

ONE VOICE

An aerial photograph of the Great Wall of China, showing the stone wall and watchtowers snaking across a vast, densely forested mountain range. The perspective is from a high vantage point, looking down the length of the wall as it recedes into the distance. The greenery is vibrant, and the sky is a pale, clear blue.

Resilient
Followers of
Christ in China

VOLUME 2
MARCH 2025

VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada



ONE VOICE is one of the primary tools used by Voice of the Martyrs Canada to engage the Canadian Christian community and bring awareness of believers who suffer because of their faith in Jesus Christ. VOMC's Ministry Purposes are 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 inform the world of the faith and courage of persecuted Christians, thereby inspiring disciples to a deeper level of commitment to Christ, His Great Commission, and the fellowship of all believers (Hebrews 13:3; Galatians 6:2).

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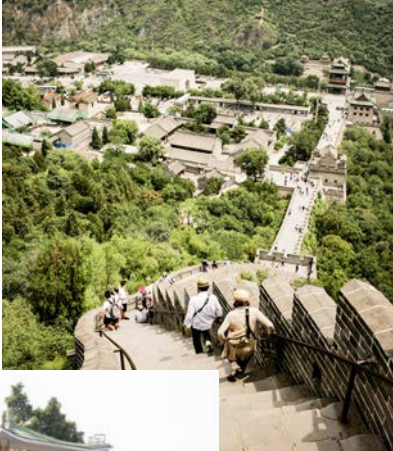
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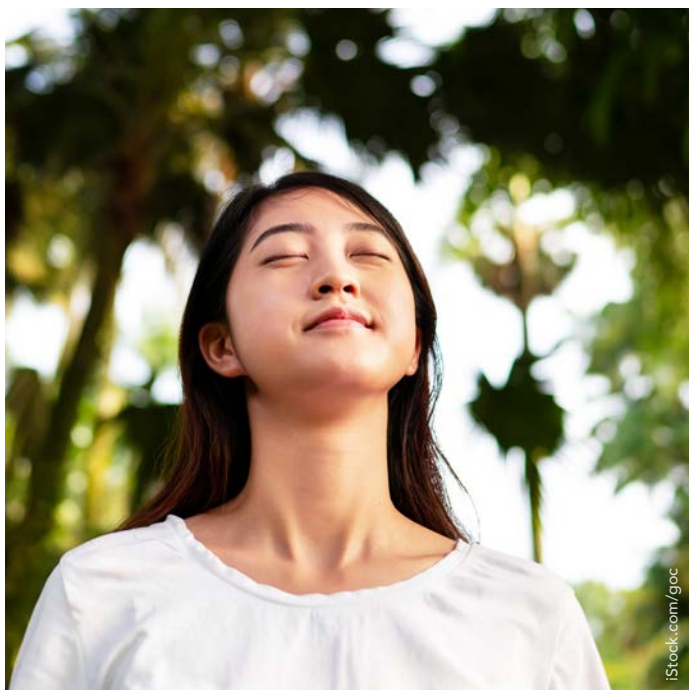
ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

Followers of Christ in China

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

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”

James 1:5 ESV



When trials come your way, how do you respond to the testing of your faith? James, the brother of Jesus, who became a leader of the Jerusalem church, provided valuable guidance in a letter he addressed to Jewish Christians living outside of Israel. He encouraged followers of Jesus to respond to suffering with joy, explaining that doing so would strengthen their faith and lead them towards their perfection in eternity (James 1:2-3). He also emphasized the importance of seeking God-given wisdom when navigating through life's trials. If wisdom is lacking, then believers are urged to pray for it, knowing that the Lord will generously provide it to those who ask (James 1:5).

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) enforces strict measures to control religious activities within the



country. This includes regulating gatherings, censoring materials and monitoring church leaders. The presence of Christianity challenges the CCP, as believers tend to extend their worship beyond church walls, driven by the Gospel's call to reach all people. While house churches and evangelists spread the Christian message, Communist officials continue to introduce policies in their efforts to repress those they cannot control.

In response to these measures, the church in China prepares its missionaries to boldly preach the Gospel while, at the same time, evading capture when necessary. Filled with the Spirit of God, these witnesses are willing to endure imprisonment for their faith. Yet, realizing that the devil's intent is to undermine their evangelistic efforts, they make a point of seeking God's wisdom and discernment. Doing so enables them to know when they must escape danger to ensure the advancement of the "Good News."

The church in China stands as a testament to the resilience of God's people, having endured decades of persecution and witnessed many martyrdoms. Despite these trials, Chinese Christians experience an unshakeable joy that

strengthens their faith as they trust God's sovereignty and blessings. House church leader Samuel Lamb (1924 – 2013) emphasized this point in a biography of his life when he said: "I truly have come to thank God for our difficult times, for limited possessions, [and] for the uncertainties we face. That is what keeps us close to Jesus."¹

As a global Christian community, let us unite in prayer for our brothers and sisters in China. May these Chinese believers receive divine wisdom amid tremendous pressure and persecution. Let us likewise live with unwavering trust in the Lord and rely on His sustaining promises, looking beyond today's struggles to the glorious future that awaits us in Christ Jesus.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'F' followed by the name 'Loyd'.

¹ Anderson, Ken, *Bold as a Lamb*, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 1991, pg.162

PERSECUTION RESPONSE

Lifelines *of Hope*



In collaboration with our trusted ministry partners, VOMC is providing greatly needed practical and spiritual support to our Chinese family in Christ so they can effectively respond and minister within the context of hostility.

LEGAL SUPPORT

VOM Canada is privileged to partner with the MET Bible Church and ChinaAid by providing financial assistance towards the legal expenses of five recently imprisoned Christian ministry workers. Not only is this practical assistance helping to alleviate the emotional distress and financial strain experienced by these workers and their families, but it is also a means of encouraging them spiritually.

In the fall of 2023, the five church workers were accused of being involved in an illegal business operation for printing and distributing Christian publications that allegedly “endangered social order and disrupted market order.” However, the workers asserted that they had been producing the devotional materials for use only in their own church.

While the legal situation caused considerable emotional and financial stress for the families of the detained workers, the wife of one imprisoned church leader expressed how extremely grateful they were to receive the financial support. As her husband and his three siblings were among the workers arrested, she had been left with the sole responsibility of caring for her disabled mother-in-law during their detainment.

Thankfully, her husband was finally released on bail after 14 months of imprisonment; and, at the time of compiling this report, the four other church workers were subsequently released on bail pending trial. When one of

the more recently freed church workers had been released from prison, he was greeted by rejoicing family members who held up a “Welcome Home” sign that included the accompanying Scripture verse: *“Fight the good fight of the faith”* (1 Timothy 6:12 ESV).

AUDIO BIBLE DISTRIBUTION



The church in China has experienced explosive growth for at least the past three decades. Today, it is estimated that approximately 100 million Christians presently live within this Communist nation.

Due to governmental restrictions, limited resources, and remote locations, many believers don't have their own copy of God's Word. To help fulfill the need, VOMC has partnered with VOM Korea in support of the *Underground University China* project, which aims to distribute Christian materials in China through various secure methods, including the physical distribution of digital Bibles. At the time of writing this report, a total of 400 digital Bibles had been delivered by our ministry partners during the year of 2024.

Amid an environment that has become increasingly hostile to the Gospel, several recipients of this distribution project have expressed their deep gratitude for the provided audio Bibles, as well as the love, support and prayers they received from their global family in Christ:

PERSECUTION RESPONSE

"I believe once again that it is time for the flame of the Gospel to rise in China. In order to not stray from God, and live a life of restoration through prayer, my family and I have been praying constantly. Please join us once again in prayer for the churches.... Thank you for the gift you have sent for future generations of China."

"Pray to God for the future of China. China's economy is in great difficulty, and there seems to be no prospect of recovery for a long time. The suffering of ordinary people is particularly severe. Please intercede for Chinese believers who are in a state of collapse."

"Everything has become difficult due to China's anti-espionage law. Anything connected to external sources is viewed with suspicion, and the same goes for the church. Society is not progressing, it is retreating. I believe this is the time to rely on God and pray. Thank you for your concern for the church and believers in China."

CHINESE SHORTWAVE RADIO



VOM Korea's shortwave radio broadcasts serve as another means of distributing Christian content across China. However, the government's use of sophisticated interference and jamming techniques has acted as a significant obstacle. Countering the government's attempts to obstruct the broadcasts requires daily monitoring and continual readjustment.

"...so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it"
(Isaiah 55:11 ESV).

In the midst of expansive government control over religious activities in China, two shortwave radio broadcasts are being aired daily for the purpose of equipping and empowering the Chinese underground church with the Gospel message.

PERSECUTION RESPONSE

Please join us in prayer for VOMC's various ministry projects within China.

Legal support for imprisoned Christians:

Pray that God would work in the hearts of China's governing officials, prompting the release of more imprisoned believers throughout the nation. In the meanwhile, may these prisoners and their families experience His peace, protection and provision.

Bible distributions: Please pray that every believer who receives a digital Bible will be greatly encouraged, further strengthened, and more fully equipped to accomplish the Lord's divine purposes.

Daily radio broadcasts: Pray the two daily radio programs that are being broadcasted across China will be transmitted properly and clearly, especially in areas that have been heavily targeted with blocking and interference devices.



Poems from PRISON

On March 4th, 2024, Chinese pastor John Cao was released after serving a seven-year prison sentence. Despite this, the pastor's freedom of movement remains restricted today.

"Why have I been put in jail?" That was the question that nagged at Pastor John Cao after he was arrested by Chinese officials in Yunnan province back in March 2017. The Christian leader, who was born in China, yet lived with his family for a number of years in the United States, had been operating schools for needy children in northern Myanmar. "People had no food or clothes," Pastor John recalls. "Basically, they were naked. I brought clothes, food [and] medicine into this place."

Whenever crossing the border from China into Myanmar, he made no attempt to hide the fact that he was bringing needed resources to these schools. After his arrest, his family claimed that Chinese officials were aware of his work and even helped him cross the border on multiple occasions.

"We set up schools and actually taught [Burmese inhabitants] Chinese, which was also good for the Chinese government!" Pastor John explains. "So I often asked, 'What's wrong? Why put me in jail for seven years?'"

However, Pastor John was eventually arrested and charged with "organizing illegal border crossings." The following year, he received a sentence of seven years' imprisonment and a fine of 20,000 yuan (approximately \$3,910 CAD). His lawyer's subsequent appeal was postponed seven times before the sentence was upheld.

"We set up schools and actually taught [Burmese inhabitants] Chinese, which was also good for the Chinese government!" Pastor John explains. "So I often asked, 'What's wrong? Why put me in jail for seven years?' But suddenly I understood. That was the beginning of a movement by the Chinese Communist Party to persecute Chinese Christians – mainly those in underground house churches."



Pastor John spent the first two-and-a-half years in a detention centre. As food was sparse there, he quickly lost 40 pounds in weight. Then, in 2019, he was transferred to a prison, where he was placed in a cell with ten other people. All these prisoners were forced to sleep on a single large bed. "The good thing," Pastor John recounts, "was that I was able to share Jesus Christ with the people on my left and on my right! The hearts of the two guys were opened by the Spirit to believe in Jesus Christ. Both of them accepted Him as their Lord."

Shortly after their conversions, Pastor John managed to collect rainwater in a bucket during a heavy storm. He poured the rainwater over the two men to baptize them. "Then the [prison] officers found out and moved me to another room," he continues to explain. "So I started over again!"

Before long, Pastor John had led two more individuals to faith in Christ. One of these prisoners was charged with the death penalty for drug smuggling. "After [the fellow



“I was able to share Jesus Christ with the people on my left and on my right! The hearts of the two guys were opened by the Spirit to believe in Jesus Christ. Both of them accepted Him as their Lord.”

prisoner] accepted Christ, he said to me that he felt totally relieved,” Pastor John adds. “I baptized him in the same way – with rainwater.”

During the next four years, Pastor John was severely restricted from receiving any personal letters that were written to him by family and friends. When his mother copied a few Bible verses and put them into a letter, the authorities confiscated it.

“My mother travelled more than 20 hours by train to visit me,” he recalls. “We talked over a phone through a window and the officers listened to our conversation. My mother said Pastor so-and-so is praying for you – and the conversation was then cut off immediately.... They didn’t like the word ‘prayer.’”

Pastor John was eventually forbidden from praying in his cell. “At first, I was kneeling down to pray every day. But then, [the guards] stopped me. So I started to pray by lying down on my bed as if sleeping, with my face down.” As the imprisoned Christian leader was also not allowed to have a Bible nor any other books, he began composing poems.

“I had never composed a poem before,” he admits. “I had to write in very ‘unclear’ language, or the police wouldn’t have allowed me to send them to my mother. It required wisdom. I started to praise my God and express my thanks to my Lord, and [then acknowledged] how I was understanding my life in prison and how I can live for Jesus Christ.”

A selection of Pastor John’s poems was subsequently published by ChinaAid in a book titled, *Living Lyrics: Poems from Prison*. One of the poems includes the following verses:

*“You can take away my freedom,
but you can’t take my prayers.*

*My prayers have wings and leap
over the towering iron mesh wall.*

*Many brothers and sisters have
heard them.*

*They fly freely every day and reach
Heaven above the blue sky."*

In March of the previous year, Pastor John was finally released from prison. However, the authorities still have not given him his Chinese ID papers, nor did they return his passport. This means he is not free to travel around China or leave the country. "I can only stay in my city," he explains. "I have been moved from a small prison into a big prison, [which] is my city!"

Since his release, Pastor John would like to return to the United States where his wife is residing, but he has repeatedly been prevented from doing so. Despite the challenges, this faithful Christian leader is continuing his ministry activities. "I love China because I want to share Jesus Christ with the Chinese people!"

*"I would encourage you to continue to
pray and show your solidarity towards
all those people who are behind bars
[for their faith in Christ]. Pray also for
the full recovery of my civil rights and
citizenship [so that I will] be free to
travel as before."*

Pastor John expresses his thanks to all who prayed for him during his time in prison. He concludes the interview by saying: "I would encourage you to continue to pray and show your solidarity towards all those people who are behind bars [for their faith in Christ]. Pray also for the full recovery of my civil rights and citizenship [so that I will] be free to travel as before."



Calling All Artists!

Voice of the Martyrs Canada invites you to participate in its annual visual Art Gallery Showing. This is an opportunity for artists of all skill levels to create visual representations of *Perfect Peace* amid suffering and the cross carried by our persecuted brothers and sisters of faith.

You can read more details at:
vomcanada.com/artgalleryshowing

Remembering Those In Prison

“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.” – Hebrews 13:3 ESV

In Hebrews 13:3, the writer calls on his readers to extend empathy and actively pray for those in difficult situations by urging them to: remember the plight of the persecuted, the marginalized, and those facing unjust treatment. He encourages fellowship by asking that Christians everywhere identify with the sufferings of their brothers and sisters – *“as though in prison with them.”*

The Chinese Communist Party is actively seeking to silence pastors and other influential believers through

false accusations, unfounded charges and imprisonment. Countless Christian leaders in China are detained or have recently been released from prison.

These three cases are representative of the persecution endured by those who proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Communist China. Please take the time to read their stories, be inspired by their faith in Jesus and pray for them.

PASTOR WANG YI – Arrested: December 2018 | Prison sentence: 9 years

Pastor Wang Yi is the influential leader of the Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu. Following a raid on his church, he was arrested and later convicted of “inciting subversion of state power.” News about Pastor Wang has been blocked since his arrest, and the outside world knows little about his situation. However, his wife, Jiang Rong, was able to visit him in prison during October 2021, which was their first meeting in more than three years. Jiang reported that her husband was healthy, although he had lost a lot of weight, and that he was allowed to read in prison. While members of the Early Rain Covenant Church continue to face relentless persecution from the authorities, they too remain resolute in their faith.





Stock.com/Silasyeung

PASTOR ZHANG SHAOJIE – Arrested: November 2013 | Prison sentence: 12 years

Pastor Zhang Shaojie is the leader of the Nanle County Christian Church in Henan province. After a land-ownership dispute between the church and local authorities, he was convicted on fabricated charges of fraud and for “gathering a crowd to disrupt the public order.” Although there had been no update on Pastor Zhang for more than two years, it was reported that the Christian leader was transferred to another prison in Henan during January 2021. Several months later, his family received a letter from him informing them that he was in good spirits. At last report, officials were allowing him to see his family once a month.



FU XUANJUAN – Arrested: 2020 | Prison sentence: 6 years

In 2020, Fu Xuanjuan was convicted of “illegal business operations” and sentenced to six years behind bars. The Christian woman was the owner of a company that produced portable audio players containing a narrated recording of the Bible, as well as sermons and hymns. The audio players were especially useful to elderly Christians, but Chinese authorities viewed the devices with suspicion. While in prison, Fu has developed multiple uterine fibroids. In addition to suffering from pain, she frequently vomits, losing needed nutrition and medicine. The prison doctor has recommended surgery, but Fu is afraid. Her husband Deng asks fellow Christians to pray for her.



VOM Global Reports

BRUNEI: Mandatory Islamic Teaching for Christian Children



Christians in Brunei remain faithful amid increased pressure from the government.

In November 2023, Brunei's sultan enacted a radical change in the country's education policy, mandating that all students in grades two through five receive Islamic religious instruction for one hour per day. The revised education policy has applied even more pressure on Christian families, who are isolated from fellow believers and expected to keep their faith to themselves.

While some registered churches do exist in Brunei, Christianity is generally highly restricted. No new church buildings are allowed, places of worship are often closely monitored and infiltrated by the religious police, Bibles in

the majority Malay language are illegal, and all outreach to Muslims is strictly prohibited. Nevertheless, a few bold evangelists continue to proclaim the truth of Christ and some new believers have received baptism.

Christian ministry workers ask for prayer that the overall church in Brunei will be strengthened amid increased pressure. They also ask for prayer that Christian parents will know how to wisely instruct their children in the Word of God, so these young students can withstand the contrary messaging they are being taught at school.

TUNISIA: Christian Convert Faces Attacks and Harassment

After hearing the Gospel message via Christian satellite TV, Abdel placed his faith in Christ. Although Tunisia has a rich Christian history, converts from Islam still encounter persecution in their Muslim communities – and Abdel is no exception.

After learning of his Christian faith, some of Abdel's Muslim neighbours urged a local imam to castigate him over the mosque's loudspeakers. Abdel was subsequently attacked and beaten, and a formal complaint was filed against him for "disturbing the peace." In addition, some of Abdel's neighbours attacked and demolished part of his home.

Since the destruction of his property, Abdel has sought legal approval to rebuild his house, but governing officials have denied his requests and delayed the court hearings. Amid his legal struggles, Abdel suffered a stroke, which he believes could have been caused by ongoing stress.



Abdel's Muslim neighbours demolished part of his home after learning about his decision to follow Christ.

At last report, Abdel is awaiting a court decision concerning the charges filed against him. Thankful for the encouragement and support he received from the global body of Christ throughout the ordeal, this Christian convert acknowledges that his faith has been greatly encouraged and strengthened. He now requests prayer that his neighbours will likewise come to faith in Jesus.

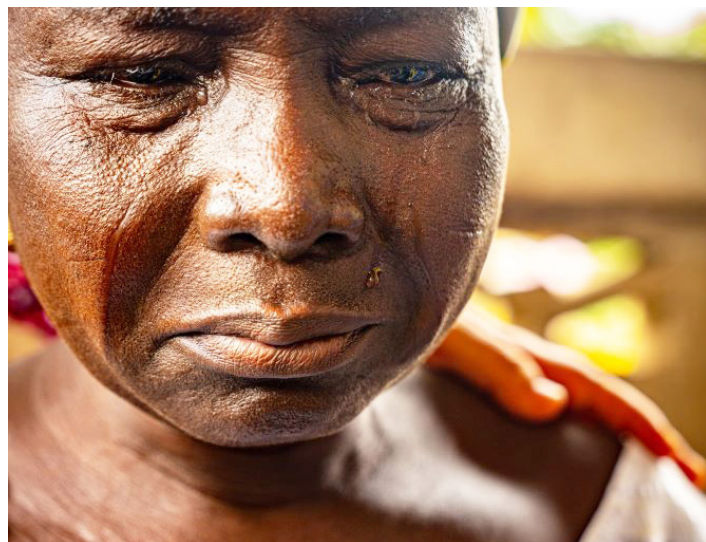
BENIN: New Believer Banished From Home

Ariane visited several voodoo practitioners in her area, but no one could remedy the intense stomach pain that plagued her. One day, someone suggested that she go to a Christian hospital in the neighbouring West African country of Togo. After being encouraged by a nurse who worked at the hospital to give her life to Christ, Ariane not only became a new Christian, but she also experienced the miraculous healing of her stomach ailment.

When the elated new believer returned home, however, Ariane's disapproving voodooist husband kicked her out of their house. Later, he threatened to kill her with a machete. Despite the intense persecution she suffered, Ariane regularly prayed for him, and he eventually allowed her to return home. He even asked her to pray about some of the struggles he had been personally facing. She believes these struggles were brought on by witchcraft.

Unfortunately, the community's other voodooists continually pressured Ariane's husband to kick her out of the house again. When the couple's adult son, who by then had also become a Christian, eventually died of illness, Ariane's husband blamed her for the loss of their son. Consequently, she was banished from their home a second time.

Despite all the challenges that she has gone through, Ariane remains steadfast in her faith today. "Even if my family says I should leave Jesus, I will never leave," she proclaims.



Ariane has faced harsh persecution from her husband and others in the community who practise witchcraft.

Pray for Imprisoned Christians in China

Pray that God's ministry of physical healing, protection and strength will take place in the lives of imprisoned Christians throughout China.

Ask our Heavenly Father to give each one of these believers a powerful sense of His abiding presence and, as a result, may His unfailing peace prevail within their souls.

Pray that the Lord will also grant greatly needed comfort to the family members of imprisoned believers as they anxiously await the hopeful release of their loved ones.

Ask that God may work powerfully within the hearts and minds of the country's Communist officials – not only bringing about the release of detained Christians, but also leading those who persecute the church to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.



MARCH 2025

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." James 1:5 ESV

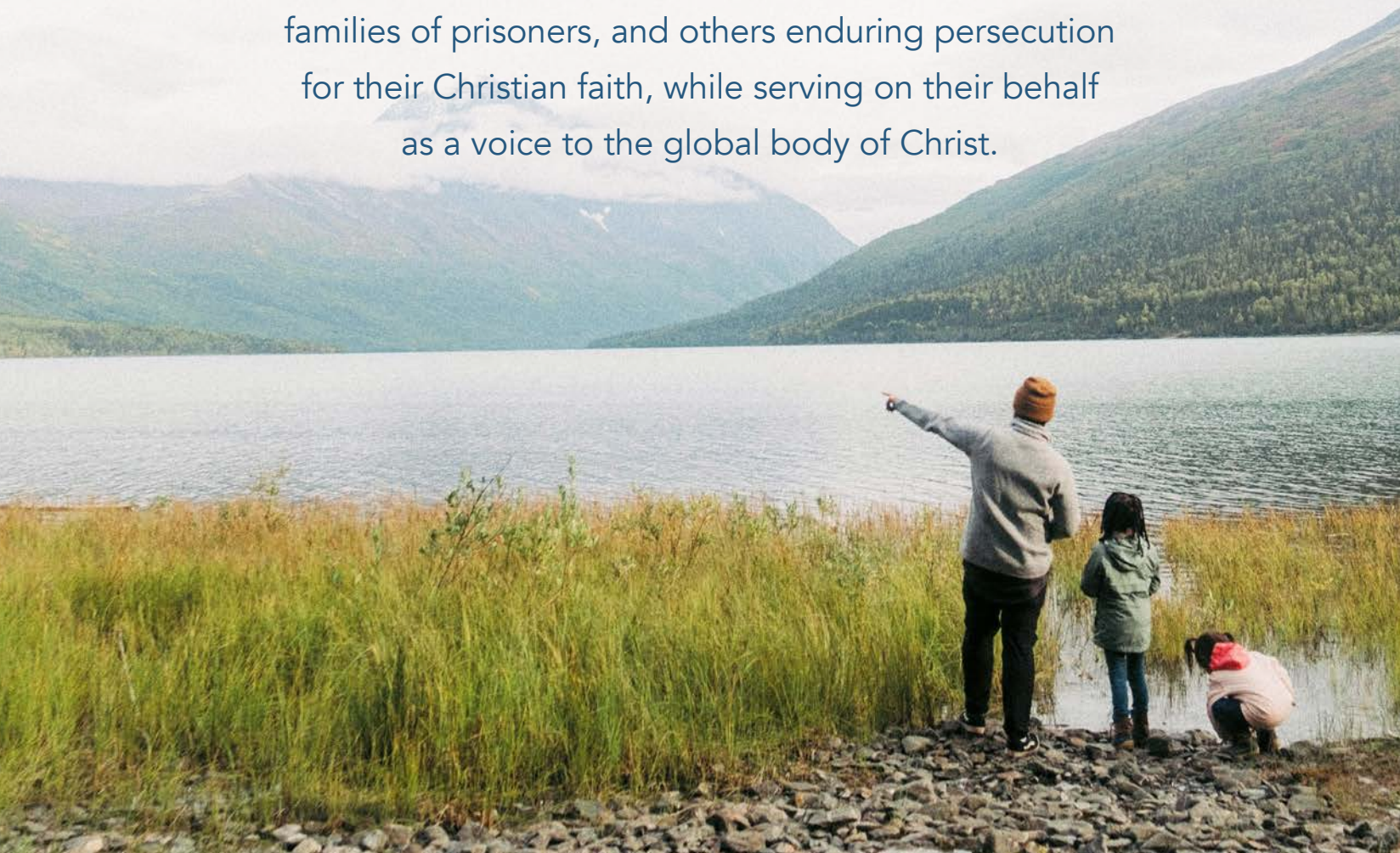
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 JORDAN Pray for Ghazal, a Christian convert who was beaten severely by her husband for placing her faith in Christ.
2 BURUNDI Pray for young Christian converts who face harsh persecution from militant Muslims in the community.	3 CHAD Pray that Christians who experienced persecution will receive God's peace, healing and provision.	4 UGANDA Pray for the families of 37 students who were killed during a 2023 terrorist attack on a Christian school.	5 IRAN Praise God for the Bibles that have been smuggled into Iran. Pray for the success of ongoing distributions.	6 INDIA Pray for Pastor Santosh who was further harassed by Hindu radicals following the vandalism of his church.	7 SIERRA LEONE Pray that the Gospel will reach the large majority of Sierra Leoneans who are in need of God's salvation.	8 ERITREA Pray for the hundreds of believers who have been imprisoned for their faith, often without trial.
9 MYANMAR (BURMA) Pray that many people among Myanmar's Burman ethnic majority will come to faith in Christ.	10 TÜRKIYE (TURKEY) Pray for wisdom on behalf of Nurettin, a pastor who leads a small church of Kurdish Christians.	11 KUWAIT Praise God that there is an increasing openness to the Gospel among younger Kuwaitis.	12 KAZAKHSTAN Pray that Christians like Ali and Ismail, who lost jobs because of their faith, will receive God's provision.	13 LEBANON More than one million Syrian refugees have entered Lebanon since 2012. Pray that multitudes will turn to Christ.	14 TOGO Many Togolese people follow traditional religions. Pray that they will be set free from spiritual bondage.	15 CUBA Pray that Christian children will remain firm in their faith despite being taught atheistic ideologies at school.
16 DJIBOUTI Pray for the advancement of the Gospel even though governing officials attempt to limit Christianity.	17 MOROCCO Pray that God will help Christian communities to cultivate spiritual growth and a spirit of unity.	18 GUINEA Using Philippians 1:9-11 as a guide, pray that Christians will gain more Biblical understanding.	19 NIGERIA Pray for the safety of Christian workers who minister in areas where militant Islamists' violence is common.	20 BHUTAN Pray for Christians like Karna, Deki and Ratno who lost jobs and citizenships because of their faith.	21 PHILIPPINES Praise God that many Christians have remained in Muslim-dominated Mindanao as witnesses for Christ.	22 COLOMBIA Pray for the protection of Christian youth who are often forced to join rebel guerrilla groups.
23 AZERBAIJAN Pray that children who receive Bibles will respond to God's gift of salvation by placing their faith in Christ.	24 MEXICO Pray that evangelistic efforts among indigenous groups residing in remote areas will bear lasting spiritual fruit.	25 LIBYA Pray that new believers who have been persecuted will become spiritually strong and steadfast.	26 UZBEKISTAN Pray that unregistered house churches will remain undetected by governing officials.	27 SRI LANKA Pray that many new churches will be firmly established in villages throughout this South Asian nation.	28 AFGHANISTAN Pray for Christians remaining in the country who are facing extreme persecution from ruling Taliban militants.	29 MAURITANIA Pray that indigenous Christians in Mauritania, where it's illegal to leave Islam, will sense God's presence and peace.
30 SOMALIA Since more Somalis live outside the country than within its borders, may Somalis everywhere hear the Gospel.	31 DR CONGO Pray for Divine, an orphaned Christian girl who was badly burned when rebels set her church on fire.					



STAND WITH *Imprisoned Christians*

Many of our persecuted Christian family members endure beatings, imprisonment, and even the threat of death, at the hands of those who are hostile to the Gospel. **But you can stand with them!**

Help us to meet the immediate and ongoing needs of families of prisoners, and others enduring persecution for their Christian faith, while serving on their behalf as a voice to the global body of Christ.



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