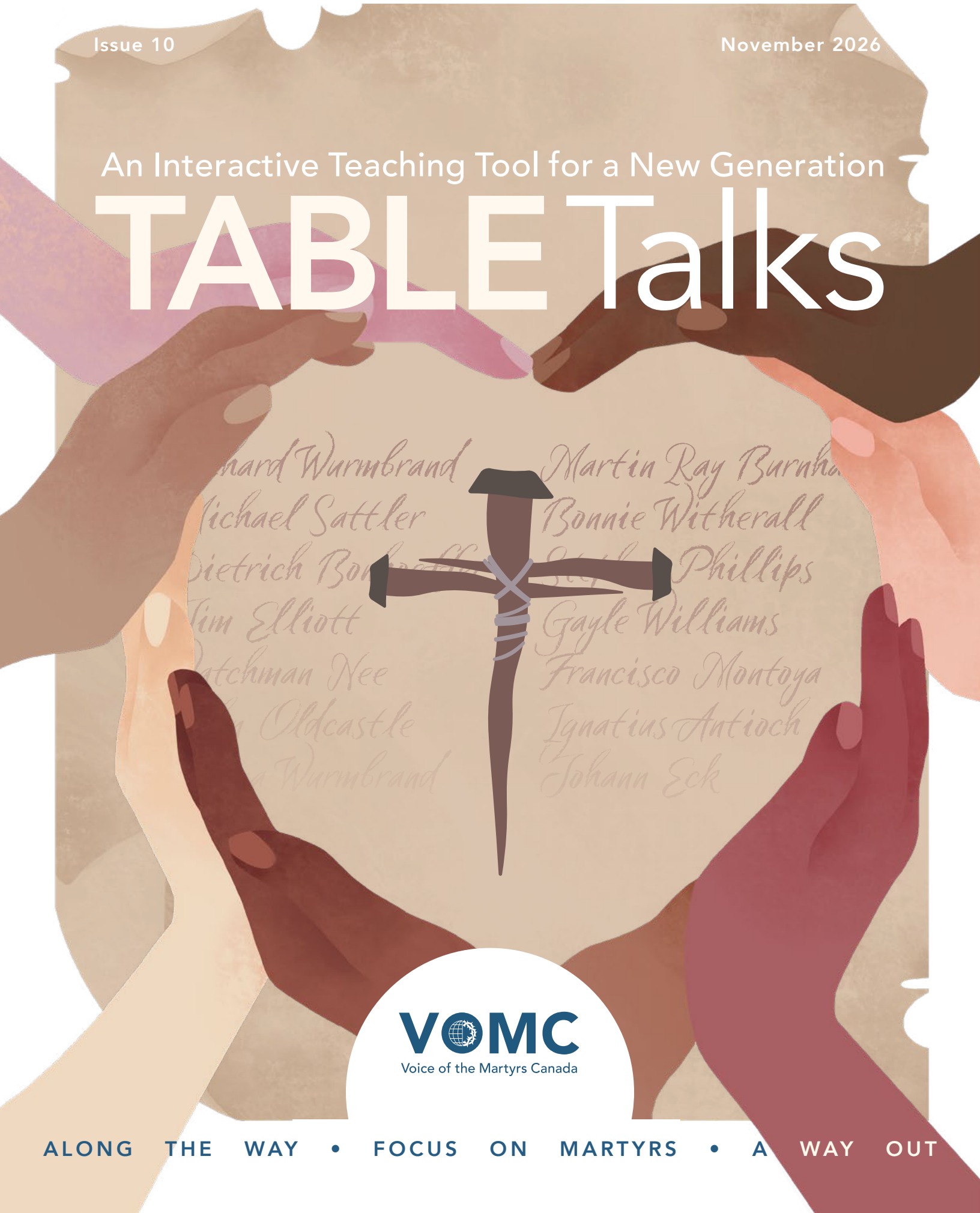
Issue 10 November 2026

An Interactive Teaching Tool for a New Generation

TABLE Talks



VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

ALONG THE WAY • FOCUS ON MARTYRS • A WAY OUT

Along the Way

The following story is inspired by real events and experiences, with a fictional young character and some fictionalized details.

My name is Emun. I live in Egypt, where Christians are often denied jobs, educational opportunities and other basic rights because of their faith. But as I learned at just 10 years old, persecution can also be violent and even deadly.

Early one morning, my family boarded a bus with other Christians to attend services at a monastery. I claimed a window seat, and my older brother, Fadi, sat beside me. As the bus sped along the dusty road, I rested my head on his shoulder and drifted off to sleep.

Suddenly, I was jolted awake. When I looked ahead, I saw masked men blocking the road. The militants forced passengers to hand over their valuables, but the black ISIS flag flying from their SUV showed this was more than a robbery.

Then the leader shouted: "Say it! There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is His messenger!"

"We are Christians!" The defiant cry echoed through the bus. Among the voices were those of my parents and brother.

In an instant, Fadi threw me to the floor just before the terrorists opened fire. Only a handful of us, including my mother, survived. Losing my father and brother changed my life forever. As I grew older, their memory inspired me to tell others about Jesus.

Years later, when I was imprisoned for sharing Jesus with Muslims, the small cross tattooed on my hand made me a target. Like many Coptic Christians, I had received the tattoo as a reminder that I belong to Christ.

"We are Christians!" The defiant cry echoed through the bus.

The prison was crowded and miserable, so I began sharing hopeful Bible stories with other inmates. Radicalized cellmates beat me because of it. I became afraid of dying and leaving my mother alone.

During one of the beatings, God encouraged me with a vision: I saw my father and brother among the great cloud of witnesses. "Get up, Emun!" Fadi shouted. "Keep running your race!" I suddenly understood that my enemies could harm my body, but they could never destroy my soul.

As the beating ended, one of the men spat on me. "Next time, I'll kill you!" he snarled. Struggling to my knees, I replied: "You can't kill me unless God allows it. Even so, you won't stop the Gospel. I will be cheering on others doing His work."

Thinking I was crazy, the man left me alone, and I continued sharing Bible stories until my release. Now, whenever I face trials, I see the cloud of witnesses who have gone before me, including my brother. Someday I will join them. Until then, I will remember Fadi's words and keep running my race.

Reading Between the Lines

Read the following excerpt from the "Along the Way" story and complete the activity below.

"Early one morning, my family boarded a bus with other Christians to attend services at a monastery. I claimed a window seat, and my older brother, Fadi, sat beside me. As the bus sped along the dusty road, I rested my head on his shoulder and drifted off to sleep."

Identify the Verbs

Underline or circle the verbs in each sentence.

1. My family boarded a bus with other Christians.
2. I claimed a window seat.
3. My older brother, Fadi, sat beside me.
4. I rested my head on his shoulder.
5. The bus sped along the dusty road.

Verb Conjugation

Complete the table.

Base Verb	Past Tense	Present Tense
board		
claim		
sit		
rest		
speed		

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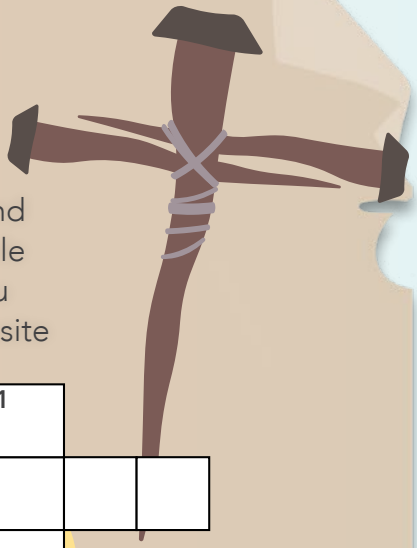
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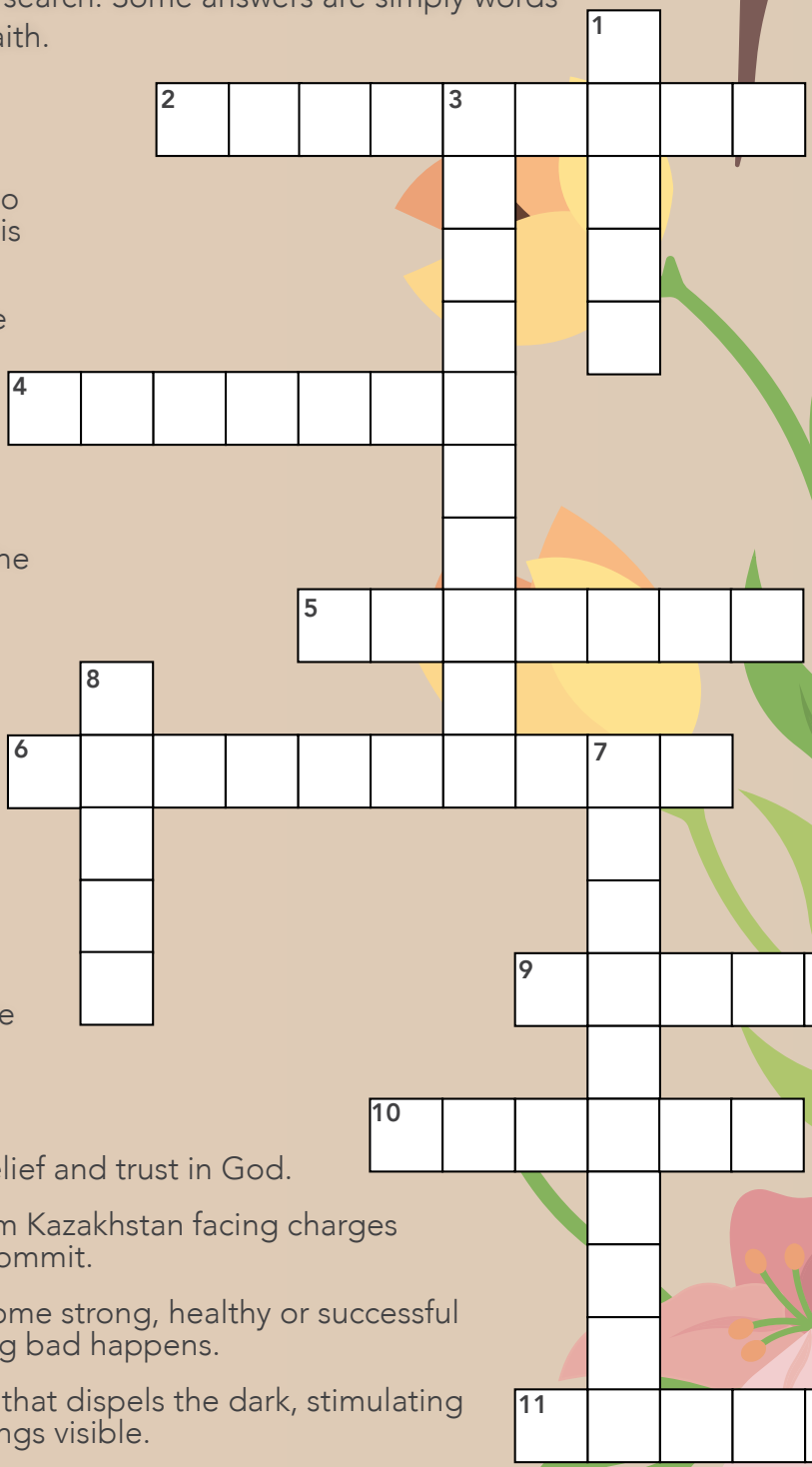
Complete the table.

Base Verb	Past Tense	Present Tense
board	boarded	boarding
claim	claimed	claiming
sit	sat	sitting
rest	rested	resting
speed	sped	speeding

Honour Quest



This month, we continue to remember those who have faithfully served and honoured the Lord, sacrificially giving up comforts to follow Jesus' example of loving people – even to the point of losing one's life. In this activity, you will be challenged to find the names of certain people by visiting our website (**vomcanada.com**) and doing a search. Some answers are simply words associated with heroes of the faith.



Across

2. Last name of the Romanian pastor and founder of VOM, who suffered 14 years in prison for his faith.

4. Courageous behaviour in the face of danger.

5. Imprisoned convert in Morocco, who was surprisingly released.

6. A person that travels into areas to evangelize and serve the community.

9. Nigerian pastor whose family was killed by extremists (also the name of a brave Bible character in Judges 6).

10. Colombian pastor whose family receives constant death threats.

11. Apostle who was present at the conception of the early church and was martyred upside down.

Down

1. To have loyalty, belief and trust in God.

3. Retired pastor from Kazakhstan facing charges of crimes he didn't commit.

7. The ability to become strong, healthy or successful again after something bad happens.

8. The natural agent that dispels the dark, stimulating sight and making things visible.

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Weigh In

Weighing the facts about martyrs

1. The word "martyr" comes from the Greek word *martyras*, meaning "witness" or "testimony." A martyr sacrifices their life or well-being for their beliefs.

2. Courage is strength in the face of pain or grief. Many Christians show daily courage as they stay faithful despite hardship and persecution.

3. St. Symeon, a fourth-century Christian bishop, refused to renounce his faith or reveal fellow Christians to Persian authorities. Executed because of this, he remains an example of faithful courage.

4. In 19th-century India, Nokseng boldly chose Jesus despite deadly threats to him and his family. Refusing to deny his faith, he became a hero of courageous devotion.

Corresponding Question Points:

1. Before Jesus' ascension, He told His followers that the Holy Spirit would give them power to be His witnesses everywhere (Acts 1:8). Since "martyr" originally meant "witness," what does this teach us about who we should rely on when facing opposition?

2. It is said that the Bible contains 365 "fear not" reminders – one for every day of the year. Throughout Scripture, God frequently urges us not to fear, often adding, "*for I am with you.*" When fear creeps in, how might remembering God's presence change the way you face each day?

3. St. Symeon faced death rather than deny his faith in Jesus. As many Christians today encounter daily pressures to renounce their faith, what sacrifices are you willing to make to stay true to yours?

4. As execution loomed, Nokseng unknowingly inspired the famous song, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" – a commitment to follow Christ no matter the cost. He stood firm, with "no turning back," and his witness led many in his village to choose Christ too. Following Jesus is a daily choice. How will you choose Jesus today?

One Way Remembering Martyrs

When you hear the word "martyr," you might picture someone being tortured or killed for their faith. But the word actually means something much bigger – it means **being a witness to the truth**. Martyrdom isn't just about dramatic moments in history; it's about ordinary people choosing to stand up for Jesus every day, even when it's difficult. The Bible reminds us that nothing can separate us from God's love, and Jesus invites us to follow Him with our whole hearts. Being a martyr starts by living your faith boldly, honestly and faithfully in everyday life – no matter what challenges may arise.

There are three ways this shows up:

- Green martyrdom – choosing Jesus daily, even when it's hard.
- White martyrdom – stepping back from distractions to focus on God.
- Red martyrdom – giving your physical life for Jesus.

Green martyrdom is like training for a sport you love. You don't win because of one big moment – you succeed by:

- Showing up every day.
- Pushing yourself when it's hard.
- Making choices others might not.

It's not flashy, but it builds strength over time.

White martyrdom is like putting your phone on airplane mode. You're still there, but you're not available to everything.

- No notifications.
- No distractions.
- Just intentional focus.

White martyrdom is putting your life in "God mode" so you can hear Him more clearly.

Red martyrdom is like a soldier who gives their life to protect others, holding the line for something greater than themselves.

- Not because they have to.
- But because they believe it matters.

Red martyrdom is choosing faithfulness to Jesus, no matter the cost.



Perspective Pyramid

Perspective can shape how we view ourselves, others and the world around us. As we take time to remember the many believers who continue to stand firm in their faith despite opposition, it is crucial to also remember that they are never alone. God is a very present help in times of trouble.

In this activity, we will create "Perspective Pyramids," a special visual reminder to help us pray for Christians who are facing persecution around the world. As you look at each prison door in the design, think about the real people they represent – people who are imprisoned because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Let this activity help you remember their courage and remind you to pray for them.

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, the founder of VOM, was imprisoned several times because of his faith. Even during those difficult experiences, he chose to focus on bringing glory to God, allowing Him to use those hardships for good.

Pastor Wurmbrand's perspective reminds us that God can work through even the toughest situations.





To find the above image, access assembly instructions, and to watch a video of a completed pyramid, scan the QR code or visit: **vomcanada.com/TableTalksPyramid**

Perspective Pyramid



Instructions

1. Print colouring page.

2. Add creativity (colour, shade, etc.)

3. Cut out the pyramid. Ensure that you cut only on the indicated dotted lines.

4. Fold on the indicated dotted lines; fold on the small side of each section (the pyramid should start to take shape).

5. Add glue (using a glue stick) to the folded flaps.

6. Assemble the pyramid by adhering the folded, glued flap to the adjacent flap.









Scroll down below for the full-size colouring page.


FOLD
FOLD
FOLD
FOLD

DIY Photo Coasters

What You'll Need

- Small foam paint brushes
- Ceramic tiles (inexpensively found at a local building supply)
- Mod Podge
- 4 × 4 Coaster print outs
- Waterproof acrylic sealer spray (Note: if you are using different brands of products, the results may vary.)
- White acrylic craft paint
- Felt, fleece or cork scraps for backing, plus hot glue to attach the backing



Instructions

1. Paint the rough, unfinished sides of the coasters. Once the tile has dried, grab your photos.

2. Trim each photo into a square shape to fit your tile.

3. Apply Mod Podge to backside of trimmed photo. Then place photo on tile and press down. Allow to dry completely.

4. Once dry, apply a layer of Mod Podge to the top of the photo. Use even left-to-right strokes. (As always with Mod Podge, lines will show.)

5. Allow to dry completely. Repeat with two more layers of Mod Podge (allowing each layer to dry completely before applying the next).

6. Apply acrylic sealer spray to front side of coaster. Apply one to three layers of spray, allowing it to dry. This step, depending on your choice of product, creates a smooth surface finish.

7. Cut felt of your choice and glue to the back of the coaster. This step is important to prevent wooded or glass surfaces from being scratched by the tile.

Find the coaster design below!


Richard Wurmbrand
Sabina Wurmbrand
Polycarp of Smyrna
Perpetua
Stephen
Phillip
Ignatius
Antioch
William
Swindoll
Felipe Manz
Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Lampertus Thorn
Johann Eck
Dirk Willems
Valentinus
Jim Elliott
Mohammed Saeed
Watchman Nee
Martin Ray Burnham
John Oldcastle
Jan Hus
Batholomew
Michael Sattler
George Blaurock
Francisco Montoya
Bonnie Witherall
Pastor Gideon Per
Arthur
Gayle
Chad Gatt