

ONE VOICE

Radiant Followers of
Christ in Burkina Faso



APRIL 2026
ISSUE 4

VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

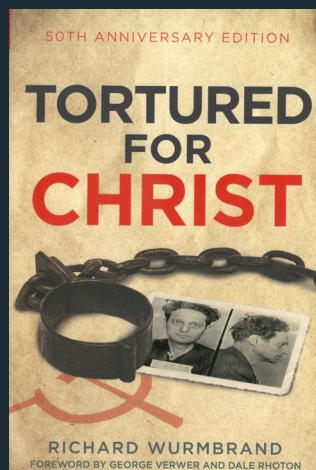
FAITH THAT COULD NOT BE BROKEN

Imprisoned for 14 years for his unwavering faith in Jesus Christ, Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand endured torture and isolation rather than denying his beloved Lord. The life of Pastor Wurmbbrand, international founder of Voice of the Martyrs, stands as a powerful testament to his relentless courage, love and hope:

“Love is stronger than hate; faith is stronger than fear.”

“It is not what we suffer, but what we do with what we suffer that matters.”

Discover his story in *Tortured for Christ* – a testimony of faith that changed the world.



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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.

FOUNDERS

Klaas and Nellie Brobbel
with Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand

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

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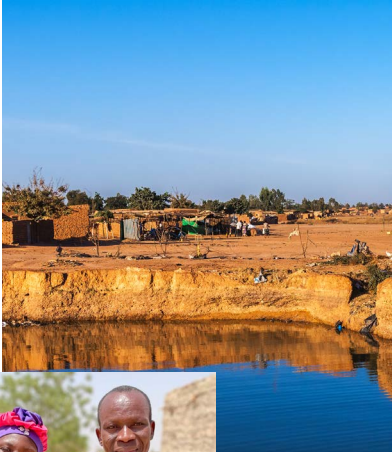
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One Voice magazine is the flagship publication of Voice of the Martyrs Canada. Published monthly, it is available free of charge and without obligation in one-year subscriptions to anyone in Canada who requests it.

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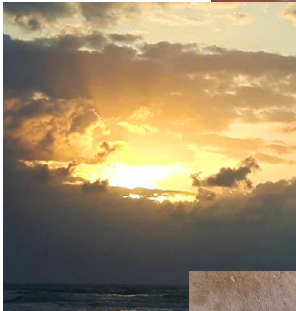
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ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

Followers of Christ in Burkina Faso

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

“O our God, will You not execute judgement on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”

2 Chronicles 20:12 ESV



Since 2016, Burkina Faso has seen a significant rise in Islamist activity, with militant groups linked to ISIS and al-Qaida expanding their influence across the Sahel region. Christians have been major targets of this violence, particularly since April 2019, when approximately 70 believers were killed and five churches were attacked. Over 200 churches in northern and eastern Burkina Faso have closed due to ongoing security concerns. The southwest has also experienced an increase in assaults on churches and the slayings of pastors. Currently, there are more than two million displaced people within Burkina Faso, and an estimated 30 percent of them are Christians.

The situation brings to mind King Jehoshaphat's test of faith in 2 Chronicles 20, when he faced a seemingly invincible army that was determined to destroy his kingdom and people. In life-and-death moments, knowing who you are – or better



yet, *whose* you are – greatly influences how you respond. Jehoshaphat trusted and served the God of Israel, the one true God of heaven and earth. So, even though he was afraid, which is a natural response in dangerous times, he still had faith. That faith, expressed through prayer, enabled Jehoshaphat to see beyond the vast enemy camp to the Lord of Hosts, from whom Judah’s salvation would assuredly come.

Like King Jehoshaphat, believers in Burkina Faso have their hope fixed on Jesus Christ. However, despite recent geopolitical changes, the country’s security crisis remains unresolved. Thousands of Christians living in makeshift refugee camps or safer cities cannot return to their villages and towns because the risk of being killed is simply too great. These believers face numerous unmet needs, and over time they have sought to organize themselves in temporary shelters to achieve some measure of stability. One of the most urgent needs is the education of children, whose schooling has been disrupted by displacement. It is in the midst of this gap that VOMC, in partnership with VOM Poland, seeks to bring encouragement and a level of normalcy back into their lives.

The feedback VOMC has received is deeply inspiring and uplifting as we hear firsthand testimonies of faith from those who have been suffering for Christ. Read this prayer from a mother who was able to send her children to school – something she never imagined possible while they were

adrift within their own country, far from home.

“My Heavenly Father, we thank You, and we worship You for everything You have done for us. You remember us always. Our God Almighty, we thank You.... The Bible says that everything has its own time. And, at this time, we thank You, Lord, for everyone who helped us. We put them into Your hands. Lord, we ask Your Holy Spirit to strengthen them, to accompany them, and to be with them. As we are here, children and adults, we thank You, Lord. May Your name be glorified.... In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.”

Not only have I always admired persecuted Christians who consistently profess an eternal perspective, but I’m also genuinely challenged by them. They have taught me profound truths about living a life of faith by keeping my eyes firmly fixed on the Sovereign Lord, especially when difficulties threaten to overwhelm me. It is my prayer that as you engage with the testimonies in this month’s issue of *One Voice*, you too will look to the One who is “able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us” (Ephesians 6:20 ESV).

Grace and peace,

Moving Forward in Ministry



On the morning of April 28th, 2019, Pastor Natan's wife, Miriam, heard the unmistakable sound that signalled the militants' arrival just outside their church building. "You know they are there when you hear the [sound of gunshots]," Miriam says. "When they arrive, nowhere is a secure place."

Arriving in a convoy of motorcycles, the heavily armed militants often start firing their weapons as a way of creating confusion among local Christians. At times, they force pastors to sit and listen to Islamic sermons. Yet, more often, they demand that the church leaders stop speaking about Jesus. Some cases have involved the abduction of Christians and

even the execution of pastors. In the months leading up to the attack on Pastor Natan's church, four church leaders were killed in various towns located less than 160 kilometres away.

Shortly before the April 2019 attack, militants had also publicly executed two people from Pastor Natan's village. So, when gunmen surrounded his church building that Sunday morning, the believers immediately understood the gravity of the impending danger.

As the attackers began shutting the doors and windows, trapping the Christians inside, Miriam's mind raced with fear. "The one thing [I thought was], 'God, save our lives; we don't want to die,'" she recalls. Suddenly, the militants shouted into the building: "What are you doing?" Pastor Natan answered calmly, explaining that the congregation was only doing what Christians everywhere do on Sunday mornings. "We are here to worship God," he told them.

Angered that the Christians weren't observing the strict Islamic custom of separating men and women in public places, the militants issued a sinister warning: "In three days, we will come back; and if we see you, we will kill you all." Most of the congregation fled the village that day. Miriam felt the same fear tightening around her heart. "I couldn't sleep that night," she remembers.

Soon afterwards, Pastor Natan and Miriam gathered their children, loaded what they could onto a donkey cart, and left

before the militants returned. While the family did not know where they would go or how they would survive, they trusted the Lord. “In difficult time[s], we know that the Bible is our resource,” Pastor Natan states. “We can get comfort [from it].”

The stories of the early church were especially strengthening. “When we were reading the Book of Acts,” Pastor Natan explains, “we could see that the first disciples of Jesus... were persecuted.” His congregation couldn’t relate to that kind of suffering until they experienced it themselves. He encourages them to keep their faith, continue serving the Lord, and follow the Holy Spirit’s leading. “Don’t go back,” he advises. “Go ahead!”

Moving forward in ministry is exactly what Pastor Natan and Miriam have done. With their former church members scattered across the country, the ministering couple planted a new church in a place where there was no Christian fellowship. To serve their growing community, Pastor Natan and Miriam recently constructed a church building about two hours northeast of Burkina Faso’s capital, Ouagadougou. Yet, starting over has not been easy.

The family has no land to cultivate, and there are few church members to support the ministry. Miriam asks that we please pray for their ministry and for God to preserve the health of their family – including the couple’s six children, who range in age from three to 17 years old. “If we have health,” she says, “we can work for God.”

Support from the global body of Christ through VOM International has enabled Pastor Natan to begin a small-scale chicken farm to provide for his family and the needs of the church. “When strangers are coming, we can take care of them with food or drink – and also buy some food for the poor in the church,” he gratefully adds.

Back in Pastor Natan’s former village, every church has now closed, and nearly all the community members have fled due to ongoing attacks. Though he once hoped to return, the pastor ultimately realized that there was no one left to help. The ministering couple have since found a new congregation to serve, but they know that no place in Burkina Faso is completely safe from militant violence. Even so, they remain faithful, focussed and hopeful. “By the grace of God, we are going ahead,” Pastor Natan affirms.



HEART CHECK

Today, Pastor Natan and Miriam continue to trust the Lord for each step they take, following Him faithfully wherever He leads them.

How is God inviting you to “go ahead” in faith, even when the path before you feels uncertain or costly?

Healing the Brokenhearted

Zalissa Sanou was working in the maternity ward of a small hospital during May 2021 when the sound of sudden gunfire erupted outside. “When we heard the shooting, we were afraid,” she recalls. Militant Islamists were clashing with police and government soldiers just beyond the hospital walls. And when several injured soldiers were brought inside for emergency treatment, the extremists surrounded the building.

Soon, the maternity clinic came under attack, and bullets began penetrating the walls. “Some women...were crying,” Zalissa recounts. “Some fell down and got hurt, and some were ready to give birth. Everybody was looking for a place to hide.”

Zalissa quickly took shelter under a bed. Yet, as more than 100 militants attacked the facility, she heard a terrified woman crying for help. Compelled to act, she prayed: “Lord, I am here to save [lives]. Father, cover me so that I will be able to help this woman who is delivering [her baby].”

The hospital worker crawled across the room and pulled the woman close to her. Ignoring the battle raging outside, she helped the expectant mother deliver her baby. The extreme shock and distress, however, soon caused the new mother to lose consciousness. “I did not know what to do,” Zalissa admits. In distress, she cried out: “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Save this woman!” And as she prayed, the woman regained consciousness.

Although the new mother and her child survived, not everyone in the hospital did. The fierce battle continued for three hours. During this time, one of Zalissa’s colleagues had been killed, and her supervisor was taken hostage. When governing forces eventually cleared a path – allowing the hospital staff to escape – Zalissa and several of her colleagues fled on foot.

As she ran, Zalissa saw mutilated bodies lying in the streets. She and another woman fled for nearly 15 kilometres before eventually reaching a small town, only to encounter another group of terrorists. One of the men there sexually assaulted Zalissa, and her pregnant colleague miscarried as a result of the trauma.

After the militants released Zalissa, she travelled to Burkina Faso’s capital, Ouagadougou. Despite the fact that she was now physically safe, the emotional devastation had taken a toll. “I was heartbroken,” she says. Even though her physical injuries eventually healed, Zalissa continued to struggle mentally and emotionally – unable to escape the traumatizing memories of the attack or the images of the decapitated bodies she had seen. And she told no one – including her husband – about the sexual assault. These painful memories began to cause nightmares through which she relived the violence over and over again. In the aftermath of the tragedies, Zalissa’s relationship with her husband was deeply affected, and she became afraid to return to work.



A pastor who knew of Zalissa's situation invited her to meet with a group of women to learn how God heals inner wounds. First, the women were encouraged to write down everything they had suffered onto a piece of paper. Then they symbolically laid their sufferings at the foot of a cross. "It was on that day, I started getting better," Zalissa acknowledges.

Although sharing her story with others who had been sexually assaulted brought a measure of healing, Zalissa still wrestled over why God had allowed her suffering. When the abuse took place, she thought He had forsaken her. However, Zalissa's perspective changed when she joined the other Christian women to study what the Bible says about suffering and forgiveness. As a result, she realized that the Lord's presence was with her even during difficult times.

A NATION UNDER SIEGE

Over the years, militant Islamic groups from neighbouring Mali and Niger have invaded Burkina Faso, taking control of roughly a third of the country's territory and driving more than two million inhabitants from their homes. While the militants have indiscriminately killed numerous people in this Muslim-majority nation, they usually target Christians first. In the process, these armed groups have displaced hundreds of pastors and slain many believers. During an attack that took place in August 2024, the terrorists executed 26 Christian men in the village of Kounla after binding their hands and forcing them into a church.

"Christians have likely suffered greater emotional turmoil than [members of] the general [Burkinabe] population," a VOM ministry worker explains, "as jihadis frequently target churches when they enter a village.... The need to provide emotional care in areas such as Kounla becomes more pressing because the health of the future church in Burkina Faso may depend upon counselling interventions performed during the aftermath of such attacks."

The devastating effects of the murders, displacements and assaults are so widespread that pastors struggle to care for all the Christians who are suffering from the resulting mental and emotional wounds. "We [have] lost many, many people," reports Boubakar Ouedraogo, a pastor and senior church leader in Ouagadougou. "And many...churches are closed." Yet Boubakar is diligently working to bring healing to the brokenhearted men and women in his country, including those who may initially resist help for their emotional wounds. "In our culture, they say men should not cry; should not grieve," he says. "We let them know that even Jesus grieved after the death of Lazarus. It is normal for a man to weep."

Boubakar meets regularly with other pastors to identify Christians who are suffering from emotional trauma. Then the church leaders invite these brokenhearted individuals to attend a week-long teaching program that's designed to help them understand suffering in a Biblical context. Afterwards, each of the participants receive a copy of the teaching on an audio player, along with the leadership's encouragement to share what they have learned with others.

COMFORTED TO COMFORT OTHERS

Yacouba Odineneka, a government worker, has survived multiple attacks by Islamic militants. While it had never occurred to him that he might be suffering from post-traumatic stress, he eventually noticed troubling changes. "After the terrorist attacks, I realized that I was changed," he says. "I became nervous. Sometimes I would be sitting alone and talking to myself." In addition to staying mostly indoors, Yacouba struggled to sleep at night. Meanwhile, his wife suffered from some of the physical symptoms of trauma, such as constant headaches, anger, and an overall lack of appetite.

During one attack, militants killed an elder at Yacouba's church. Then they abducted his pastor, who was later

murdered. Yacouba found the two bodies of the church workers and buried them. During another attack, more than 100 people were killed not far from where Yacouba and his family live. In a following incident, he and two of his children were held hostage in their own home by two young militants. Yacouba thought they were going to kill him and his children, but the young men eventually left – presumably annoyed by the screaming of his infant child.

Like Zalissa, Yacouba was invited to participate in the counselling program. As he listened to the teaching of local pastors, he realized that both he and his wife were suffering in different ways from the aftermath of the trauma. He recalls one specific teaching that helped him to recognize the depth of his problem: “For me, it was the lesson on forgiveness.” Yacouba came to realize that God’s forgiveness of his sins must lead to his own forgiveness of others. In addition to forgiving the attackers, he became aware of the need to also forgive his mother. Yacouba, who was raised in a Muslim home, had been rejected by his mother after becoming a follower of Christ. Over time, he was able to forgive her. Thanks to the powerful work of the Holy Spirit, Yacouba’s mother eventually placed her faith in Jesus too.

In closing, Yacouba requests prayer as he seeks to comfort more people with the comfort that he himself has received: “There are many people who are traumatized, but they don’t know [it]. May God give me more compassion and strength to help all these people.”

As for Zalissa, she reports that the woman and baby who received her help during the hospital attack are thankfully doing well. And since receiving God’s ministry of healing from the sexual assault, Zalissa has been able to minister to four other women who experienced similar trauma. When these women thank her for helping them, she points them to the Lord. “I tell them to thank God,” Zalissa says, “because it is God who allowed me to go through this

[healing process].” She also emphasizes the Biblical concept of forgiveness, describing it as an important step in the healing process – one that ultimately leads to spiritual and emotional freedom.

PRAY FOR BURKINA FASO

The stories of Zalissa and Yacouba remind us that trauma affects far more than the physical body – it also wounds the heart. Please take a moment today to pray for believers in Burkina Faso who are suffering from the trauma caused by various devastating atrocities.

Lord, You promised to bind up the brokenhearted and set the captives free. Therefore, we lift up believers throughout Burkina Faso who are now bearing the weight of inconceivable violence and loss. Surround them with Your comforting presence, heal their deep inner wounds, and restore joy in their lives. Also strengthen those who are faithfully ministering to the hurting, so that the overcoming testimonies of Your triumphant followers will shine the light of Your glory and hope to so many more who are in need of Your help and healing. In Jesus’ all-powerful name, amen.

A Light Dwells in the Darkness

By Julie Fitz-Gerald
Associate Editor for VOMC



There is no getting around it – the persecution that our Christian brothers and sisters are facing in Burkina Faso is gut-wrenching. As we read about the violence inflicted upon them by extremists, solely because of their faith, we might feel angry, helpless, even fearful. Where is God in all of this?

Those who endure a deeply disturbing experience must overcome not only the physical suffering inflicted by the

event, but also the emotional trauma – something that often takes much longer to heal. Surface wounds may disappear, but soul wounds tend to linger.

According to the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto, Ontario, “Trauma is a term used to describe the challenging emotional consequences that living through a distressing event can have for an individual.”¹ While we all may have a different lived experience, a common thread runs through our lives: most of us will need to navigate trauma at some point in our journeys. Trauma exists because we live in a dark, sin-filled world. This has been a part of the human experience since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2), and it will continue to plague humankind until Jesus returns.

Yet, there is a light shining in the darkness. The keys to not only *surviving* trauma, but also *learning to thrive* once again, can be found in the hope and healing that are made available through Jesus. In Him, we discover that we don’t have to face life’s challenges alone – He is our strength, our refuge and our strong tower (Psalm 61:1-3). The Lord dwells within us and watches over us; He is consistently present.

One could argue that a major theme of the Bible is the story of God's desire to dwell amongst His people – to live alongside His creation. This desire is first seen in the Garden of Eden, then later on in the Tabernacle and the Temple, before being manifested through the life of our loving Saviour – Jesus – and brought to completion with the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. God wants to be with us even in the messiness of our imperfect lives.

In the Garden of Eden, God walked alongside Adam and Eve in the cool of the day, talking with them as a loving Father does (Genesis 3:8). When sin entered the garden, a chasm appeared, separating us from our holy Creator. God saw the corruption of the earth which was filled with violence (Genesis 6:11-12); and yet, He began preparing a way for us to be in His glorious presence once more. He instructed Moses to build the Tabernacle – a mobile meeting tent where He could dwell amongst His people (Exodus 40:34).

The Tabernacle was eventually replaced by two iterations of a fixed stone-and-mortar Temple in Jerusalem (First and Second Temples). Yet, the destruction of both Temples was inevitable as sin continued to plague the Israelites (Daniel 9, Jeremiah 6, Matthew 24:1-2). It became clear that only Jesus could make a permanent way for God to reside with His people on earth.

As the Lord arrived in human form under a starry sky in Bethlehem, the 'Light of the World' pierced the darkness. For 33 years, Jesus physically dwelled among His creation. Through His death and resurrection, He prepared the way for the One who would constantly abide *within* each believer – the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). God's desire to live alongside His people was fulfilled through the Persons of the Trinity, which include the Holy Spirit who now resides within the hearts of every Christian.

Our Almighty God, whose light lives within each of us, promises to be an ever-present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1).

During difficult circumstances, we can find hope, strength and healing – even when surrounded by darkness – because we are not forsaken. He is always with us. It is God's holy light that beams forth across these pages as you read about triumph through tragedy, and as you reflect on your own stories of perseverance, overcoming and blessing.

God wants to live within us amid the chaos of life – bringing the strength, balance and endurance that's needed to overcome whatever challenges we may be staring down. One day, we'll be called to our eternal home where we'll worship God and bask in His glorious presence face to face. But, until then, we can place our feet on the solid rock, take refuge in His strong tower, and allow Him to heal us from life's traumatic events. For *"In [Jesus] was Life, and that Life was the Light of all mankind. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"* (John 1:4-5 NIVUK). The battle has been triumphantly won!

Endnote: ¹ www.camh.ca/en/health-info/mental-illness-and-addiction-index/trauma

PONDER THIS

What are you carrying today that feels too heavy to bear? Do you trust God enough to allow Him to take this burden and carry it for you? Remember that our Almighty God, who dwells within you, wants to heal your broken heart piece by piece – imparting divine strength, resilience and wisdom along the way. Allow Him to move you through this difficulty to a place of wholeness and greater blessing.

VOM Global Reports

KENYA: Rejected Convert Encouraged by Christian Fellowship



Today, Hussein finds renewed hope among fellow Christians.

After experiencing familial rejection for his faith in Jesus, Hussein found strength and a sense of belonging through times of fellowship with his Christian community. The devoted believer embraced Christianity about 20 years ago after encountering Christ in a dream, and he received water baptism shortly thereafter. Since then, Hussein has endured significant opposition for his Christian faith. In addition to being expelled from his village, his property was seized and his wife left him. He has also been ridiculed by various members of his family and isolated from his children – experiences that have deeply affected Hussein’s well-being. “The rejection and discrimination Hussein went through resulted in some level of trauma and depression in his life,” states the ostracized believer’s pastor. Despite these hardships, Hussein has remained strong in his faith. He regularly visits churches throughout Kenya to speak of his testimony, and the fellowship he shares with other Christians provides comfort and support during times of

loneliness. Even so, his pastor requests prayer for Hussein, who longs for the stability of a permanent residence and the restoration of his family.

TAJIKISTAN: Persecuted for Teaching Children About Christ



In Tajikistan, Christian parents are not allowed to teach the Bible.

In Tajikistan, a Christian leader has been penalized for sharing the Gospel with children – a practice deemed illegal under the country’s strict religious laws. The believer was recently detained while attempting to bring Christian children’s books into the country, and he now faces expensive fines and multiple court appearances.

“This restriction is a hard one, especially on parents,” states a VOM ministry worker. “Their kids cannot go to church on Sundays, but they are taught Islam on the streets. It’s really hard to go against the flow without a church family supporting and encouraging the children.”

Despite governmental restrictions, Christian parents and pastors in Tajikistan remain committed to the discipling of children, even when doing so carries personal risks. They

request prayer for increased opportunities to discuss the Christian faith with their children without interference, and for the Lord to help them model Christ in their everyday lives. They also ask for prayer on behalf of the arrested church leader – that the Lord would grant him strength, provision and favour amid the ongoing legal challenges.

LAOS: Threatened Evangelist Stands Strong



Kard candidly shares the message of the Gospel.

Kard suffered from physical illness and deep spiritual bondage until one day, in May 2013, a pastor prayed for the young woman and led her to faith in Jesus Christ. Although the new believer kept her faith a secret, others in her village immediately noticed her healing and began to ask questions. As Kard candidly shared the message of the Gospel, 21 people eventually placed their trust in Christ through her testimony.

When local governing officials learned of the conversions, they soon began to threaten these new believers. By 2023, most of them recanted their faith under pressure. Kard, however, refused to deny Jesus. “I have found the true God, the God who can save me, the God who freed me from [evil] spirits,” she told the officials.

Despite repeated warnings to stop evangelizing, Kard has

grown stronger in her faith and continues to speak openly about Jesus. Please pray that Kard – along with those who came to faith in Christ through her witness – will be strong in the Christian faith and courageous in the face of ongoing threats from Laotian authorities.

SRI LANKA: Bombing Survivor Continues Medical Treatment

Rebecca survived a 2019 bombing attack on her church in Sri Lanka, sustaining severe burns and injuries that have continued to affect her today. Despite the resulting physical challenges, she has joyfully pursued a ministry involving both music and evangelism.

The Christian woman is currently undergoing surgery to restore the movement of her hands. In 2024, doctors also discovered a brain tumour that has required additional surgery and treatment. Although the tumour has been addressed, physicians have warned of the possibility that it could return.

In a recent meeting with Christian ministry workers, Rebecca – who got married and welcomed a son after the bombing attack – expressed her steadfast faith in God. She continues to request prayer for complete healing from the physical challenges.



Rebecca and her husband serve the Lord through music and evangelism.

Uprooted *but* Unbroken



Being a Christian in Burkina Faso has become increasingly dangerous. Over the past several years, thousands of Christian families have been forced to flee their villages, seeking refuge in so-called “safe towns” that are already overcrowded with numerous internally displaced people.

In some cases, families received ultimatums from jihadist groups, giving them a brief window of time to gather their belongings before escaping. More often, however, the onslaught of violence came without warning. Those who managed to survive fled their homes, leaving everything

behind. While entire villages have been attacked, schools were especially targeted. During the school attacks, students had no time to collect their books and educational materials before fleeing.

Amid the escalating violence, the country's economic situation has sharply deteriorated. Food and petrol prices have risen dramatically, while the terrorists' attacks continue to claim the lives of innocent civilians and members of Burkina Faso's governmental forces. Pastors are now increasingly among the victims of targeted killings. In some areas, Christian women have been taken into captivity and subjected to severe sexual abuse. Children also carry the effects of deep trauma following attacks on their schools where they have witnessed their teachers being beaten, wounded by gunshots or killed. For many of them, places that were meant for learning have become symbols of fear and death.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Access to education is presently one of the most urgent needs for displaced families in this troubled West African nation. Children who are unable to attend school are vulnerable to exploitation and forced labour. Without basic skills such as reading, writing and counting, they can be more easily manipulated by corrupt employers. Uneducated teenagers are at risk of being recruited by terrorist groups.

Recognizing this growing crisis, VOMC has partnered with VOM Poland in the launch of an educational support project, which has been operating since September 2020. The goal was simple but vital: to help displaced Christian children return to school by covering their tuition fees and providing them essential learning materials.

As the 2025 school year approached, our in-country ministry workers wondered whether it would be possible to continue the project. In addition to the overwhelming needs, their resources were very limited. While praying for the Lord's guidance, phone calls from Burkinabe believers began to arrive – one after another.

"Displaced Christians contacted me several times in just two days," one of the local workers shared. "They asked if we were planning to continue the educational project. The parents were worried, for they did not have enough money for food, let alone [the tuition fees] to send their children to school. 'We are praying for God to provide you the funds,' they announced. 'Please, please, do not forget about our children this school year.'"

Through prayer and the Lord's provision, the decision became clear. The project would continue. In 2025, the support our in-country workers received made it possible to provide education to 1,138 displaced Christian children and teenagers, giving these students opportunities to learn, grow and hope once again.

Elisabeth, a secondary school student in Yagma, spoke on behalf of her fellow students:

"We thank our donors for all the school supplies they provided. We are so happy with what they sent to us. I thank them, and ask God to bless them and provide what they need. You thought of us and sent us your help. You didn't forget us."

Marie, who is now in secondary school and a grateful

recipient of the educational project for the fourth year, shared:

"My family had to run during the attack. We didn't have time to take anything from our mud house. I was so frightened. Later, my mom told me we were lucky because none of us got killed. I heard from many that I will not be able to continue in school. I was surprised when the pastor at church told us that help had come from Christians in another country. For four years now, I've been able to go to school because of them. My heart is full of joy!"

BIBLES FOR BURKINA FASO

As VOMC's in-country ministry workers listened closely to the requests they received from the displaced Burkinabe believers, another urgent need emerged again and again: *Bibles*. With violence continuing to uproot families across the country, the number of displaced people is growing daily, and many individuals from Muslim and animist backgrounds are encountering Christ for the first time. Access to God's Word is essential for the spiritual growth of these new believers.

Petr's family was among those who initially received practical support from our ministry workers, including food aid and educational assistance for his children. Although he and his wife were very grateful for the support, it wasn't until a Bible was placed in their hands that they acknowledged the tremendous impact this vitally needed spiritual resource has had on their lives. Petr expresses his appreciation in the following words:

"You have given us the most precious gift. We may have nothing [materially], but when we have the Bible in our hands, we feel as if we have everything. Now we can grow spiritually and read it with our children. This is something we have longed for, and you provided it for us. Thank you so much."



EQUIPPING EVANGELISTS

Another key goal was to strengthen Christian leaders who are ministering courageously on the front lines. Local pastors and evangelists face enormous risks as they share the Gospel in an environment marked by fear and danger. To help them with their evangelistic efforts, our ministry partners distributed a practical resource tool titled, *Coeur de l'homme* (translated *The Heart of Man*), which is designed to help explain the Gospel. Pastor Issa acknowledges how helpful this resource tool has been for his outreach ministry:

"Once I got it, it was much easier to share the Gospel. Of course, we have to be careful. Armed jihadists are everywhere – even in the camps for displaced people – to recruit new fighters and look for targeted people. You can be killed for sharing the Gospel. So, we need the wisdom of the Holy Spirit when we preach. Having this tool, I can explain things easier and win souls for Christ. Thank you for providing it to me. May God bless you, and may He allow you to help others as you have helped me."

In Burkina Faso, a Bible is a source of strength for the weary, truth for new believers, and a lifeline for those living under constant threat. Education, too, is much more than learning – it is a shield against exploitation and a pathway to hope. As displacement continues, and faith takes root in unexpected places, the need to support our Christian brothers and sisters in Burkina Faso remains great. Through your faithful partnership and prayers, the Gospel continues to bring light, courage and lasting hope.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You can help restore education and faith to displaced believers in Burkina Faso by donating to VOMC's projects through our *Bible Fund* or *Families of Martyrs Fund*: www.vomcanada.com/donate

APR 2026

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” – Galatians 6:9 ESV

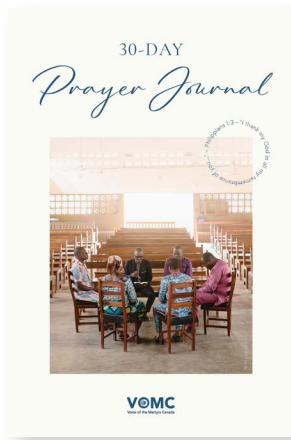
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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 ALGERIA Pray that Christians within the Berber community will persevere and remain steadfast in their faith.	2 RWANDA Pray that pastors will have the courage to continue sharing the Gospel despite pressure from the government.	3 PHILIPPINES Pray for comfort on behalf of Christian families in Mindanao whose loved ones have been martyred.	4 UGANDA Praise God for churches that are extending the love of Christ to their Muslim neighbours.
5 MALDIVES Pray for the few known indigenous believers who are at risk of imprisonment or expulsion for their faith.	6 KYRGYZSTAN Pray that Kyrgyz people working abroad will learn about Christ and, as a result, place their faith in Him.	7 SOMALIA Most Somalis believe that to be Somali is to be Muslim. Pray for a spiritual awakening in this country.	8 BENIN Pray that the people of Benin will flee from voodoo practices and find spiritual freedom in Christ.	9 INDONESIA Pray for evangelists who are sharing the Gospel among the nation's more than 220 million Muslims.	10 BURUNDI Pray for the protection and provision of Christian converts from Islam who are enduring persecution.	11 AZERBAIJAN Pray that secret police sent to monitor and raid worship services will instead come to faith in Christ.
12 MALI Pray that more Christians will gain access to Bibles translated in their local language.	13 NORTH KOREA Using Philippians 1:9-11, pray for the discipleship of North Korean defectors who have accepted Christ.	14 MALAWI Pray that Christians will have courage to stand firm in their faith amid intense opposition.	15 COMOROS Pray that Christian workers will complete translating the Bible into the islands' native languages.	16 TURKMENISTAN Pray that Christians will wisely seek opportunities to share their faith.	17 SUDAN Pray for ministers serving those who are seeking refuge in the Nuba Mountains amid the civil war.	18 PAKISTAN Pray that every believer in Pakistan will have their own copy of God's Word.
19 VENEZUELA Using Romans 5:3-5 as a guide, pray that Venezuelan Christians will persevere through hardships.	20 BANGLADESH Pray that Christian converts from Islam will be guarded from those who seek to harm them.	21 NEPAL Pray for Gambir, whose life was transformed after hearing the Gospel of John via an audio Bible.	22 HONDURAS Pray for persecuted Christians who have had their homes burned or livestock killed.	23 TÜRKIYE Using Psalm 91 as a guide, pray for the protection of pastors who have been targeted by militants.	24 JORDAN Pray for Syrian refugees who have come to faith in Christ, but now risk forcible returns to Syria.	25 EGYPT Thank God for missionaries from Egypt who are faithfully advancing the Gospel across the Middle East.
26 SUDAN Pray for Pastor Morris and his wife Cabina, as they help thousands of displaced Sudanese citizens.	27 NIGER Pray for Pastor Moussa, who was wrongly imprisoned; and his wife Lariya, who faced familial rejection.	28 VIETNAM Ask the Lord to comfort Tien, Duyen, Duy, Sua and others whose loved ones were martyred.	29 BAHRAIN Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who have been rejected by their families for leaving Islam.	30 QATAR Pray that every Qatari believer will receive Christian fellowship and spiritual encouragement.		



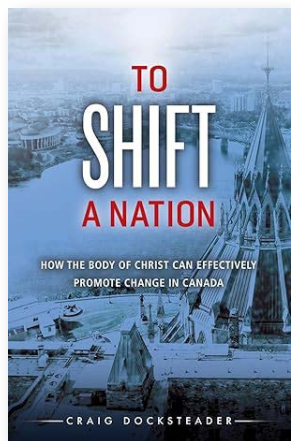
Resources

Shop online at store.vomcanada.org



30-Day Prayer Journal | \$8

Through Scripture-based reflections and real-life testimonies, VOMC's *30-Day Prayer Journal* will encourage you to pursue unity with your global family in Christ, deepen your faith, and persevere through trials with hope and joy. You'll also have opportunities to intercede on behalf of Christians everywhere, so they can be further empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit to run the race that is set before them with endurance (Hebrews 12:1). As you intentionally spend time in prayer, you will not only sense a closer connection with your global Christian family, but also find your heart being shaped in such a profound way that it increasingly reflects the compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paperback, 43 pages



To Shift a Nation | \$15

It's difficult to capture in words the concerns that Canadian Christians are feeling these days. Canada has become a nation that many

citizens had never envisioned before – and its future seems very uncertain. The traditional Christian values of our country are now either openly under attack or they have already been trampled underfoot. How we respond to today's critical issues will ultimately determine the future that we leave to our children and the generations that follow. The book, *To Shift a Nation*, examines where we are, what went wrong, and what we need to do to alter the trajectory of a nation in peril. Paperback, 158 pages

iBIBLE Puzzle: Beloved Son | \$12

This unique puzzle by RevelationMedia features artwork from the stunning *iBIBLE* video series. Consisting of 1,000 jigsaw pieces, the *Beloved Son* puzzle features the powerful scene of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River as portrayed in the animated *iBIBLE* "Salvation" episode. Puzzle enthusiasts will be inspired while reflecting on this beautifully depicted scene, which captures the Holy Spirit descending upon the "Son of God" like a dove after Jesus was baptized by His cousin John, who happens to be referenced today as "John the Baptist."

(Puzzle is 19" tall x 28" wide.)

