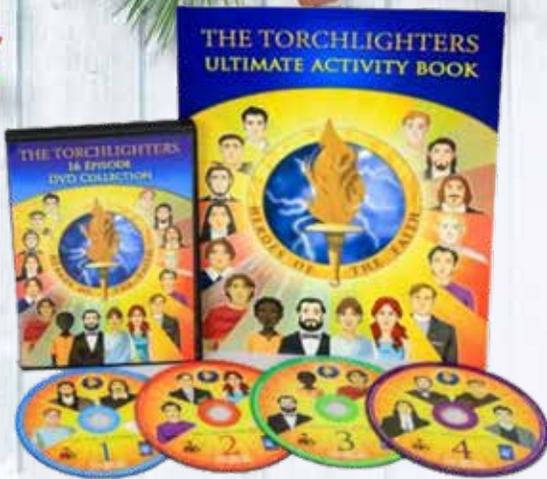
\$18 each

NEW!



"Pray for us!" This is often the first request shared by our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who are persecuted for their faith. *The One Year "Pray for the Persecuted" Bible* includes unique daily "prayer prompts," covering a wide range of needs that are facing persecuted Christians today. This special edition of *The One Year Bible* is also designed to help you read through the entire Bible in one unforgettable year, as you prayerfully lift up your petitions to God's 'throne of grace' on behalf of our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.

The additional full-colour pages feature inspiring stories of Christians who boldly witness for Christ amid great risk and adversity, a fold-out map of restricted and hostile regions, a unique Scripture reading plan – along with those daily "prayer prompts" – to help you intercede more specifically on behalf of persecuted believers around the globe. You'll be further equipped to apply the principles of God's unchanging Word for more effectual prayer in a world that is increasingly hostile to many of Christ's followers. (Available in either the New Living Translation or the Christian Standard Bible version.)



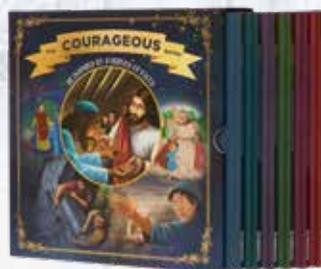
The Torchlighters Ultimate Activity Book and DVD Set

\$40 for complete set

(including one activity book)

The award-winning *Torchlighters* DVD series includes a 144-page, full-colour activity book. This book provides historical facts about each hero, devotionals, fun activities, plus additional colouring pages. Offered at exclusive ministry pricing, this bundle contains all 16 episodes of *The Torchlighters* series in a four-DVD set, along with an easy-to-carry case and the *Ultimate Activity Book*. This special offer is a valuable resource for Christian schools, homeschoolers, Sunday school classes, as well as family devotions. (Each episode featured in the set is approximately 30 minutes in length.)

The heroes featured in the series include: Amy Carmichael, Corrie ten Boom, Eric Liddell, Gladys Aylward, Jim Elliot, John Bunyan, Perpetua, Richard Wurmbrand, Robert Jermain Thomas, Samuel Morris, St. Augustine, William Booth, William Tyndale, and more.

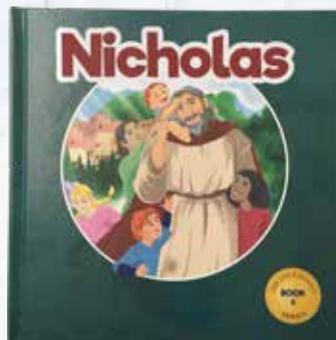


The Courageous Series Fully Illustrated Children's Gift Book Set

\$45

Inspire children with the true stories of Biblical heroes and saints. *The Courageous Series* highlights the lives of faithful Christians throughout history, sharing how they boldly proclaimed Christ in the face of persecution.

This wonderfully written and illustrated six-book gift set includes the stories of Biblical heroes *Stephen, Thomas* and the *Apostle Paul*, as well as the stories of famous influencers *Nicholas, Patrick* and *Valentine*, whose faith-motivated actions continue to impact lives around the world today. Learning about these great heroes of the faith will encourage children to become courageous followers of Jesus as well. Hardcover, 8.75" x 8.75"



Christmas Offer from The Courageous Series

Nicholas: God's Courageous Gift-Giver

\$10

For the upcoming Christmas season, VOMC is making this specific illustrated storybook from *The Courageous Series* available as a separate offer. It's a perfect way to share with your young family members and friends the true historical account of St. Nicholas who has been honoured for his amazing acts of kindness and generosity towards those in need.

Depicted throughout the centuries as the legendary "Santa Claus" (yet more accurately referred to as "Nicholas of Myra" or "Saint Nicholas"), few have heard how this steadfast Godly man suffered greatly for refusing to deny his Christian faith. Children and their families will learn how St. Nicholas demonstrated unwavering courage and generosity in the midst of persecution. Hardcover, 45 pages

For more helpful resources, visit:
www.vomcanada.com/store

Christmas Blessing 2023

“...my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.”

~ Philippians 4:19 NIVUK



Photos: Colombia Para Cristo Society

Every year, VOM Canada has been blessed to work alongside ministry partners around the world while facilitating the mission's *Christmas Blessing* project, which seeks to extend God's love and provision to persecuted children and their families during the Christmas season. For this year's project, VOMC is delighted to be partnering with Colombia Para Cristo Society by providing needed practical and spiritual support to the children of persecuted Christian communities in Colombia.

Through this project, God has given us here in Canada the opportunity to encourage Christian families residing in remote and hostile areas of Colombia by distributing practical necessities such as food and clothing, bicycles for transportation, Bibles and other Christian materials, along with toys and school supplies to further bless the children.

The Lord has graciously put it on the hearts of VOMC's ministry team to sponsor this distribution project which will benefit more than 500 children directly and over 1,000 families indirectly within three different Christian communities of Colombia. In addition, there will be more than 4,000 Bibles distributed in several parts of the country due to the great spiritual hunger for God's Word.

We are very much looking forward to witnessing God's wonderful plans for these communities as they unfold, and hearing the powerful testimonies of those involved in the distribution of this year's *Christmas Blessing* gift packages!

If you would like to help support your Christian family in Colombia, please visit:

**[www.vomcanada.com/
ChristmasBlessing](http://www.vomcanada.com/ChristmasBlessing)**

or call 1-888-298-6423



Background: Dmytro Smaglov