



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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"Then Jesus told His disciples, 'If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'"

~ Matthew 16:24-25 ESV

INDIA: Pastors Charged Due to Anti-Conversion Laws

Sources: UCA News, International Christian Concern

Seven pastors were arrested on October 10th in the Mau district of Uttar Pradesh, India. They were accused of violating the state's anti-conversion legislation, and subsequently charged with "illegal assembly."

The pastors had gathered together for a prayer meeting when they were detained. Fifty other Christians were also detained at the time but later released, including two Catholic nuns who were merely waiting at a nearby bus stop and had no connection with the gathering. At last report, the pastors remained in custody, but their lawyer was working on obtaining bail.

Anti-conversion laws have been widely abused throughout India. Hindu nationalists frequently accuse Christians to justify harassment. In the words of one pastor: "Police officials often don't bother to record our complaints. This further emboldens our attackers and we have to bear the brunt." More information on the persecution of Christians in India has been made available at www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

Continue to prayerfully uphold the many followers of Christ in India who are experiencing ongoing harassment for their faith. Specifically pray that these charged pastors will be exonerated, further strengthened and emboldened to continue in ministry. May they be a testimony of God's love and grace to their captors and many others in their community who are in need of eternal salvation.

UGANDA: Two Arrests Relating to Case of Slain Pastor

Source: Morning Star News

Two men in eastern Uganda have been charged after the September 12th murder of an evangelist, Pastor Barnabas Musana. According to another pastor from a nearby village, some of the militant Muslims in the area were upset because Pastor Barnabas had been holding evangelistic events and public debates about Christianity and Islam. In February 2020, he had been whisked away by church members after boldly stating that Jesus was the Son of God, and thus greater than Muhammad.

Pastor Barnabas was the pastor of churches in two villages. His ministry had become increasingly involved with the training of other evangelists who visited homes and led various villagers to faith in Christ, which further angered militants in both Namakoko B village and the village of Namwenda. To supplement his meagre income, the industrious pastor started a small fishing business, selling his catch through a local businesswoman.

On the morning of September 12th, when Pastor Barnabas went fishing at a nearby river, he was followed by two men. When he did not return, family and neighbours began searching for him. They found his slain body caught in plants along the riverbank. Two men, Faluku Gaju and Kowa Mugooda, who were known to harass and threaten Pastor Barnabas, have been arrested and charged with his killing. The loss of this pastor's life is especially difficult for his widowed wife and their three young children. Additional reports outlining the large number of recent attacks against Christians in Uganda can be reviewed at www.vomcanada.com/uganda.htm.

Please remember Pastor Barnabas' wife and their young children as they come to terms with their huge loss and the resulting changes they now must face. May they experience the comforting presence of Christ as He lovingly gathers them to Himself. Pray that those angered by the message of the Gospel will come to personally experience the love, peace and joy that can only be attained by acknowledging Jesus Christ, the Son of our Creator God, as their Saviour and Lord (John 3:16).

PRAISE REPORT

CHINA: Evangelist Released for the Sixth Time This Year

Source: ChinaAid

Chen Wensheng has gained a reputation as a "Gospel Warrior" for his evangelistic work. After this former drug addict came to faith in Christ, he zealously desired to spread the wonderful news of the miraculous freedom he had experienced. Following examples of the disciples in the Bible, he travelled to many towns and cities preaching the Gospel and holding crosses with thought-provoking slogans such as "Glorious Saviour," "Repent," "Believe" and "Saved."

As a result of his ongoing efforts, Chen became well known to Chinese Communist Party officials. In June, the enthusiastic evangelist was approached by a national security agent who confronted Chen about his proclamation of the Gospel to more than 1,000 people. The agent then showed him a news report from a foreign organization about his evangelistic work. Convinced that there was a support team behind Chen, the agent further questioned him. In response, the Christian worker quoted the words of Luke 21:15: "...for I (the Lord) will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict."

So far, throughout 2021, Chen has been detained six times. On September 26th, officers took him to the police station to prevent him from attending a Sunday service. They hoped he would give up spreading the Gospel, but instead he shared the message with the officers. As a result, he was detained for a duration of 15 days. Upon his release on October 11th, he posted the following social media message: "Hallelujah! Thank You, God, for Your grace and presence. Thank you (friends) for your prayers.... Now I can go out to spread the Gospel again."

Praise God for Chen's dedicated ministry service and his heart of compassion towards the spiritually lost, as he willingly risks his life and freedom in order to reach others with the "Good News" of Jesus Christ. In addition to thanking the Lord that Chen has been freed again, please pray that this servant's impassioned outreach, heart of love for others, and other characteristics of the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23), will continue to serve as a strong witness of God's life-transforming power.

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