

ONE VOICE

Joyful Followers of
Christ in the Democratic
Republic of the Congo



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MAY 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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ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

Followers of Christ in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

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

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom
shall I fear? The Lord is my stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?”*

Psalm 27:1 ESV



In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 93 percent of the population identifies themselves as Christians. Despite this majority, believers are targeted and persecuted, mainly by a terrorist group known as the Islamist Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). Since 2021, attacks by members of the ADF have created a "state of siege" in the region. As these militants seek to establish an Islamic state, Christians have often become the primary targets of violent attacks.

Although the militant group originates from Uganda, its members have been particularly active along the country's eastern border, spreading terror into Kivu province. In ADF-controlled areas, Christian villages have been attacked, churches destroyed, and many believers murdered. Any surviving kidnapped victims are subjected



to life-threatening consequences if they don't convert to Islam, as well as the trauma of witnessing horrific violence perpetrated against fellow Congolese believers.

When faced with threats of devastation, destruction and extreme difficulties, our Christian brothers and sisters in the DRC turn to their only source of comfort and strength: the Sovereign Lord. In Psalm 27:1, the Psalmist affirms that true comfort and refuge can be found in God alone. In a world filled with tribulation, the Lord's abiding presence gives His children the confidence to live for His glory. Additionally, Christians in the country's hostile regions are further encouraged to know that members of His global body are mindful of their sufferings and, therefore, willing to come alongside them as they overcome the fires of affliction.

I recently met an inspiring church leader who courageously ministers in regions under the threat of ADF attacks. This faithful man of God shared a saying he often uses when ministering to distressed believers. Just before departing from his meetings with them, he says, "*Tuko Pamoja*," which translates to, "*I am with you*." This phrase carries a profound sense of solidarity, affirming that his support and

presence remain with these suffering Christian brothers and sisters – even when he is physically apart from them. Through prayer, Canadian Christians can likewise unite with their Congolese family in Christ, and thus symbolically demonstrate the uplifting words, "*Tuko Pamoja*."

As you read this issue of *One Voice*, please uphold our Christian brothers and sisters in the DRC as they mourn those lost in recent attacks. May the victims' families sense our Heavenly Father's reassuring love and comfort. Please also pray for kidnapped believers who continue to be held captive, asking for their protection and safe release. Amid the violence, may God intervene in the hearts of all – including the militants – to bring lasting peace to the region.

Tuko Pamoja!

Lloyd

“Divine Grace” Amid the Ashes

In June 2022, Divine and her parents were attending an evening prayer meeting at their local church in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) when rebels suddenly attacked their village. A year prior to the attack, Divine (who is now about eight years old) had moved with her parents to the targeted village, which is located on the shores of Lake Albert where her father worked as a fisherman. Despite the constant threat of violence, the family soon became active members of their local church.

During the prayer meeting that June evening, members of the congregation suddenly heard the commotion of

insurgents firing guns and rounding up innocent villagers. Then the attackers began setting fire to buildings throughout the village...including the church. “I remember fuel being poured and the flames coming closer,” young Divine later told one of her doctors.

The morning after the attack, a woman searching through the ashes of the church building discovered the bodies of Divine’s parents. Then, shocked to see the seemingly lifeless body of a badly burned young girl, the woman found Divine who was unconscious but still breathing. She rushed the child to the nearest medical centre. Not



knowing the girl's name, the woman called her "Divine Grace" because she considered it a miracle that the child was alive. None of the other survivors knew how to contact Divine's extended family, and no one came to claim her.

Divine's burns extended from her chin to below her waist, covering 48 percent of her body. With limited medical care available in this region of the DRC, one of the world's poorest countries, church leaders sought a specialized doctor to care for her extensive burns.

A Christian pediatric surgeon, Dr. Justin Mandaboy, volunteered his services. "When I saw her...God gave me faith to trust," he states. "I knew there wasn't any other place where she would be able to be helped." Having interned with a burn unit in Canada, he knew that children with burns to about 50 percent of their bodies usually don't survive.

Thankfully, the young girl's spiritual family did not abandon her. And when local church leaders sought volunteers to care for Divine, a mother of two stepped forward to help. "I felt mercy," recalls Lina, "compassion in my spirit to come help.... Feeling that [Divine] is like a child of mine, I had mercy on her. I would want someone to take care of my children the same way."

While enduring the loss of her parents, six surgeries, countless hours of painful wound care and physical therapy, Divine has found strength in the Lord. During her hospitalization, she attended the chapel services to pray every morning. And every day that she could, she sang worship songs.

"From the time I met Divine, she had joy and peace," recounts Lina, who stayed with the child throughout her hospitalization and has cared for her ever since. "That hasn't changed. Throughout the whole process, that same spirit of joy and peace has remained." Divine made a similar impression on her doctor. "She has an inner strength..." Dr. Mandaboy affirms. "I have a lot of faith for her life [and] her future."

The doctor reports that Divine will continue to require medical procedures to loosen her scar tissue. But he said the joy, courage and foundation in Christ she received from her parents have carried her through everything she has faced so far. "She is a very positive little girl," he adds. "It is pretty easy to treat her because she is courageous and has a lot of strength."

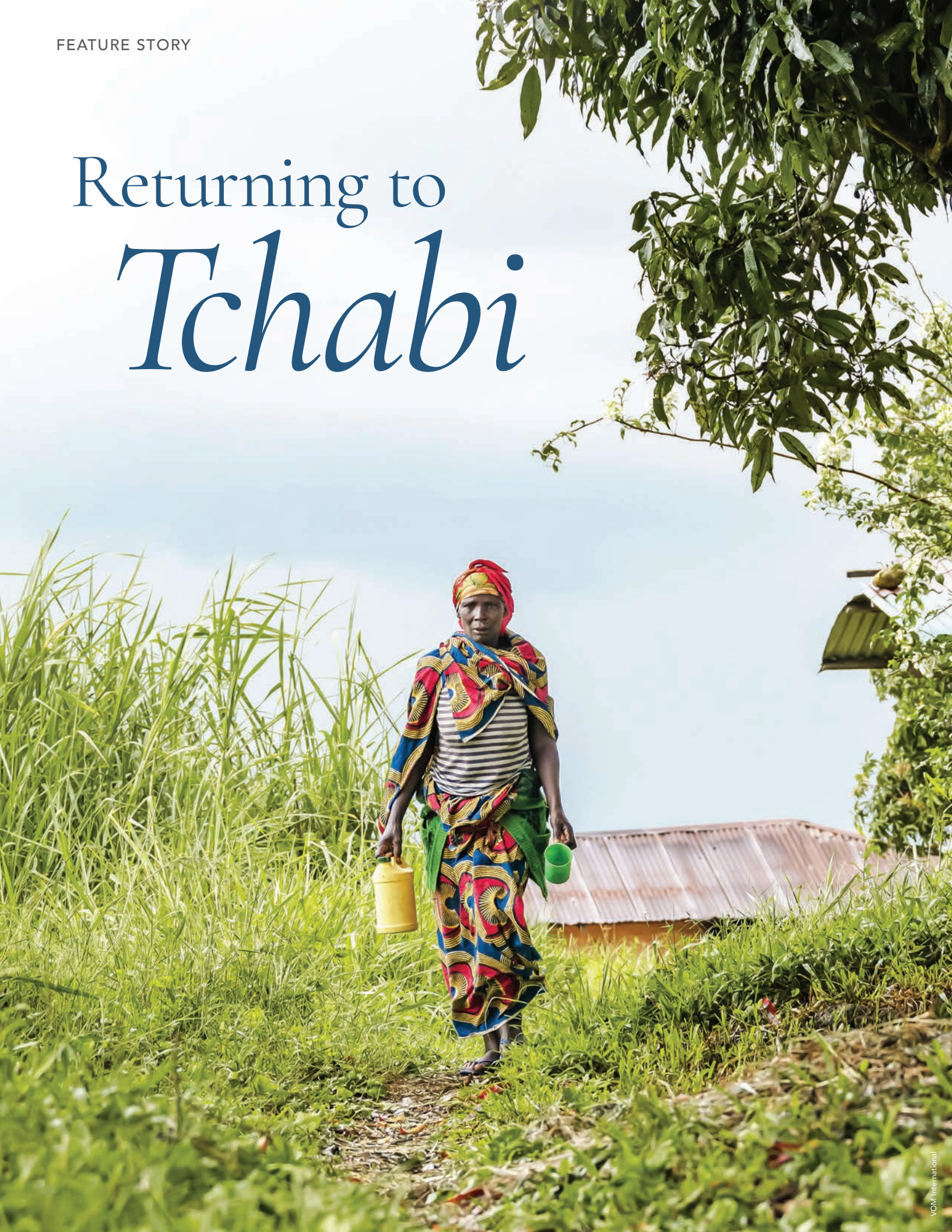
Although Divine skipped away singing joyfully after a recent checkup, Dr. Mandaboy knows her inner wounds still need healing from the trauma of the attack. She doesn't seem to remember the details of her life before the fire, even her given name. But Divine's attitude, he further explains, gives her a favourable long-term prognosis: "The family clearly had faith in Jesus.... Her young age, what she recalls from the Bible, and her desire to attend prayer meetings, reveal that Divine is someone who had received discipleship when she was at home."

PERSECUTION RESPONSE

- Pray for God's continued ministry and provision in Divine's life, asking Him to help this precious child to fully recover from her physical and emotional wounds.
- Pray that Divine's caretakers, as well as those in the local church overseeing her care, will faithfully serve her and others in need as a loving community through their encouragement and support.
- In your own life, ask God to help you demonstrate the same resilient faith, joy and peace that are being demonstrated in the life of this courageous young girl.

FEATURE STORY

Returning to *Tchabi*



No one in the town of Tchabi expected trouble from militant Islamists. “We thought that we had a paradise on earth here,” states a doctor who worked at Tchabi’s hospital. The hospital, along with a Christian school, a church and an aircraft runway, had all been built by missionaries who arrived to this idyllic mountaintop location in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during 1976.

Over the decades, Tchabi had been a peaceful oasis in the midst of an unstable region. It remained relatively secure throughout various violent conflicts, including a civil war that raged across the country in the 1990s. But Tchabi’s peace was shattered in early 2019 when militants from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a violent Islamic terrorist group, emerged from the jungle to assault and abduct local Christians. “They took 40 people the first time, including four doctors and two staff,” explains Lau Babam, Tchabi’s village chief. “They spent two months in the bush, and then they let them go.” Unfortunately, some of the abducted villagers are still missing today.

No one in the town of Tchabi expected trouble from militant Islamists. “We thought that we had a paradise on earth here.”

Later in 2019, the ADF attacked again, causing even more death and destruction. “The second time, they came with a vision to destroy things, to kill people [and] burn things down,” recalls Lau, who was away from the village when the second fatal attack took place. This time, the militants killed his wife and six of the couple’s grandchildren, vandalized their house, and destroyed the baptistry inside the village church. A doctor who survived the attack witnessed the final, courageous words of the school’s Christian principal.

Before slaying the school leader, the militants announced, “We want you to be gone because Christians are our enemies.” Despite hearing their threats, the principal remained unmoved. “He said his faith in Christ will never change,” the witnessing doctor relates. “That is why they killed him.”

Many of the town’s villagers fled Tchabi after the second attack, but not everyone. And on the night of May 30th, 2021, the ADF launched yet another devastating assault on those who remained in the village. “They came in with machetes,” Lau states. “Some had guns, but a lot just had machetes. They would shoot somebody or cut them, and then they would burn them.”

Some of the villagers, including a woman named Gertrude, fled in the darkness. “We heard gunshots in the night,” she says of that dreadful event. “We didn’t know who it was, and so we ran into the forest.” Gertrude later learned that many of her friends had tragically been killed. “Our things had been carried off, and our homes were burned.” The ADF had killed ten members of Gertrude’s family, including her parents. In total, 182 people were slain in and around the Tchabi community.

The militants also took hostages with them back into the jungle. Lau reports that about 30 of these people are still missing. Then, before disappearing into the jungle, the ADF fighters desecrated Tchabi’s church building by smashing everything inside it and covering the walls with excrement. They also destroyed the school, looted the hospital, and burned numerous homes and buildings.

In the aftermath of the attack, the Congolese government and the United Nations (U.N.) deployed soldiers to protect the village, which remained mostly uninhabited for the following two years. Once the soldiers had sufficiently secured the area, Tchabi’s traumatized residents gradually began to return. Since nothing remained but the gutted



shells of their burned homes, some survivors had to set up temporary shelters on the primitive airport runway.

In August 2023, VOM's ministry workers delivered a shipment of Bibles by plane to Tchabi, landing on the rough runway which hadn't been used for airline transport in three years. At one end of the runway was a large camp of U.N. peacekeeping forces; at the other end was a mass grave where many of the slain villagers had been buried following the ADF attacks.

After ensuring the feasibility of landing the small ten-passenger plane on the runway, the pilot transported a group of ministry workers, along with the cargo of Bibles, to the remote village. Volunteers who helped to unload and carry the boxes of Bibles turned the short walk to Tchabi's recently restored church into a joyous parade.

Waiting inside the church were 103 villagers who had by then received two days of spiritual care to help them deal with the grief and emotional wounds caused by the deadly violence. Everyone in attendance had lost relatives during the attacks. In addition, these survivors had lost nearly all of their material possessions – including their Bibles – when they fled Tchabi. Before receiving their newly delivered Bibles, some of the villagers reenacted what

had happened to them in a short drama they created as part of their healing process. As the reenactment began, villagers acting as the militants pounded on the church walls and then rushed into the building brandishing stick "guns" and grabbing "hostages." Later, one of the actors returned carrying a backpack containing sheets of paper labelled with words like "trauma," "loss" and "unforgiveness." Another actor, representing Christ, then removed the weighty loads of paper containing the words from her backpack.

In addition to reenacting the attacks, most of the survivors drew pictures of what they had experienced. One drew a picture of a pastor being killed inside the former church building.

"Many are struggling with the fact that when [the attack] took place, they actually saw with their own eyes their parents being killed," relates Hedeli, a professional Christian counsellor who travelled to Tchabi to minister to those traumatized by the violence. "[But they] are finding healing to their heart wounds when they draw what had actually happened."

A villager named Gertrude drew a picture of her family fleeing for their lives. She had stayed in the jungle for days

before travelling with other villagers to a neighbouring country in search of refuge. Sadly, they found no peace there either. "There was anger, there was pain, and we weren't able to speak," she says of the trauma. "There were bad dreams, [and we had] no appetites. In our dreams, we would just dream of running and people being killed."

Gertrude was hesitant to return to Tchabi. She admits that even small decisions were difficult to make because of her constant fear. "It has been challenging to...rebuild my life," she acknowledges. "For example, I really need to buy plates.... I am constantly thinking, 'Oh, maybe I will buy them and then [the ADF] will come.'" This Christian woman requests prayer as she and other survivors continue the healing process: "Pray that we will be able to forgive – and that faith will come – and we won't have to worry about something like that happening again."

Forgiveness has had a great effect on Lau's spiritual healing. Reflecting on the teaching he received from Hedeli's counselling ministry, he states, "It touched my heart knowing how to forgive our enemies." After Lau received his new Bible, he presented several copies of God's Word to the soldiers and police officers who are now working to protect Tchabi. The arrival of the plane, the shipment of new Bibles, and the counselling that was provided have given him renewed hope.

Referring to the care that he and the other Tchabi villagers have received through the ministry, Lau gratefully expresses, "Your presence is very encouraging." Another survivor of the attacks reinforced Lau's gratitude with a hopeful declaration of God's goodness. "The Lord," he adds, "has not forgotten His people."

WHO ARE THE ALLIED DEMOCRATIC FORCES?

The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) was established by a rebel group in the late 1990s in its attempts to overthrow the Ugandan government. Over time, the rebels moved across the border into the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), hiding in the dense jungles of the North Kivu and Ituri provinces.

In 2018, the ADF pledged its allegiance to the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) and openly declared its goal to eradicate Christianity and establish Islamic law in the region. Since that time, ADF militants have regularly emerged from their jungle hideouts to attack and kill Christians. In addition to the ADF, more than 100 other armed rebel groups operate in the DRC.

VOMC's Greg Musselman interviewed Dr. David Kasali of the Congo Initiative about the various dangers facing Congolese Christians. You may view this informative interview at www.VOMCanada.com/video/drc-kasali.



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE PERSECUTED

A high-angle, close-up photograph of a person's hands holding an open book on a wooden slatted table. A white ceramic cup sits on the table next to a small potted plant with green leaves. The person is wearing a grey sweater and glasses. The background is bright and out of focus.

The Value of Suffering

By Helen Hart

VOMC's International Project Coordinator

When encountering stories of persecution, it can be difficult to grasp why God would allow such unspeakable suffering. While we may never experience the same level of persecution as our Christian brothers and sisters residing in other countries, each of us has our own share of painful trials and hardships. It can be difficult to understand why God allows us to endure heartbreak and humiliation from betrayal, financial or health crises, or the grief of losing a loved one.

In today's Western world, we have access to an array of unhealthy distractions that hinder us from confronting our pain. It's natural to seek these distractions to escape the discomfort and the vulnerability that come when facing adversity. For Christians, this tendency may be compounded by the false notion that spiritual victory is evidenced by deliverance from such discomfort. Although God promises the absence of pain and sorrow in eternity (Revelation 21:4), the elimination of our personal suffering is not meant to be our primary earthly aspiration.

When we believe our goal in life is to free ourselves from *suffering*, we may prioritize the minimizing of our discomfort over all else, ultimately causing us to miss its deeper purpose. In his book, *The Problem of Pain*, C.S. Lewis illustrates a common reaction to personal suffering, comparing it to how a puppy may react to its loving owner's training and care:

"In its state of nature, [the puppy] has a smell and habits, which frustrate a man's love: he washes it, house-trains it, teaches it not to steal, and is so enabled to love it completely. To the puppy, the whole proceeding would seem, if it were a theologian, to cast grave doubts on the 'goodness' of man. But the full-grown and full-trained dog – larger, healthier, and longer-lived than the wild dog; and admitted, as it were by grace, to a whole world of affections, loyalties,

interests, and comforts entirely beyond its animal destiny – would have no such doubts."

Similarly, during seasons of suffering, we may question God's goodness and love, or assume that He is punishing us. However, if we trust our Master Creator to work out His higher plans and purposes for our lives – even in the difficult times – then our suffering will ultimately become a powerful instrument for deepening our relationship with Him.

FUNCTIONS OF SUFFERING

Acknowledging our Limitations

Suffering often reveals to us how weak we are without God, and the exposure of our weaknesses can lead to shame. If we react to this shame with a prideful heart, then the natural instinct is to deny or hide our weaknesses. Yet, pride will harden our hearts to what God wants to do in and through our lives. Rather, we can be fully honest and vulnerable with Him regarding our struggles, for He is a compassionate High Priest who is able to empathize with our weaknesses and temptations (Hebrews 4:15). When we turn to the only One who can help us overcome our limitations – whose *"strength is made perfect in weakness"* – we will learn to stop relying on ourselves and instead place our trust in Him.

*"The more desperate our situation,
the greater the opportunity for God's
power to be revealed."*

The more desperate our situation, the greater the opportunity for God's power to be revealed. As His power manifests in the midst of life's trials, our faith further strengthens and our fears diminish. And the more we experience the Lord's transformative work, the more room

we make for His sufficient grace (2 Corinthians 12:9). As a result, our lives will become vibrant testimonies of His power.

Forsaking Counterfeit Comforts

Suffering through trials can also unveil and dismantle our “horses and chariots”; in other words, enable us to leave behind the earthly things we tend to lean on that pale in comparison to our Almighty God (Psalm 20:7). Otherwise, pursuing *counterfeit comforts* will only move us away from the Lord by distracting us from pain, preventing the need for self-examination, and deceiving us into masking our sin rather than confronting it. Being deprived of these counterfeit comforts, however, will help us to realize the futility of relying on them. This realization gives us the opportunity to wean off any dependency that overrides our reliance on Him. While this process can be extremely painful, it transforms us by purifying our hearts of false idols and deepening our faith in God.

REJOICING IN SUFFERING

How we choose to respond to our suffering can, at least in part, determine the fruit of our suffering. One challenging Scriptural passage that addresses how we should respond to trials is found in James 1:2: “*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds*” (ESV).

Amid suffering, it's much easier to walk by sight, grumble and long for relief than to walk by faith. However, when we respond to suffering with faith, joy and humility, our lives marvellously display evidence of the transformative work of God's Spirit that's actively taking place in our hearts and minds. Praising God in the midst of persecution, as Paul and Silas did while in prison, also serves as a powerful witness. This ultimately shines God's light, inspiring others to wholeheartedly follow Jesus too.

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

— Romans 5:3-5 ESV

Every now and then, God allows a proverbial rug to be pulled out from under me to solidify the truth that He can be trusted. During these times, I have personally experienced unspeakable joy and peace when it doesn't make sense. He also knows when I need to be humbled. That's when our Heavenly Father weans me from yet another counterfeit comfort that I've trusted in more than Him. Through it all, I am learning to more deeply trust that God knows what He's doing, even when I don't. In retrospect, I can see that He has purposed my trials to bring about greater freedom, healing and reliance on Him. Unless we've experienced such hardships, we may fail to truly appreciate God's blessings.

It isn't always easy to be joyful in suffering. Yet, when all else fails, Jesus never does. He doesn't expect us to carry the weight of our pain alone. When we're in the storm, He willingly comes to the rescue; and His presence is also made known inside the fiery furnace. So, the next time we encounter unwelcomed suffering, may we boldly approach God's throne of grace in our times of need (Hebrews 4:16), and look with expectant hope towards the cross, where Jesus' own suffering and sacrifice have paved the way for our redemption and eternal salvation.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

Transform my heart to deepen my trust and love for You, even in the midst of suffering. I pray that I will not seek comfort or relief from my pain through vain pursuits, but rather by turning to You and letting You carry all the weight of it. May Your strength be perfected in my weakness. Help me to make more room for Your grace, power and glory in my life.

I pray this in Jesus' all-powerful name.

Amen.

Reflective Questions

- During your past trials or hardships, were you able to praise God in the midst of them? Why or why not?
- What are some "counterfeit comforts" that you have turned to instead of God? What would you be willing to give up if you knew it was pulling you away from Him?
- How do you feel led to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters who are suffering for their faith?

VOM Global Reports

CANADA: A Story of Hope and Healing



Helen Berhane recently visited students at two Toronto high schools to share her powerful story.

In an unforgettable moment, a courageous Eritrean Christian woman shared her incredible story of perseverance with over 550 students in two Toronto high schools. Having endured 32 months of imprisonment and torture for her faith, Helen Berhane has become a powerful symbol of strength and resilience.

Her visit had a profound impact on the students and faculty members of both schools. They listened intently as Helen candidly spoke about the unimaginable hardships she endured during captivity, and how – through it all – she held onto her faith, finding strength in prayer and the support of fellow believers.

As Helen shared how God's love sustained her in those darkest moments of captivity, the students were deeply

moved. Many received personal inspiration when hearing of her unwavering belief in God's greater plan for her life. The message of this former Eritrean prisoner was clear: No matter the circumstances, hope and healing are always possible through faith.

After hearing Helen's testimony, the students were left with a renewed sense of purpose and a greater appreciation for the freedoms they often take for granted. It was also a reminder that one's strength does not depend on life's circumstances but rather on the empowerment that's made possible through trusting God – even when facing the most difficult times.

One of the high school principals stated: "[Helen's testimony] had a widespread impact across our student body, and I am so thankful for the immense faith that she was able to model and share with our students. Helen, and the work of the Voice of the Martyrs, really blessed us."

TÜRKIYE: Ministry Grows Amid ISIS Threats

In January 2024, a group of militants aligned with the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist organization killed one person during an attack on a church in Istanbul. After the attack, police notified the pastor of another church, one located in the port city of Samsun, that he too was on the terrorists' hit list.

Since then, the Samsun church has received police protection, bringing it to increased prominence in the



Freedom of worship is limited in Türkiye, where Christians are pressured by family, neighbours, employers and governing officials.

community. “When the church first started, the police took great precautions by bringing a SWAT team to the opening [of the church] and shutting down the entire street to parked cars,” a VOM ministry worker explains. “Every Sunday, there is a team of five police [officers] waiting in front of the church.”

Despite the ISIS threat, the pastor and his congregation have continued to meet for regular worship. While the ongoing police presence has caused some uneasiness among church members, and may have discouraged some new visitors, it has also increased the church’s profile within the community and provided new opportunities for evangelism. The pastor now opens the church every day, offering free tea and coffee to numerous students in the area who come to the building to study.

Note: Based on Türkiye’s population of over 84 million people, 99.8 percent are Muslims and fewer than 0.2 percent are Christians.

UZBEKISTAN: Christians Persecuted by Opposing Family Members

The Uzbek government has made incremental reforms to religious freedom laws in recent years. Despite this, VOM ministry workers report that Christians, especially women who leave Islam to follow Christ, are still persecuted by

family members in this predominantly Muslim nation.

“I have heard about multiple families who will imprison another family member if they are known to be a Christian,” stated an in-country ministry worker. “[The opposing] families will use house imprisonment, starvation or violence – or they will try to force Christian women to marry Muslim men – to coerce them to follow Islam.”

Omina and Badiha, two new Uzbek believers, have faced harsh treatment from their families since becoming Christians. Omina was raised in a Muslim home. Yet, when she started visiting a local church, she experienced God’s love in a way she had never known before. After she and her two daughters came to faith in Christ, Omina’s husband threatened them and tried to force them to return to Islam. When they refused, he mistreated them through mockery, beatings and deprivation of food. He threatened to kill Omina and the two girls if they did not renounce their new faith. Eventually, he kicked all three of them out of the house.

Badiha faced similar persecution from an opposing family member. After she became a Christian, her father-in-law tried to force her to recant her faith in Jesus. When she refused, he imprisoned her within the confines of the family’s home. Badiha’s Christian friends have not heard from her since early 2024.



Some Uzbek believers have been locked in their houses, deprived of food and violently assaulted by family after becoming Christians.

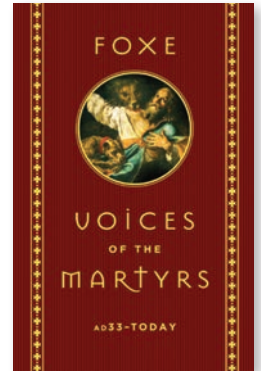
Resources

Shop online at store.vomcanada.org

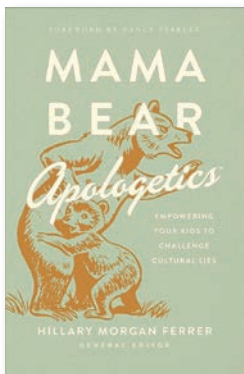
Foxe: *Voices of the Martyrs* | \$25

In the 16th century, English preacher John Foxe created what would later be referred to as the “second most important book in history” after the Bible. With dozens of images, modernized English, and up-to-date accounts of martyrdom, this revised edition of Foxe’s *Voices of the Martyrs* book not only includes testimonies of heroes from the early church to the Reformation, but also those who were martyred during the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, and throughout the 20th century...right up to more recent times. This comprehensive collection includes 65 stories of recent martyrs who have demonstrated tremendous courage in the face of persecution.

Hardcover, 509 pages



Mama Bear Apologetics | \$12



The problem with lies is they don't often seem like lies, and sometimes the false information they convey may even sound right. So, what's a Mama Bear to do when her kids appear to be absorbing the culture's

lies uncritically? *Mama Bear Apologetics* is a useful guide that will help mothers and educators teach children how to form Biblical beliefs about what is true and what is false. Through life stories and clear practical applications, including prayer, this helpful resource offers tools for self-training, so parents and educators can in turn effectively train today's youth. By teaching kids how to think through and address issues head-on, you will be equipping them to not only *survive* the challenges of our confusing culture but also *thrive* while living in the midst of them. Paperback, 288 pages



The Hiding Place

A Graphic Novel | \$25

During World War II, a darkness had fallen over the world, threatening the lives of many innocent people. Yet, as the Nazis spread their propaganda – igniting widespread fear and hatred in the

process – a courageous woman in Holland fought against injustice and darkness.

Within the confines of their quiet watchmaking shop, Corrie ten Boom and her close-knit family risked their lives to hide hundreds of Jews, and others hunted by the Nazis, in a secret hiding place. Today, many years later, the incredible testimony of this real-life heroine comes to life.

The pages of this visually stunning graphic novel, with its more than 1,500 engaging full-colour illustrations, reveal how even in the most desperate, loneliest and darkest of times...*faith, hope and love* can ultimately triumph!

Hardcover, 240 pages

MAY 2025

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” – Psalm 27:1 ESV

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 TUNISIA As the government allows greater religious freedoms, pray that many more Tunisians will receive God's salvation.	2 BAHRAIN Pray for Christians who have been harassed and imprisoned by the country's governing authorities.	3 ETHIOPIA Pray that every Ethiopian believer will have access to their own copy of God's Word.
4 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Pray that Christian converts will demonstrate God's love, grace and forgiveness to their persecutors.	5 IRAQ Pray for the safety and spiritual growth of Muslim-background believers who often face death threats.	6 BANGLADESH Praise God for the bold faith of Shebona, a teenager who led her siblings to faith in Christ.	7 KYRGYZSTAN Ask God to provide for Christian converts from Islam who have lost their jobs due to their faith (Philippians 4:19).	8 LAOS Pray for Siporn, a believer who was fired by his employer when he refused to renounce his allegiance to Jesus.	9 TAJIKISTAN May there be opportunities to share the Gospel message with Tajik children, which is presently prohibited by law.	10 COMOROS Pray that God will provide more translators to work on Bible translations in the country's native languages.
11 MALDIVES Pray for Bible translation work in Dhivehi, the language of the Maldivian people.	12 JORDAN Pray for women who, after leaving Islam to follow Christ, have faced violent opposition from their husbands.	13 BURUNDI Pray for the protection of Christian workers who are sharing the Gospel message in Muslim communities.	14 CHAD Pray that those who persecute Christians will experience a life-changing encounter with the Living Christ.	15 UGANDA Pray for vocational training programs that are supporting Christians who have been shunned by their families.	16 IRAN Pray that imprisoned Iranian Christians will experience the assurance of God's presence while behind bars.	17 INDIA Praise God for the resilient witness of Pastor Ramesh who was jailed for breaking India's anti-conversion laws.
18 SIERRA LEONE Using Acts 16:16-18 as a guide, pray that traditional religious shamans will be set free by the power of Christ.	19 ERITREA Praise God that the church continues to grow due to the faithfulness of ministries inside and outside the country.	20 MYANMAR (BURMA) Pray for the strength and encouragement of Burmese believers who are persecuted for sharing their faith.	21 TÜRKIYE (TURKEY) Pray for Christian workers who are serving the nearly four million refugees from Syria, Iraq and Iran.	22 KUWAIT Pray for the witness of expatriate Christians who risk their jobs and immigrant status to proclaim the Gospel.	23 KAZAKHSTAN Pray that believers in unregistered house churches will continue to meet despite police scrutiny.	24 LEBANON Thank God, according to Colossians 1:3-4, for the many ministries in Lebanon that are serving Syrian refugees.
25 TOGO Pray for the safety of believers who have been threatened by militant Fulani Muslims.	26 CUBA As governmental oppression has prevented some Christians from having Bibles, pray for greater access to God's Word.	27 DJIBOUTI Pray for a renewed effort to disciple new believers in this Muslim-majority nation.	28 MOROCCO As few printed Bibles exist in this country of nearly 35 million people, pray for increased distributions.	29 GUINEA Amid political instability and Islamic extremism, pray that many will receive a spiritual revelation of the truth.	30 NIGERIA Pray that displaced congregations in northeastern Nigeria will experience God's healing and provision.	31 BHUTAN Although Bhutanese Christians must often meet secretly, pray that they will be effective witnesses for Christ.



Help *Christians* Driven from their Homes

When our Christian brothers and sisters are displaced because of their faith, we can extend God's help and hope in their times of need through the power of prayer and the provision of practical necessities. Your gift will be used to provide encouragement, assistance and relief aid to families who have been left destitute by violence.



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