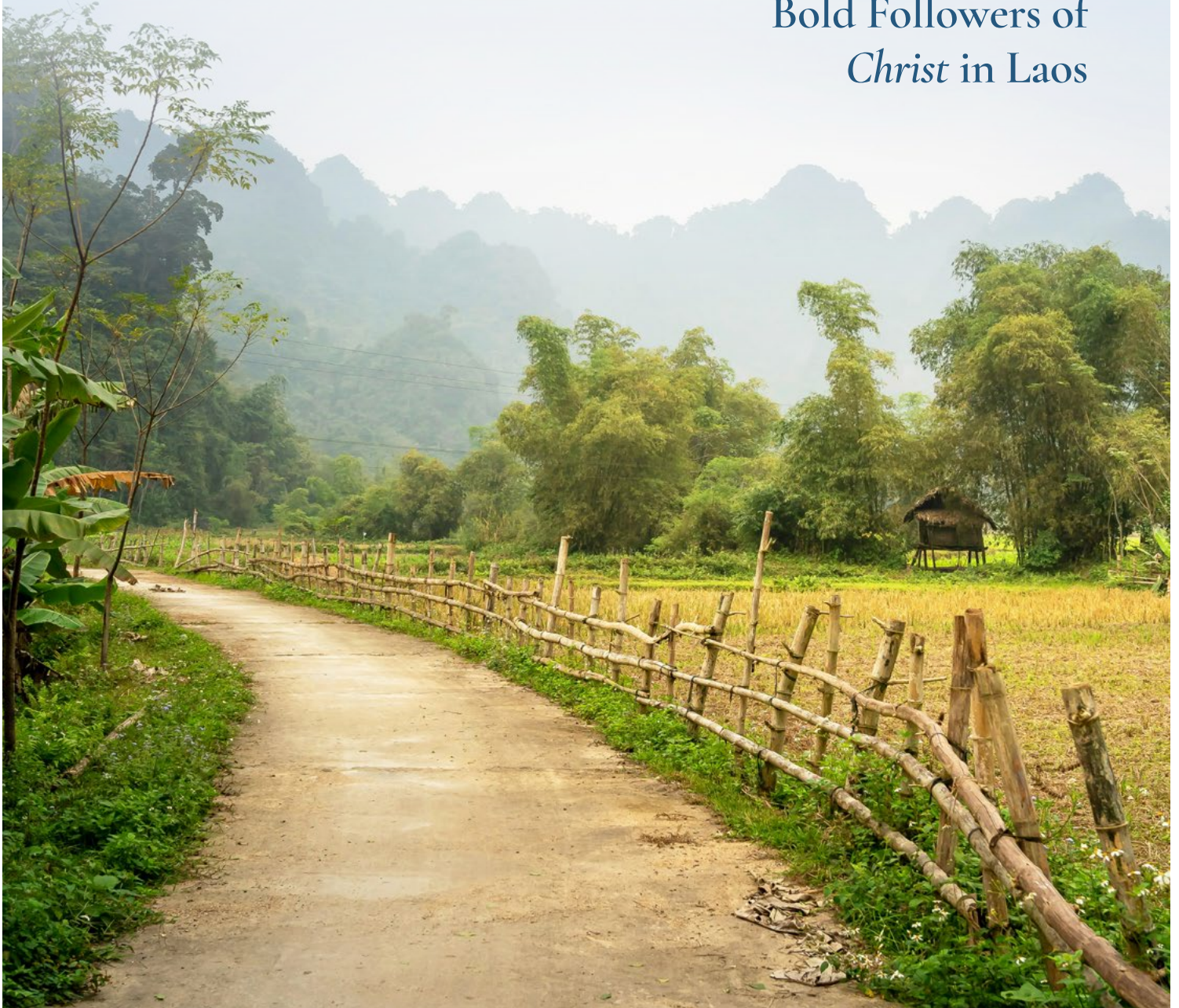


# ONE VOICE

Bold Followers of  
*Christ in Laos*



VOLUME 6  
JULY 2025

**VOMC**  
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

# ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

## *Followers of Christ in Laos*

*“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, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12 ESV*

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



Pastor Thongkham (far right) was martyred for his faith in July 2024.

Most Laotians identify themselves as Buddhists; however, their practices often blend Buddhism with traditional tribal religions. While this non-theistic religion is prominent and widely acceptable throughout Laos, the Communist government views Christianity as a significant threat, perceiving it as a Western religion that aims to undermine traditional Laotian culture. This perspective has fostered a strong disdain for Christians among various religious and community leaders, leading to an increase in the mistreatment of the country's believers.

In February 2023, more than a dozen Christian families from the village of Mai in northwestern Laos were driven from their homes by other members of their majority-Buddhist community. Unfortunately, this incident was not an isolated occurrence. In recent years, there has been a series of similar attacks against Laotian followers of Jesus, despite the implementation of laws intended to protect the free exercise of religion within the country.

It was reported in March 2023 that various homes belonging to a group of believers in the south-central region of Laos were demolished by angry villagers for the second time within a five-month period. This village happens to be located in an area of the country that is considered a "hot spot" for persecution because of the increasing number of Christians.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, believers from the village of Tahae had gathered at the home of a Christian leader named Pastor Mum for a time of prayer in preparation for their Sunday worship service. While these followers of Jesus were praying, the village chief – along with four other community officials – suddenly entered the home and arrested the pastor and five fellow believers because of their Christian faith.

In yet another incident, two masked gunmen arrived at Pastor Thongkham's home in Chang Village. After a brief altercation, he was shot twice. Although he had been rushed to a local hospital, Pastor Thongkham sadly passed away upon arrival. The beloved Christian leader, who was 40 years old, is survived by his wife and two children – in addition to numerous foster children who found refuge in their loving home.

Despite facing aggressive persecution, bold evangelists throughout the country continue to share the Gospel and, as a result, churches in Laos are thriving. As God equips these believers to engage with their culture through a Biblical worldview, many Laotians are responding by committing their lives to Jesus. In this way, the various trials and tribulations they experience serve to further strengthen the local churches, turning them into beacons of faith, hope and love within their communities.

As you read this month's issue of *One Voice*, pray for the ongoing ministry efforts in Laos, asking the Lord for more opportunities to share His Gospel message of grace, love and peace throughout this Southeast Asian nation.

Grace and peace,



# Voice<sup>of the</sup> 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.

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## FOUNDERS

Klaas and Nellie Brobbel  
with Pastor Richard Wurmbrand

Scripture quotations are from the English  
Standard Version, unless otherwise indicated.

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**Canadian Centre for  
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One Voice magazine is the flagship publication of Voice of the Martyrs Canada. Published monthly, it is available free of charge and without obligation in one-year subscriptions to anyone in Canada who requests it.

# Teaching the “Illegal” Gospel

While 18-year-old Boupha was teaching a group of children a Bible story, her Sunday school class was suddenly interrupted by the police. “The kids were shocked and afraid,” Boupha recalls. “I was also afraid because this had never happened before.” Even though the Christian teen had not experienced any problems with the police prior to this incident, Boupha knew of other Christians in Laos who did encounter persecution.

Aware of the Communist officials’ attempts to control Christian activities outside of the country’s government-controlled churches, that Sunday morning incident totally surprised her. “In the past, I heard that some people faced

persecution as Christians,” Boupha says. “I did not necessarily think it would happen to me personally, but it was in the back of my mind that those who follow Christ will face persecution.”

When Boupha was 15 years old, she began to attend church with a friend. As she observed Christians singing praise songs, reading the Bible, and worshipping the Lord joyfully, she yearned to know the God they followed. After placing her faith in Christ, she immediately looked for ways to serve at her church. “I wanted to serve the Lord in some way,” she explains. “Serving the Lord is what touches my heart. I wanted to see the spiritual growth of the kids in my church [as they] followed God’s way.”



About a year after Bouphe began teaching Sunday school, she received a visit from three police officers who wanted information from her. The officers asked Bouphe why she was teaching the children and where she obtained the materials to teach them. "Did you know that teaching these little kids here is against the law?" one of the officers stated with an edge of threat in his voice.

Scared and shaken, Bouphe prayed: "Lord, please help me. Give me wisdom in this situation. Give me wisdom when answering whatever questions they have." She responded politely to the officers' initial questions and then went with them to the local police station for further questioning.

After their arrival at the station, the officers wanted to know who was paying her to teach. Bouphe truthfully insisted that she taught voluntarily. And when they questioned the Christian teen about her religious beliefs, she courageously shared the Gospel with them. Then they demanded, "How do you know that the God you believe in is the One who created everything?" She prayerfully replied: "I passionately believe that God created everything because He made me. In the Bible, it clearly states that God created the heavens and the earth – and everything in it. What the eye can see and not see, He created it all."

Although the policemen asked her no further questions, they did seize Bouphe's teaching materials. She saw this as an opportunity to encourage the officers to study the materials for themselves. She hopes that what they learned will lead them to faith in Christ. Satisfied that she would be unable to continue teaching without her materials, the officers let her go.

Bouphe left the interrogation room that day with a greater resolve to continue teaching children about Christ. "After they took me to be interrogated, my faith became stronger," she affirms. "It made me hold steadfastly onto the Lord. The police threatened that if I were to continue to teach, they would arrest me and put me in some unknown place. I would be willing to be arrested because it is my duty to teach the kids at church."

Bouphe continues to serve her church in other ways as well, such as helping to lead the worship services and youth Bible studies. Although she is judged and ridiculed by her unbelieving peers, Bouphe is unashamedly following Christ. "To be [humiliated] for Jesus is a good thing," she acknowledges, knowing that she may face more persecution in the future.

"I am willing and open to accept persecution if it comes again," she asserts. "It has taught me to keep my faith in the Lord [who] is always with me. Jesus did everything for me. He did nothing wrong, yet He died for me on the cross. I will not back away [from Him]. The Lord will not leave me nor forsake me in any situation. I want to serve [Him] to the best of my ability."

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

*This testimony has been adapted from the newly published book, "Whom Shall I Fear?" Order your copy today by visiting VOMC's online store: [www.vomcanada.com/store](http://www.vomcanada.com/store).*

**Whom Shall I Fear? 366 Scriptures for Following Christ and Facing Persecution | \$25**



Featuring testimonies from Richard Wurmbrand, his wife Sabina, and other persecuted Christians from throughout history until today, *Whom Shall I Fear?* invites you to

encounter 366 Scriptural passages that will take you beyond anxiety, doubt and fear.... The Scripturally based lessons will further ground your faith in God's irrefutable character as you live obediently for Him amid life's challenges.

Hardcover, 493 pages

# I WILL GO TO *Jail for You*



A glow spreads across Kham La's face as he recalls the day he placed his faith in Christ. "After I became a Christian," he says with a smile, "I had happiness in my life!" The powerful transformation that Kham La has experienced far surpasses the arduous manual labour he does each day while toiling in the fields as a subsistence farmer. In addition to cultivating chili and rice crops on his small plot of land in a Laotian village, this committed believer diligently hauls his produce to various markets located in different villages to support his wife and five children.

Even though he has experienced challenging circumstances over the years, Kham La is very grateful for God's intervention in his life. Since accepting Christ as his personal Saviour in 2011, he has received the Lord's supernatural healing from sickness, along with freedom from the worship of ungodly spirits which is so prevalent among the people of his culture. He has also discovered his higher calling as a bold witness for Christ – gaining a reputation even among local officials.

## MOUNTING PRESSURE

The constitution of Laos allows its citizens "the right and freedom to believe, or not to believe, in religion." Additionally, more recent decrees have guaranteed equal legal status to the Christian faith. However, many Laotian people, especially the country's governing leaders, view Christianity as a tool of the West to undermine the Communist regime. Compounding matters, the district in which Kham La lives happens to be home for many military and police veterans, making the atmosphere even more anti-Christian than that of other areas.

Soon after coming to faith in Christ, Kham La began to face pressure from local officials, who demanded that he renounce his faith or leave the village. For three years, police summoned him for questioning every couple

of months. They even presented him with a written renunciation of his Christian faith and demanded that he sign it. After refusing to comply, he was threatened with expulsion and mocked for his seeming foolishness.

"I wasn't afraid," Kham La recalls. "I just stayed strong and faithful – and didn't sign." After three fruitless years, the officials changed their tactics. "The police would watch me," Kham La adds. "When they saw me leave the village, they would...block the road." The roadblocks were set up to interfere with Kham La's livelihood and prevent the Gospel from spreading.

The authorities even warned people in nearby villages not to become Christians, but that approach backfired. "In these other villages," Kham La explains, "so many people know Jesus through the police." According to this Laotian evangelist, the warnings actually served to pique the villagers' curiosity about Christianity and cause them to question why Kham La was being targeted for persecution. "Thank God," he says, "the Gospel still spread and is growing in [these areas]."

*"I would say, 'Tell the police that you accepted Jesus through me. In Jesus' name, I will go to jail for you.'"*

While the ongoing persecution created hardships for Kham La, he eventually realized that being "a lightning rod" for the hostility of the police and other authorities could actually serve a powerful purpose. To help the villages' more timid believers, he urged them to let him be the scapegoat. "When I met with these Christians," he recounts, "I would say, 'Tell the police that you accepted Jesus through me. In Jesus' name, I will go to jail for you.'" Kham La's only condition was that they remain faithful to Christ and refuse to deny Him.



## ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Kham La received an “invitation” to meet with authorities at the provincial police office. Before he and one of his sons left for the meeting, the whole family prayed together. Kham La didn’t know what to expect. After arriving at the office, it became clear that this was not meant to be a conversational meeting. Without any explanation, the officers roughly handcuffed Kham La and led him to a tiny windowless cell. “I couldn’t see anything,” he recalls. “I only knew it was daytime when I heard a cow...outside.”

Four days later, the policemen let Kham La out of the cell and demanded a written confession. They interrogated him about his travels to different villages and his meetings with other Christians. He was then transported to a larger jail and locked in a cell with 61 other inmates. Even though Kham La was not permitted contact with his family members nor an attorney – and had not received any information about the charges against him – he wasted no time sharing the “Good News” of the Gospel with fellow cellmates.

The officials who brought Kham La to the jail had ordered the guards to keep an eye on the imprisoned evangelist and take measures to prevent him from talking about his

faith. One guard, however, showed favour to Kham La by only giving him a warning. Despite the fact that he was being carefully watched, and that any transgression could result in a prison sentence of up to five years, Kham La took the news calmly. “Two years or five years, I give it to God,” he told the guard. “Because my God knows everything.”

In the country’s jails, a prisoner’s family often must provide daily essentials for their incarcerated loved one. And since Kham La had not been allowed any contact with his family, he had very little food. Receiving only a small portion of rice each day, he had to scavenge meager leftovers from other prisoners to supplement his diet.

Despite the difficult circumstances he faced, Kham La is thankful that his son accompanied him to the police station on the day of his arrest. “If my son had not come with me,” he surmises, “they would have taken me straight to Vientiane [the country’s capital].” Some of the Christians who had been arrested in Laos without any witnesses ended up disappearing in the prison system, or worse.

During Kham La’s detainment, his family persistently tried to locate his whereabouts, and they also diligently sought legal help for his case. Eventually, an in-country

ministry worker who supports persecuted Christians in Laos helped them to track Kham La through the prison system. Three weeks after his arrest, Kham La finally got to see his family. And their greatly anticipated reunion was accompanied by some surprising information that explained why he was detained in the first place. A debt of less than \$25, resulting from a fine of which Kham La had not been notified, led to his arrest.

When the charge was revealed, and the mishandling of his case came to light, the provincial prison officials were shocked. They knew that Kham La could now, in turn, file charges against them – along with the local authorities who had originally filed the charges. While a flurry of bureaucratic and legal proceedings followed, though still imprisoned at this point, Kham La was now allowed to see his family and receive food from them – items he willingly shared with other prisoners in need. A week later, Kham La was released.

## GIVING THANKS

Today, some still ask Kham La if he plans to sue the authorities who had imprisoned him. His answer is always the same. “I tell them I have given it to God,” he affirms. “I will not sue.” This stance has allowed him to maintain an open dialogue with local police officials. Although they continue to threaten Kham La and other believers within the district, he welcomes them to Christmas celebrations and lets them know that Christians are praying for – not against – the welfare of the police and the community.

Kham La also continues to pray for the 61 men he ministered to while in jail. Although some of those prisoners have since died and others have been released, Kham La believes that all of them got a chance to hear the Gospel. “Thank God that I got arrested,” he proclaims. “I was never upset about that. In fact, I am happy. God gave me a good experience in the prison.”

## PRAYER RESPONSE

### How Can You Pray for Laos?

- Please pray for the Lord’s strength, wisdom and protection to be upon Kham La and other believers in Laos whose activities are being monitored by Communist authorities.
- Also intercede for followers of Jesus who are currently imprisoned because of their faith in Him. In addition to asking God to meet their spiritual and physical needs, pray that they will be granted divinely appointed opportunities to minister His hope, love and grace to those around them.
- Ask God to touch the hearts of the country’s governing leaders so that our Christian brothers and sisters can live, worship and share of their faith freely. As a result, may many more Laotian people receive His Son Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour!

# VOM Global Reports

## TAJIKISTAN: Pastor's Killer Led to Faith in Christ

Sergei Bessarab left a life of crime in Tajikistan to follow Christ – eventually becoming a bold witness for Jesus while serving time in prison and then, later on, as a pastor. In 2004, Pastor Sergei's zeal for Christ consequently cost him his life, as an opposing radical Muslim shot and killed him.

Years later, while imprisoned for the murder, Pastor Sergei's killer amazingly came to faith in Christ as well. Adding to the series of miracles, the inmate who shared the Gospel message with the murderer had been personally led to the Lord and disciplined by Pastor Sergei prior to the minister's passing.

## PAKISTAN: Transformed by God's Peace

As a devout Muslim working in law enforcement, Paulus made a point of preaching about Islam among Pakistan's minority Christian community. He would even physically beat followers of Jesus in his efforts to make them renounce their faith.

Since he was an avid reader, Paulus decided to purchase an old book one day, not knowing at the time that it was a Bible. Even though he was initially repulsed upon this realization, Paulus couldn't shake the tremendous sense of peace that he felt whenever reading it. After connecting with a pastor, the former persecutor decided to place his faith in Christ.

Today, Paulus is no longer an enemy of God, but rather

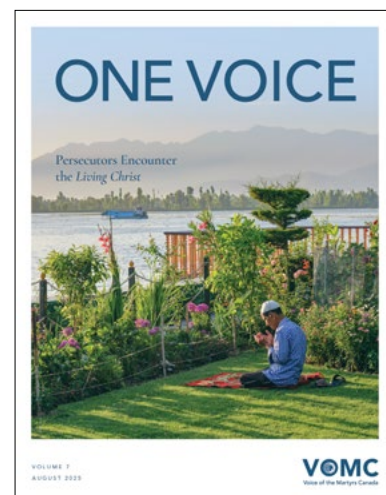
a child who has been reconciled to His Heavenly Father through the saving grace of Jesus.

## NORTH KOREA: Former Border Guard Now Follows Jesus

Park Chin-Mae dutifully guarded North Korea's border with China, diligently watching for North Koreans defecting or smuggling contraband. One day, while inspecting packages coming across the border, he found six Bibles inside a box belonging to a Christian woman. "We didn't see anything today," he told the woman before allowing her to pass.

Chin-Mae knew he could have been killed if another guard had seen the Bibles and reported him for allowing their entry into the country. The Communist guard later defected to South Korea, where he has since placed his faith in Christ.

***For more inspiring stories about persecutors who miraculously came to faith in Jesus Christ, be sure to read the upcoming August 2025 issue of VOMC's "One Voice" magazine.***



# JULY 2025

*"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, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

– Matthew 5:11-12 ESV

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 <b>SAUDI ARABIA</b> Praise God for the bold faith of Saudis who are following Christ, even though this decision is punishable by death.	2 <b>VIETNAM</b> Pray that new believers among minority tribal groups will have increased access to God's Word.	3 <b>OMAN</b> Pray that entire households will come to faith in Christ through a family member's faithful witness.	4 <b>EGYPT</b> Pray for those proclaiming the Gospel among refugees who've fled violence in neighbouring Sudan.	5 <b>CAMEROON</b> Praise God for the efforts being made to translate the Bible in Cameroon's many local languages.
6 <b>KENYA</b> Pray that Christian converts in Somali-majority areas will be strong witnesses to those who are hostile to Christ.	7 <b>NEPAL</b> Pray for Hindu monks who are hearing the message of Jesus through the bold witness of ministry workers.	8 <b>QATAR</b> Pray that expatriate Christians will faithfully share the salvation message with their Qatari neighbours.	9 <b>ISRAEL</b> Pray that churches targeted by Jewish anti-missionary groups will demonstrate the unconditional love of Jesus.	10 <b>VENEZUELA</b> Pray that in-country ministry workers will be encouraged by the prayers of the global body of Christ.	11 <b>LIBYA</b> Pray for missionaries and indigenous believers who are taking great risks to share the "Good News" of the Gospel.	12 <b>TUNISIA</b> Pray that the increased availability of God's Word will result in many more Tunisians turning to Christ.
13 <b>BAHRAIN</b> Pray for unlimited access to print, digital, audio and children's Bibles, as well as other Christian resources.	14 <b>ETHIOPIA</b> Praise God that Christians are planting churches and sending out missionaries despite growing pressures.	15 <b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b> Pray that Christian media will effectively proclaim the life-transforming hope of the Gospel.	16 <b>IRAQ</b> Pray that Kurdish Christians will receive God's wisdom as they share Biblical truths with others.	17 <b>BANGLADESH</b> Pray for Rojina who has faced opposition while leading evangelistic teams into the country's slum areas.	18 <b>KYRGYZSTAN</b> Pray that the many Kyrgyz people working in other countries will hear and respond to Biblical truth.	19 <b>LAOS</b> Pray for the equipping of a new generation of Godly leaders in communities lacking trained pastors.
20 <b>TAJIKISTAN</b> Using Isaiah 52:7 as a guide, thank God for the ministry that's taking place in remote mountainous regions.	21 <b>COMOROS</b> Pray that believers who have been arrested for their faith will be granted freedom to worship the Lord.	22 <b>MALDIVES</b> Pray that Christian ministry workers will find creative approaches to sharing God's plan of salvation.	23 <b>JORDAN</b> Pray for the establishment of more churches that will evangelize and disciple new Christians.	24 <b>BURUNDI</b> Pray that believers will stand firm in their faith despite the risk of being targeted by militant Muslims.	25 <b>CHAD</b> Pray that Chadian Christians will grow in their faith as they study God's Word and receive discipleship.	26 <b>UGANDA</b> Pray that churches will respond to threats from opposers of Christianity with the hope of the Gospel.
27 <b>IRAN</b> Pray that the many Iranians disillusioned with Islam will discover the reality and deity of Christ.	28 <b>INDIA</b> Pray for Ajay, a new believer who has been pressured by community members to return to Hinduism.	29 <b>SIERRA LEONE</b> Pray for wisdom on behalf of evangelists who are ministering in remote areas where illiteracy is high.	30 <b>ERITREA</b> Ask God to thwart the efforts of governing officials to infiltrate underground churches.	31 <b>MYANMAR (BURMA)</b> Pray that Myanmar's Bible schools, though most are considered illegal, will effectively equip new church leaders.		



# Special Online Summer Edition!

This summer we have something special planned for *Table Talks*! There are a myriad of different ideas promoted as "truths" in today's world that can easily go undetected by many of us. It is increasingly important to teach our young people how to spot the "lies" that don't align with Scripture. Through the *Looking for the Lies in Literature* activity, VOMC is preparing to engage youth to be Mission (Im)Possible Agents who can recognize the untruths portrayed within stories and movies from around the world. As participants collect clues through the assignments, they will be sleuthing towards entry to an "Underground Church Meeting" – a party they will have the opportunity to host. This party will be filled with fun obstacles (activities) which will be peppered with informative clues about what it means to be "Agents for Christ" in the field.



Join us on an unforgettable summer adventure!

FIND IT HERE: [VOMCANADA.COM/TABLETALKSSUMMER25](https://vomcanada.com/tabletalkssummer25)

February 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | Brantford, ON

## OLYMPIC FAITH

*Women's Ministry Retreat*

For more information  
and to register:  
[vomcanada.com/olympicfaith](https://vomcanada.com/olympicfaith)

