

# ONE VOICE

Steadfast  
Followers of  
*Christ* in India

VOLUME 3  
APRIL 2025

**VOMC**  
Voice of the Martyrs Canada



# Voice of the Martyrs

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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# ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

## *Followers of Christ in India*

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

*“For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.”*

Psalm 139:13-14 ESV



Dr. K.A. Swamy (white T-shirt) with his family.

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, a group of Hindu activists violently attacked Dr. K.A. Swamy as he was peacefully distributing Bibles to pedestrians on a bustling street in Hyderabad, India. After enduring the assault, he was forcibly taken to the local police station, where he faced accusations of attempting to convert people to his faith. Dr. Swamy remained in custody for several unsettling hours, with no charges formally filed against him. Eventually, a concerned church member learned of the incident and rushed to the police station to advocate for his friend’s release. However, when Dr. Swamy arrived home later that day, he suddenly collapsed and lost consciousness. As his condition worsened, the bold evangelist was rushed to the hospital. There, doctors discovered that he had suffered a severe brain hemorrhage as a direct result of the brutal attack.



Dr. Swamy was unable to talk or move on his own, showed signs of mental imbalance, and remained in a vegetative state. He is one of the many Christians in India who have experienced persecution due to the rising Hindutva ideology, which views India as a Hindu nation and marginalizes all other religions. Christians are subjected to various forms of violence and discrimination – including church burnings, disrupted worship services and confiscation of Bibles. Pastors often suffer beatings and imprisonment, while Christian women frequently endure public humiliation that strips them of their dignity.

Despite these hardships, Christians in India continue to demonstrate a steadfast sense of hope in God's sovereignty. Psalm 139:13-14 serves as a confirmation of their ultimate destiny. Though marginalized and scorned by society, Christians in India comprehend the profound truth that they have been lovingly created by God, and therefore are not merely the result of a random act of procreation. Born into a fallen world, they understand that those who strive to obey and serve God faithfully will endure trouble. Hope fuels their mission, knowing that God is transforming them from one degree of glory to the next. This

transformation is completed when, one day, they obtain the original righteousness that was lost at the fall in Eden.

This is great news for all Christians and the reason why Dr. Swamy's family members continue to remain hopeful today. After his initial surgery, doctors warned that he might never regain normal health and had a slim chance of survival. However, through VOMC's support, Dr. Swamy is making remarkable progress. Praise God! While we can rejoice over these physical and cognitive improvements, we take great joy in knowing that God's transformative work is doing much more than any naturally occurring healing.

As you delve into the testimonies featured within this issue of *One Voice*, may you recognize the deep connections we share with our Christian brothers and sisters in India. Together, we are united as one body, holding steadfastly onto the glorious hope that we too will one day be made new and dwell with Christ in our eternal heavenly home.

Grace and peace,



# Raising Champions *for* Religious Liberty

*“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him  
at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.”*

Psalm 16:8 NIVUK

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

In the state of Punjab, many women are forbidden from leaving their homes, and most have never even travelled outside of their communities by train. In such a restrictive society, Christian women frequently encounter gender-specific forms of persecution, which include the deprivation of their fundamental rights. To assist these vulnerable sisters in Christ, VOMC's ministry partners are actively working to safeguard the lives of marginalized women,

help them gain a greater awareness of their legal rights, and provide them Biblical teaching and counselling.

Although Archana\* comes from a Hindu background, she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour a few years ago. After the new believer's disapproving family members learned of her decision to follow Jesus, they demanded that she renounce her faith. When Archana refused, she was abandoned and isolated by her family, resulting in severe financial challenges. This Christian woman



also received death threats from hostile members of the Hindutva community.

Upon learning of Archana's situation, VOMC's ministry workers sent counsellors to provide her regular spiritual, emotional and practical support. By God's grace, she is overcoming her difficult circumstances and looking forward to a new chapter in her life.

Samar\* lives with her Hindu husband and their two young children. This sister-in-Christ surrendered her life to the Lord two years ago. Since then, Samar and her children have suffered severe persecution. This new believer's husband continuously threatens her, orders her to renounce her faith, and tries to prevent her from going to church. When Samar tries to escape the house in order to attend worship services, she is subjected to tremendous physical abuse.

Both of Samar's children also live in extreme fear of their father. When our ministry partners learned about Samar's struggles, they arranged for in-country Christian workers to visit her home and provide regular counselling sessions. Thanks to the ongoing support, love and prayers of fellow believers, Samar and her children are experiencing healing and transformation, and the situation in their home is gradually improving.

## LEGAL DEFENCE

Another one of VOMC's projects in India provides legal assistance and greatly needed hope to Christians who have experienced targeted violence due to their faith in Jesus. This project concentrates on empowering persecuted believers to navigate the complex Indian legal system with confidence and resilience.

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, two Christian young people (a 17-year-old teen and a 21-year-old young man) were peacefully distributing Bible tracts in Tamil Nadu after Sunday prayers when they were suddenly confronted by a mob of Hindu

militants on motorcycles. During the violent attack, both believers were badly injured. Upon learning of the incident later that day, our ministry partner hired lawyers to file a complaint against the assailants. The attackers then retaliated by lodging a countercomplaint which led to the two young Christians being arrested. On August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the lawyers were able to secure bail for both believers.

The Christian teen was sent to the Child Welfare Committee for counselling, and subsequently received pardon without charge. However, the 21-year-old believer, who recently graduated from school, experienced difficulties finding employment due to the ongoing legal issues. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, the police falsely charged him with assault, further complicating his situation. After multiple court hearings, the court finally acquitted the young man of all charges on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, allowing him to resume his career.

## PERSECUTION RESPONSE

VOMC continues to work alongside trusted ministry organizations to provide Christians in India with tangible expressions of God's loving care.

Through the mission's *Women's Ministry Fund*, marginalized Christian women are being encouraged and strengthened in their faith. And as a result of VOMC's *Legal Defence Fund*, the provision of greatly needed legal support is making it possible for falsely accused believers to receive the justice they rightfully deserve.

If you would like to support your Christian brothers and sisters in India, you may do so at [vomcanada.com/donate](https://vomcanada.com/donate).

# Embracing New Ministry Assignments

*Pastors in India are shamed and arrested under their country's anti-conversion laws, yet they continue to proclaim the Good News of Christ – even in prison.*





## SEIZING GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES

On Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, police – joined by members of a radical Hindu group – entered Pastor Sawan’s church, detaining him and a church elder for questioning. A local Hindu priest had complained that Sawan allegedly tried to forcibly convert him to Christianity.

When Pastor Sawan’s wife and four other church members went to the police station later to see why the men had not yet been released, they too were detained. After being held in custody for 45 days, police released all of the Christians except for Pastor Sawan, who was left to endure the jail’s poor conditions. Not only was the pastor denied access to a Bible, when he became ill, he was transferred to a government-run hospital where authorities chained one of his legs to the medical bed.

Despite the hardships, Pastor Sawan made the most of his time in custody. Although he had no Bible, he still meditated on the verses he had previously memorized. And during morning recreation times, he seized opportunities to share the Gospel with other prisoners. “I shared the love of Christ and prayed for them,” he says. “I was praying a lot during my time in prison, and I was able to bring four inmates to Christ.”

As Pastor Sawan’s concerned family members anxiously awaited his release, their debt from the legal fees grew with each new petition. Despite their struggle with resentment, they opted to keep their eyes on the Lord. “When both of my parents were in jail, I felt alone,” recalls Pastor Sawan’s son Samuel, who at the age of 23 had to care for his three younger siblings during that difficult time. While he tried to stay strong in front of the children so they would not be afraid, in private Samuel cried and prayed, wondering how he could possibly help his parents and provide for his siblings. “I was troubled,” Samuel admits, “but deep inside I had to trust in God.”

In September 2022, nearly ten months after his arrest, Sawan’s sixth request for bail was finally granted. Though his accuser swore before a judge that he never filed a complaint, the case has proceeded, and Sawan is presently at home awaiting trial.

Presently, 12 of the country’s 28 Indian states have anti-conversion laws that are intended to prevent any non-Hindu activities from taking place in the nation. Radical Hindus, along with some governing officials, use these laws to persecute Christians; and at the heart of the persecution is Hindu nationalism, an ideology that aims to make India a purely Hindu country.

The laws criminalize religious conversions, specifically when they involve leaving Hinduism through force, fraud or allurement. However, the legal definitions of the anti-conversion laws are broad and vague. In Gujarat state, for example, the definition of “allurement” encompasses the promise of “divine blessings” – including salvation, eternal life and forgiveness of sins – which are central tenets of the Christian faith.

During the past ten years, the political victories of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) [a political group affiliated with the right-wing paramilitary organization, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)], have emboldened authorities and many Hindu groups to not only enact anti-conversion laws but also initiate violence against Christians. Since the election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a BJP candidate who became a member of the RSS at the young age of eight, the paramilitary organization has grown significantly in membership.

According to a Christian ministry worker who is providing legal support for Pastor Sawan’s case, groups like the RSS are highly coordinated. They have contacts in every district who communicate via phone and social media to rally large



mobs in opposition to Christian activities. “Normally what happens is that they hire some people who are willing to give false allegations against these believers,” the Christian worker explains.

Filing charges based on hearsay is not the only procedural irregularity occurring under the anti-conversion laws. “[Previously], you could be granted bail at the police station before even going to jail,” states another ministry worker. “The recent amendment in the anti-conversion act in Madhya Pradesh [state] changed the law so that the minimum time [served before the court can grant] bail is six months. Also, initially the fine was only 100,000 rupees [about \$1,700 CAD], but now it is almost one million rupees [\$17,000 CAD]. Even a murder case does not have as harsh a law....”

Although the harsh anti-conversion laws and questionable procedures have made it difficult for many accused pastors and other Christians to prove their innocence, these faithful followers of Christ have seized opportunities during times of persecution to further the Gospel. Pastor Sawan’s son Samuel noted that their local church grew by more than 50 percent during the ten-month term of his father’s incarceration. And other imprisoned Christians have also

used their arrests to share the message of Christ’s salvation with police, prisoners and prison officials.

## SHARING IN CHRIST’S SUFFERINGS

Pastor Rajiv is one such Christian who saw his imprisonment as a new ministry assignment. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, as his congregation prepared for Communion, three members of the RSS entered their church and began accusing the believers of conversion activities. When the local authorities arrived, they took Pastor Rajiv and another Christian to the police station. There, the pastor was questioned repeatedly about his ministry work, even though the church was officially registered with the government and had received permission to meet. Eventually, Pastor Rajiv was charged under the state’s anti-conversion laws and put in jail.

The first two weeks in prison had been a confusing time for Pastor Rajiv. “When I was a bad person [before my conversion], I was never put behind bars,” he reasons. “But now I had become a...follower of the living God, and was going through so much.” During his imprisonment, Pastor Rajiv constantly worried about his family and the church.

Then his son brought him a food parcel from his family that included a New Testament and a note encouraging him to remain faithful. While reading the New Testament in his cell, Pastor Rajiv came to a new understanding of Matthew 5:11-12: *“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven....”* His perspective suddenly shifted, and he began to find purpose in his imprisonment.

When other prisoners became curious about what Pastor Rajiv was reading, he told them about Jesus. Some of them became interested in learning more about the Bible. With permission from prison officials, his son brought 60 more New Testaments into the jail facility, and Pastor Rajiv distributed them to fellow inmates. He then started a fellowship among the prisoners, through which he shared the hope of the Gospel. *“I felt comforted and confident as I continued to be there [in jail],”* he recalls. *“All of this happened because Jesus loves [those prisoners] and He wanted me to be His vessel in order to save them.”*

Even so, Pastor Rajiv’s sense of purpose didn’t diminish the hardships he and his family endured. The first attorney they hired took their money without filing a single petition, and other attorneys required significant fees. Sadly, because of the stigma attached to Pastor Rajiv’s arrest, one of his sons lost employment and his daughter’s marriage engagement ended.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, after several requests for bail had been previously denied, Pastor Rajiv was finally released from jail. His church remains closed until the court rules on his case. In the meantime, he continues to visit and encourage church members while awaiting a verdict. With their future uncertain, both Pastor Rajiv and Pastor Sawan continue to follow Christ and faithfully serve their Christian brothers and sisters. Today, Pastor Rajiv daily focusses on living for the glory of Christ. *“Our lives are Christ’s, and the [material] things that we have received are not for long, as our days on*

*this earth are numbered,”* he states. *“So [throughout] all of our days, we need to be faithful to Christ and live for Him.”*

While expectantly awaiting his trial, Pastor Sawan’s youngest son reflects on their family’s faithful perspective. *“The Bible says we need to forgive our enemies,”* he affirms. *“We just want to follow...what God calls us to do.”*

## HOW CAN YOU PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS IN INDIA?

**Pray that church leaders who are falsely accused under the country’s anti-conversion laws will be protected from attacks, arrests and imprisonment.**

*“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”*

– Psalm 34:7 ESV

**Pray that believers will have the grace to love and forgive those who persecute them.**

*“But I say to you, ‘Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you....’”*

– Matthew 5:44 ESV

**Pray that followers of Jesus will have the courage to make Him known, and for God’s wisdom and direction as they endeavour to do so.**

*“And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”*

– Philippians 1:14 ESV



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE PERSECUTED

# Do Numbers Matter?

By Kate Ward

*Gender and Religious Freedom Advisor for VOMC*



One billion is a large number. It's a threshold that tends to attract global news and attention. With over 1.43 billion people presently residing in India, the overall population of this South Asian nation now exceeds that of China. This means that, on average, there are more than 479 inhabitants per square kilometre (compared with 4 per square kilometre in Canada), which accounts for nearly 18 percent of the world's population. But what do these numbers mean to us as we pray for India's persecuted Christians and walk alongside them as our fellow sisters and brothers?

According to officially reported calculations, the Christian community in India makes up 2.3 percent of the country's population. At the time of publishing this report, that would mean approximately 33 million believers are living under an increasingly hostile Hindu extremist regime. Yet, many other credible reports indicate that the nation's Christian population is much larger. These other sources estimate that Christianity represents up to ten percent of India's population. If we were to consider this a reasonable estimate, then more than 143 million followers of Christ are residing in India.

During the year of 2024, there was more violence perpetrated against Christian communities than in previous years, and recent trends indicate that the opposition continues to increase. As VOMC's Gender and Religious Freedom Advisor, I have the privilege of visiting Christian communities in India. During my visits, I appreciate special times of fellowship with my Indian brothers and sisters in Christ. While sharing our personal stories, I've learned that numbers are very important to them. For example, they want to know how many Christians in their communities have been rescued or spared from human trafficking; and how many believers are able to access employment, education and health care.

Taking into consideration the total number of Christians in India is also helpful for us as members of the global family of Christ. After all, Scripture urges us to *"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). So, who are these Indian sisters and brothers in Christ? What can we learn from their testimonies of faith? And how should we prayerfully intercede for them?

*Scripture urges us to "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).*

As I visited different churches during my previous travels in India, and spent time with their pastoral leaders, together we explored the demographics of their congregations. Overall, the average number of women who were regularly attending church services comprised approximately 70 percent of the congregations I had visited. (In some areas of the country, this number can be as high as 90 percent.) This information is important, as studies indicate that the experiences of men and women suffering persecution vastly differ.

According to *The Gender Report* published by Open Doors in 2024, the most common form of persecution experienced by Christian women globally was sexual violence. This information is consistent with other reports that have been published since 2018, which tragically coincide with the accounts I have heard personally when speaking with Christian women in India.

## LIFE LESSONS FROM THE PERSECUTED

The words of Hebrews 13:3 reflect another form of suffering experienced by our Indian family in Christ. We have discovered that, for the majority of believers in India, imprisonment is not limited to incarceration behind the bars of a jail. Shockingly, it often involves the confinement of Christian women in their own homes.

As converts from Hinduism, female believers are frequently locked inside a room and ostracized from others in their families – as well as isolated from members of their communities at large. There, within the confines of their own homes, they are poorly treated and denied access to necessities such as food, washing facilities and loving familial relationships. For some women, the isolation may include separation from their children.

For other female believers, imprisonment can mean being trapped in a body of shame that has undergone sexual abuse. It's been estimated that there could be over 100 million female followers of Jesus experiencing various forms of sexual exploitation every day. The good news is that

VOMC is collaborating with dynamic in-country ministry partners who are diligently serving as God's conduits of healing and restoration in these women's lives. This is being accomplished by providing them needed Biblical counselling, raising awareness of their difficult situations, informing them of their legal rights, and giving them opportunities to share their stories confidentially with one another. Knowing that they are not alone in their suffering, and learning that nothing is impossible for God, can give them greatly needed comfort, encouragement and strength to look beyond their own pain to others.

Another number that matters very much to these believers is the power of "one" – whether it's representing the rescue of one lost sheep in a flock of 100; one testimony shared with a neighbour; one Bible read in secret; or one transformed life leading to another's acceptance of Jesus as their Saviour, which then leads to yet another.... In essence, the mission is building a strong network of committed Christian women who love Jesus and want to make disciples throughout India.





***The following story is about one such believer in India who continued to trust the Lord amid ongoing hardships. Sophia, whose name has been changed due to security concerns, initially shared her testimony during 2023 while attending the first women's ministry conference that we had hosted in India.***

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Sophia, who came from a very strict Hindu family, placed her faith in Christ as a young girl after one of her friends invited her to church. As a young believer, Sophia's stepmother consequently began to starve her, and her father would beat her whenever she arrived home from attending a church service.

Despite her suffering, Sophia did not lose courage. She continued to demonstrate Jesus' love and compassion towards her hostile family members and also took care of those in her community who suffered from poor mental health.

As Sophia grew up, she sensed a calling from God to serve in ministry. After graduating from school, she married a pastor and had two children. Despite these blessings, Sophia still suffered intense persecution from the opposing members of her family. The situation was so trying that it compelled her to pray for many days, "Lord, what is Your plan for keeping me on earth?"

One day, Sophia strongly felt the Holy Spirit's presence and suddenly began to pray in an unknown tongue. During that divinely orchestrated encounter, God answered her persistently prayed question: *She was called to be a 'beacon of hope'...to those who have not been loved and those who are struggling.*

In addition to pursuing an in-depth study of the Bible, Sophia began ministering to those in spiritual bondage, leading many of them to Jesus as their personal Saviour.

Recently, she baptized 25 people. However, even after 15 years of faithful ministry, Sophia continues to experience persecution from those of her family who are desperately still in need of Christ's salvation. She is encouraged knowing that the Holy Spirit is always with her and responding to her prayers. She also draws great comfort from Jesus' words in Matthew 5:10-12: *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven... rejoice and be glad"* (ESV).

Today, Sophia remains determined to bring others who are suffering persecution needed hope and encouragement. "I forgive those who persecute me, for they don't know what they are doing," she says. "The wounds in my heart will be used to heal others."

\*Note: Statistics relating to India's population have been sourced from *The World Factbook* and the *World Bank Group*.

## LEARN MORE

Christian women and girls in India encounter unique challenges because of the duality of their gender and faith. Not only do they face persecution because of their belief in Jesus, but also because they are female.

Learn more about gender-specific religious persecution, and how you can advocate for your global family in Christ, by listening to Kate's recent conversation with VOMC's Greg Musselman on the *Closer to the Fire* podcast: [vomcanada.com/podcast/bring-hope-and-healing](http://vomcanada.com/podcast/bring-hope-and-healing)

# VOM Global Reports

## IRAN: Imprisoned Pastor Leads 13 Inmates to Christ



VOM International

A formerly imprisoned Iranian pastor is praying for ways to continue serving these new believers.

An imprisoned Iranian pastor of a house church recently helped bring 13 other inmates to Christ, despite the presence of prison guards and inmates who are Muslim extremists. "I began to think that this was a dangerous place and that it would not be possible to witness to anyone," he admits.

Even so, the pastor found ways to share the Gospel secretly and continue teaching those who came to faith in Christ. "During the recreation times," the Christian leader recalls, "I would walk around in a spirit of friendship with these new believers – teaching them how to grow in their faith – and I would answer their questions."

The pastor, who has since been released, hopes to continue discipling the new believers from outside the prison. "I realized that if I had not been imprisoned, these 13 [recent converts] would not have had an opportunity to hear the Gospel and believe in Christ," he explains.

The Iranian government is among the most oppressive in the world. Leaving Islam is illegal, and Christians are often charged with "acting against national security" for owning Bibles or even just talking about Christ. Numerous Iranian Christians are currently in prison, and many others are under house arrest awaiting sentencing.

## CHAD: Healing After Church Attack

In May 2023, a church deacon named Akua Kwame was attending an early morning prayer meeting when militant Fulani Muslims attacked his village in southern Chad.

As the militants began shooting through the windows of the church with rifles, as well as with bows and arrows, the pastor yelled for everyone to flee. While some of the believers managed to jump through a window behind the pulpit, the pastor and a church administrator were shot to death as they were trying to escape.

Although several arrows pierced Akua's clothes, he says

that none of them had actually hit his body. Later that day, however, he had the difficult task of identifying the bodies of 12 villagers who were slain in the attack, including a two-year-old child. "I asked myself, 'Why are we suffering if God loves us?'"

Akua acknowledges that the spiritual encouragement and support he received through the ministry of VOM have helped him to heal from the trauma of the attack: "What I have learned through this is to let go of the vengeance that I feel in my heart." In the aftermath of the loss and devastation, Akua requests prayer on behalf of all those in his village who've been affected by the violence, asking that they would also receive needed comfort as they recover and that the Lord will provide them a new pastor to lead their church.



Christians in Chad request prayer for church members who survived an attack perpetrated by militant Fulani Muslims.

### NEPAL: Christian Wife Stands Firm Despite Abuse

Since accepting Christ as her personal Saviour in 2022, Goma has suffered repeated beatings and mistreatment at the hands of her Hindu husband. On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, he beat her so badly – and then cut her head with a sickle – that she required medical treatment.



Goma continues to pray that her Hindu husband, who has repeatedly abused her because of her Christian faith, will come to know Jesus.

Despite the abuse, Goma says that she does not regret her decision to follow the Lord. Please pray that this faithful Christian woman will receive the physical and emotional care she needs, and that her husband Tek will come to faith in Jesus Christ. May Goma's faithfulness to the Lord also serve as a testimony to the friends and neighbours in her village who have been urging her to turn away from the Christian faith.

### COLOMBIA: Ministering Couple Requests Prayer For Sick Daughter

Teoboldo and Denise are a married Christian couple who minister in one of Colombia's "red zones," an area dominated by guerrilla violence and illicit activities associated with the country's illegal drug trade. The Christian believers have been confined to their house on several occasions due to nearby fighting.

Their youngest daughter, who is seven years old, was recently diagnosed with a heart problem and may need an operation to repair it. Denise and Teoboldo have asked for prayer that she will be completely healed and that the surgical procedure will be unnecessary.



# Resources

Shop online at [store.vomcanada.org](http://store.vomcanada.org)

## Hearts of Fire Two-Volume Set | \$20

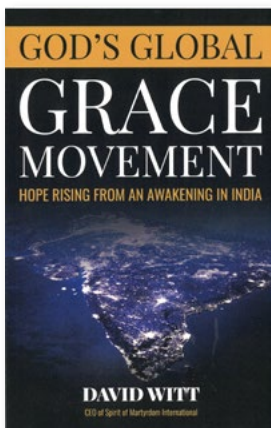
In a world that often equates persecution with ‘men of faith’ comes the incredible stories of Christian women who have courageously withstood the fires of severe persecution and trial, demonstrating their undying love and commitment to Christ. From kidnappings to beatings, imprisonment and grievous loss, *Hearts of Fire*, and the recently released follow-up volume, *Hearts of Fire 2*, reveal the struggles of women representing today's persecuted church. The true stories of faith, obedience and perseverance contained within these volumes will inspire you to likewise pursue Christ with your heart aflame, no matter the cost! Paperbacks, 294 & 384 pages respectively



## God's Global Grace Movement

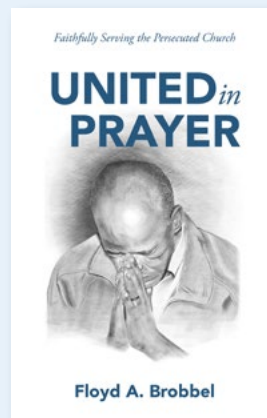
*Hope Rising from an Awakening in India*

By David Witt | \$9



The book, *God's Global Grace Movement*, explains how the vision to plant 100,000 churches in unreached villages has been transforming the spiritual landscape of India, and is now expanding to other

restricted regions of the world. Meet the leaders who spearheaded the movement and hear their powerful stories – including an array of inspiring testimonies that represent hundreds of thousands of transformed lives. Paperback, 134 pages



## United in Prayer

By Floyd A. Brobbel | \$15

*United in Prayer* is an insightful guide that encourages readers to enter into compelling and impactful prayers that will fortify and enrich the suffering body of Christ. It's often said that the smallest action can have the

greatest impact – and prayer is a testament to this reality. Together, let's pray that all believers will:

- Stand firm and trust in the Lord
- Shine like stars in a fallen world
- Live as 'salt and light' in our communities
- Forgive and love others – even persecutors
- Thrive, not just survive, amid the soil of persecution

Remember, prayer is not a passive gesture but a mighty instrument that can usher in substantial, life-changing transformation. Paperback, 110 pages

# APRIL 2025

*“For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.” – Psalm 139:13-14 ESV*

CUT HERE

| SUN   | MON  | TUE   | WED  | THU   | FRI  | SAT  |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
|   |  | 1<br><b>CHINA</b><br>Pray that the country’s children and youth, especially those in remote villages, will have access to God’s Word. | 2<br><b>MALAYSIA</b><br>Pray for Christian converts at re-education camps who are tortured in officials’ attempts to force them to recant. | 3<br><b>NORTH KOREA</b><br>Pray for evangelists who are courageously working to bring God’s Word to the North Korean people.          | 4<br><b>SUDAN</b><br>As Bibles are scarce because of ongoing efforts to Islamize the country, pray for increased access to God’s Word. | 5<br><b>BRUNEI</b><br>Pray that Bruneians will have more opportunities to hear the “Good News” of the Gospel.                        |
| 6<br><b>TURKMENISTAN</b><br>Authorities often search believers’ homes for Christian literature. Pray for the freedom to study God’s Word.                   | 7<br><b>SYRIA</b><br>Pray that Christian converts who lost familial relationships will be comforted through fellowship with other believers.   | 8<br><b>MOZAMBIQUE</b><br>Pray for the encouragement of pastors working in areas where Islamic militants regularly attack Christians. | 9<br><b>MALI</b><br>Pray for churches in the north that are proclaiming the Gospel despite strong opposition.                              | 10<br><b>BENIN</b><br>Pray that Christians who have been attacked by voodooists will be encouraged to stand firm in their faith.      | 11<br><b>NIGER</b><br>Pray for the safety of ministry workers who travel to remote desert areas to share the Gospel message.           | 12<br><b>ALGERIA</b><br>Pray that believers will hold fast to “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3).  |
| 13<br><b>RUSSIA (AND AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL)</b><br>Pray that Christians will be inspired, emboldened and equipped to minister among the spiritually lost. | 14<br><b>BURKINA FASO</b><br>Pray that God will comfort the family of Pastor Hamadou who was shot to death by militant Islamists.              | 15<br><b>PAKISTAN</b><br>Pray on behalf of the four million Christians living in Pakistan, using Joshua 1:9 as a guide.               | 16<br><b>TANZANIA</b><br>Pray that missionaries will effectively share the Gospel with unreached people groups of the Swahili Coast.       | 17<br><b>YEMEN</b><br>Pray that Bibles stolen during an attack on a church will touch the hearts of those who do not yet know Christ. | 18<br><b>INDONESIA</b><br>Pray that persecuted Christians in rural areas will find ways to gather with fellow believers for worship.   | 19<br><b>CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC</b><br>Pray that Christians who have suffered severe persecution will be healed from their trauma. |
| 20<br><b>SAUDI ARABIA</b><br>Pray that those who worship in secret will receive opportunities to have fellowship with other Christians.                     | 21<br><b>VIETNAM</b><br>Pray for the continued faith and courage of believers who are presently suffering in prison.                           | 22<br><b>OMAN</b><br>Pray that Christians in this restricted nation will find ways to safely share the Gospel and disciple others.    | 23<br><b>EGYPT</b><br>Praise God that Egypt has developed into a regional base for expansive Gospel work.                                  | 24<br><b>CAMEROON</b><br>Pray for the protection of Bible distributors who are working in dangerous regions.                          | 25<br><b>KENYA</b><br>Praise God for Pastor Galgalo’s continued witness despite ostracism and attacks on his church.                   | 26<br><b>NEPAL</b><br>Pray for Bindu and her three daughters who were abandoned by Bindu’s husband for following Christ.             |
| 27<br><b>QATAR</b><br>Pray that God will grant divine protection to Qataris who are at risk for owning and distributing Bibles.                             | 28<br><b>PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES</b><br>Pray for Pauline Ayyad who has ministered to widows since her husband was killed by Islamists in 2007. | 29<br><b>VENEZUELA</b><br>Pray that youth will be drawn to the love of Christ rather than to the ideals of Marxism.                   | 30<br><b>LIBYA</b><br>Pray that Christians who are in prison for their faith will experience God’s assuring presence and peace.            |   |  |  |



# Help Persecuted *Christians in India*

Many of our Christian brothers and sisters in India are facing violent opposition and imprisonment because of their witness for Christ. Your gift will provide practical help and hope to these persecuted believers and their families. Let them know that you and other members in the global family of God are standing with them!



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