



THE VOICE OF THE MARTYRS
DIE STEM VAN DIE MARTELARE

August 2023

THE SEEDS OF THE CHURCH

COFFEE FARM
MURDERS

A POWERLESS
CURSE

NO. 2 MOST-
WANTED



"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them." Heb 13:3

THE SEEDS of the church

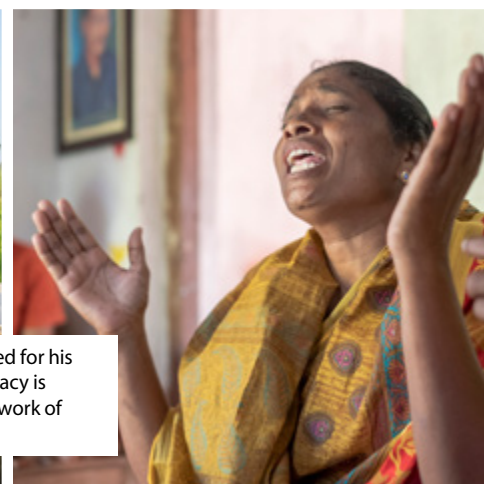
About the cover: Since the murder of her husband, Kamla Yalam has found comfort in prayer. She is committed to continue praying for the churches her husband planted in central India.



KALEMAGO, INDONESIA • When Islamic militants tried to crush the faith of local Christians through a violent attack, the survivors instead chose trust and forgiveness.



PASTOR SHANKAR YALAM • Targeted for his bold evangelism, Shankar Yalam's legacy is bearing fruit in his family and in a network of growing churches in India.



ABDULLAHI • After Abdullahi became a follower of Christ, his brother, who practiced witchcraft, attacked him and threatened his wife and children who fled from Nigeria to Niger for safety.

A man with short dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and khaki cargo pants, stands in profile facing right. He is in a grassy field with rolling hills and mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. The title 'From Fear to FORGIVENESS' is overlaid on the top left, with 'FORGIVENESS' in large orange letters.

From Fear to FORGIVENESS

When Islamists killed four coffee farmers, the survivors found forgiveness and healing through faith and the global body of Christ.

After packing his lunch for the day, Kila walked through Kalemago village, heading for the eastern slope of Mount Puhu. The bright morning promised good weather for the coffee harvest.

Kila had at first been reluctant to work on the farm harvesting coffee and cocoa beans. It was located practically at the doorstep of a secret base of the East Indonesian Mujahideen (MIT), the first Indonesian extremist group to swear allegiance to the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS).

Less than a year earlier, Kila and a friend had been abducted and held hostage by MIT militants, one of whom Kila recognized as a man called Qatar, who was notorious for beheading his victims. Upon learning that Kila was a Christian, the militants had repeatedly told him to renounce his faith and join their cause. Although Kila had been certain he would die that day, the Islamists eventually released him and his friend.

Within a week of Kila's abduction, two other Christian farmers were abducted, and this time one of them was killed. The militants also beheaded a retired military officer — also a Christian — in an unrelated incident. Then, in November 2020, a Christian family in a neighbouring district was brutally murdered and several house-churches and prayer chapels were burned.

Kila had good reason to stay near the village with his elderly father and avoid the hillside farm, but on the morning of May 11, 2021, he joined many other Kalemago farmers who were taking advantage of the nice weather to work in their fields.

On the way to his coffee farm, Kila stopped to chat with his neighbours Marten Solon and Marten's brother-in-law, Simson Susa, who were already at work in their fields. Simson, who usually lived with the Solon family, had been staying on the farm recently because he had been sick and couldn't hike up the hillside every day.

◀ Having been kidnapped once before, Kila knew that being captured a second time by East Indonesian Mujahideen militants would mean almost certain death.



Marten had joined Simson a few days earlier to check on him and keep him company. Like most farmers in the area, they had a small hut on their land where they could store supplies, rest and take cover from rain. The farmers often keep food and bedding in the huts so they can stay on the farms during harvest season instead of trekking back and forth.

Kila continued on his way, but shortly after passing Marten Solon's farm he saw something that stopped him in his tracks. Just ahead of him, five MIT militants were setting up a roadblock, and one of them was the man known as Qatar. When they waved for Kila to walk toward them, fear gripped his heart as he remembered his previous abduction. Feeling certain that he would not survive a second encounter, he dove into the bush beside the road and fled across the coffee fields toward the forest.

Kila spotted Marten in the distance and ran toward him. "Terrorists are coming!" he called. "Hurry and run!"

"I have to get Simson first," Marten replied, heading for the hut. "Then I'll save myself."

Kila continued to run for more than an hour, avoiding the main road and trying to take the safest route back to the village. When he came upon another Kalemago farmer, he warned him of the terrorists, and that man ran too. "I kept praying to God in my heart to save my life," Kila said.

When Kila arrived in Kalemago, he alerted other villagers and borrowed a friend's motorbike. He first rode to the army security post, but no one was there. Continuing on in search of help, his concern mounted for friends and neighbours in the path of the militants. When he finally reached a police station, they contacted the military, who rushed toward Kalemago.

By then, however, the worst had already occurred.

The Shadow of Death

Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world, totaling more than 220 million people, but the highlands of Central Sulawesi are home to many Christians. In Kalemago, for example, all but three of the approximately 200 families are Christian.

South Sulawesi, however, is the birthplace of a particular brand of Islamic radicalism that seeks to make Indonesia an Islamic state under Sharia (Islamic law). This radicalized ideology has spread into Central Sulawesi, creating a network of Islamic hardliners who sympathize with efforts to eradicate Christianity on the island. The Islamist network helped ensure that MIT was able to hide and survive in an otherwise Christian area, despite government efforts to capture them. Authorities believe the Islamist sympathizers

supplied MIT with weapons and intelligence to aid them in their terrorist activities.

Even before the series of kidnappings and murders MIT committed in 2020, it had been rumored in Kalemago that MIT was on the move. They had come directly into the village only a few times previously, demanding food and then slipping away before security forces could arrive. But the recent rumors had unnerved Dewi, the oldest of Marten and Maria Solon's five children.

"I had told my father to stop going to his field ...," Dewi said, "because I was afraid that he would meet MIT terrorists. But he just said he would have a talk with the terrorists if they ever met."

Simson, Dewi's uncle, had not come down from his field for a while, so Marten decided to make sure he was all right. On May 11, five days after Marten had left to check on Simson, Dewi awoke with a sense of foreboding. "I was a bit worried," Dewi said. "I wanted to pick him up right away by car with my husband." Dewi and her husband had to attend a service that day for a church member who had died suddenly, but they planned to drive out to the fields when it was over.

After the service, a neighbour asked Dewi if her father had returned from the fields yet. Then, a short time later, another neighbour told her that someone had reported a murder in the fields. "My brothers went out to the fields accompanied by several police officers," Dewi said. "They found my father's dead body, which had been beheaded, inside his hut."

Traumatized by their father's brutal murder, the boys' first thought was to hunt down the killers themselves. But they ultimately decided to go home and console their family instead of seeking revenge.

"In the end, all we could do was surrender the circumstances to God," Dewi said.

Marten's death was not the only one they were left to mourn. Their uncle Simson's body was recovered in his hut, and two other men from their village — Lukas Lese and Paulus Papa — were also found dead. Their huts had been emptied of all their supplies, and a motorbike lay burned and smoldering near one of the victims.

The families and friends of those killed were overcome with fear and grief as government soldiers began searching for the militants in the densely forested central highlands.

Healing and a Stronger Faith

Kila willingly stayed in police custody for a few days following the murders. "Besides questioning me about the incident," he said, "they were also worried that MIT terrorists would hunt me down and kill me because I am a living witness. It was what MIT hates the most."

For months after the attack, Kila suffered from crippling



fear. He couldn't eat, sleep or work, and he also developed health problems. "I no longer dared to go to my farm," he said. "I was horrified by the memory about how those victims were massacred."

Kila went to live with a sister while recovering from the trauma. Front-Line Workers provided him with food for several months, and he received further comfort and support from his local church family as well as the global body of Christ. The panic attacks and health problems he suffered after the attack have gradually decreased, and he looks forward to returning home to his father in Kalemago.

"I feel grateful to God for being able to live on," he said. "I know God still had a plan for my life."

Within 18 months of the attack, all of the known members of MIT were either killed or arrested and imprisoned. While Kila was satisfied that earthly justice had been served, he understood that forgiving his attackers was far more important for him.

"I have long ago forgiven them," he

said, "because in one sense they didn't really know what to do. The eyes of their hearts were blinded by teachings that justify killing for the sake of a religion."

Marten Solon's family has likewise undergone a long process of healing. With Marten gone, the family has had to make many adjustments. His wife, Maria, works as a labourer on other farmers' fields and tends another field provided by Front-Line Workers. The field was selected because of its proximity to the village; returning to the farm where the murders occurred would be too painful.

The Solons' youngest son, Antoni, suffered guilt and regret because he argued with his father days before the murder. He had been skipping church to spend time with friends, and his father admonished him not to forsake his faith to follow a wrong path.

"After he was gone," Antoni said, "I realized how meaningful his wisdom was in my life. Now I realize that my life depends completely on God. My father died, but I have a Father in heaven who loves me."

▲ With the help of Front-Line Workers, Maria Solon (shown with her sons Derianto on the left and Antoni in the middle) has returned to farming since the murder of her husband, Marten.

Antoni moved to South Sulawesi after the attack to live with an aunt and help take care of her strawberry fields. He now serves as a leader of worship and prayer, and he hopes to one day become a pastor. He said his experience of suffering has prepared him for a life of Christian service.

"The Lord Jesus himself was persecuted to death on the cross, so we His disciples will surely experience the same thing," Antoni said.

When asked if fear of persecution could ever keep them from hiding their faith, Antoni's sister Dewi said, "There has never been a doubt in our hearts about that. We will remain followers of Christ no matter what happens.

"God has already strengthened and helped us," she continued. "We believe that God will surely help us if persecution comes again." ■



LEAVING the Place of Hatred

Forced to flee Nigeria after her husband's murder, a Christian widow returned to neighbouring Niger determined to raise her children according to God's Word.

When Rahila's husband, Abdullahi, became a Christian, his enraged brother, who practiced witchcraft, took action to stop him.

In December 2009, Rahila and her husband, Abdullahi, moved their family of eight nearly 500 miles to the south, from Niger to Nigeria. Abdullahi's father had lived in Kaduna state, Nigeria, until his recent death, and Abdullahi wanted to continue working his father's land.

"Because I grew up in Niger, moving from here to Nigeria was difficult," Rahila said. "I did it because this man was my husband and we have children, so there is no problem."

When Abdullahi's older brother, Umaru, learned of Abdullahi's return to Nigeria, he came to visit his brother. But their reunion was not a happy one; Umaru grew angry when he learned that Abdullahi and his family had become Christians. As a Muslim, Umaru couldn't tolerate his younger brother attending church five days a week.

"His older brother would go out

anytime we went to church and start insulting the whole family because we were going to Jesus," Rahila recalled.

Umaru's hatred toward his Christian brother continued to simmer over the next 10 years.

Living in Fear

Abdullahi and Rahila felt increasingly unsafe around Umaru, who visited the farm often. Rahila found his practice of folk Islam mixed with witchcraft especially unsettling — Umaru believed he could call on spirits to curse others with sickness or even death. "I discovered this man had no fear of God in him," Rahila said, "and somebody like that might do anything."

Abdullahi had once followed the same syncretic folk Islam practiced by his brother. But after leaving Nigeria to work in Niger, he heard the Gospel and started going to church, where he met Rahila.

As Abdullahi and his family continued

to attend church in Nigeria, Umaru's insults and curses grew more troubling. One day, Umaru wrote down some verses from the Quran that called for Allah's judgment and then buried the pieces of paper in the ground, intending to curse the land that Abdullahi was farming.

When nothing happened, Umaru challenged his brother's legal claim to their father's land because of Abdullahi's Christian faith. And when Umaru subsequently learned that Abdullahi had spoken with local authorities about his right to the land, he told his younger brother that he would kill him for trying to take what belonged to him.

One evening in September 2019, on the night before the brothers were scheduled to hear a judgment on the land rights, Abdullahi and his family were gathered around a fire on the farm. At about 8pm, Umaru walked up to the fire and pulled a small pouch from his

“He ... believed in the Word of God and was always reading and encouraging the children and me to read more and to pray more.”

pocket. He then took a pinch of powder from the pouch, threw it into the fire and immediately backed away.

Still standing by the flames, Abdullahi inhaled a puff of smoke caused by the powder and suddenly collapsed to the ground. Then Umaru pulled out another pouch, thought to have been an antidote to the poisonous powder he had just used, and looked at his brother as he struggled to breathe.

“You know what happened to you,” Umaru told Abdullahi. “I can raise you up.”

Instead of requesting his brother’s help, however, Abdullahi said, “I forgive all that you have done.”

Fearing for Abdullahi’s life, Rahila and her children knelt beside him and prayed. Rahila then pleaded with Umaru to save her husband’s life. But instead of helping his brother, Umaru challenged Rahila to heal him herself. “If you are able to raise him up, go and raise him up,” he told her.

Rahila ran through the village, frantically asking people to help her take her husband to the hospital. When she returned, Umaru said, “Nobody should come; he is already dead. Nothing can help.”

As Rahila and her children stood near Abdullahi’s body, crying and overcome by grief, Umaru made one last threat. “You see, the body of the tree has died,” he said. “Next, I will cut the branches one after one.”

Returning Home

Fearing that Umaru would come after her children, Rahila sought a way to escape. After telling her story to a Christian woman from Niger who was in Nigeria on business, the woman paid to have a taxi take Rahila and her children back to Niger.



Umaru was never charged with murder, and no one in the village seemed to care that Abdullahi had died. In her suffering and loss, Rahila decided to turn everything over to God. “I forgave Umaru before I left,” she said.

Rahila now lives with her father and his wife, whom he married after the death of Rahila’s mother. Rahila and her children have received help not only from Rahila’s father but also from neighbours and her local church family.

In addition, Front-Line Workers are helping Rahila with living expenses, her children’s school fees and vocational training. “It is really by the grace of God,” Rahila said of the support she has received.

Rahila remembers Abdullahi as a loving father who gave everything he had to his children. She said that whenever they faced challenges in life,

▲ The global body of Christ has supported Rahila and her children with living expenses, her children’s school fees and vocational training to help her provide for her family.

he told them to take heart and trust that God was still in control.

“He was somebody who believed in the Word of God and was always reading and encouraging the children and me to read more and to pray more,” she recalled.

Today, Rahila continues to share her love for God’s Word with her children. “People should keep on praying for the faith of these children and myself,” she said, “so that we can keep on growing in the faith.” ■

SEEDS of HOPE

How a pastor's death became a catalyst for church growth and bold faith in central India.

Shankar Yalam loved working the soil. Wherever he travelled as a pastor and evangelist, he would look for new seeds or plants to bring back to his well-tended garden. He relished finding unusual plant varieties and welcomed the challenge of coaxing them to take root and grow.

Planting and growing was a life theme for Pastor Shankar, who chose for himself the name "Timothy" after becoming a Christian. Like his namesake, he worked tirelessly to teach others about Christ, encourage them in their faith and help meet their needs.

"He had a great heart for



▲ Kamla remembers Shankar not only as a devoted husband and father but also as a man committed to God's Word and the growth of the church.



the oppressed and persecuted,” his wife, Kamla, said.

While his care for other Christians and service to his community in central India won him admiration and respect from many, it also made him a target of those opposed to the Christian faith — including Hindu nationalists, Maoist insurgents known as Naxalites and local tribal groups who worship nature spirits. Threats were common, but Shankar steadfastly continued to share the Gospel and lead churches throughout the area.

Called into Ministry

Shankar grew up as a Hindu and earned his living in agriculture, alternating between working his own fields and travelling to do seasonal work in other areas. In 2002, he began to experience severe stomach pain and unsuccessfully sought relief through visits to many doctors. Finally, a neighbour mentioned that people had been healed after receiving prayer from a Christian pastor in a nearby village. Shankar and Kamla decided to visit the pastor, figuring they had nothing to lose.

After the pastor prayed for him, Shankar’s pain subsided and the young couple returned home. Shankar then went back to his work in the fields, and he and Kamla soon left for seasonal work in another state. Although Shankar had experienced relief from his pain, he did not choose to become a Christian.

Instead, he began drinking heavily and spending all his earnings on alcohol and gambling. After a few months of this behaviour, his stomach pain returned. Remembering the relief he had experienced through the pastor’s prayer, he and Kamla began asking coworkers where they might find a Christian pastor. When they were told about a church in another town, they went there that night to see the pastor.

Noticing that Shankar was still intoxicated, the pastor refused to pray with him at the time. But seeing that Shankar was in great pain and that Kamla

was in deep distress, he brought them a mat and invited them to rest in the church until morning. Around 4am, he returned to speak with Kamla.

“Do you want your husband to be really healed?” the pastor asked. “You ought to make a commitment to follow Jesus.”

When Shankar awoke, the pastor and his assistant prayed with the couple, and Shankar’s pain was completely gone by sunrise. This time, after the pastor shared the Gospel with them, both Shankar and Kamla placed their faith in Christ.

“From that moment,” Kamla said, “we both decided to serve Jesus and started evangelizing in different villages.” Within months, the couple had started house-churches in several locations, and Shankar almost immediately faced opposition. Local Hindu leaders confronted him, urging Shankar to stop his evangelism and convert back to Hinduism. Naxalite guerrillas, angry that his evangelism was robbing them of followers, also opposed him. In one incident, villagers tore Shankar’s Bible from his hands and burned it, threatening him with the same treatment if he didn’t stop his work.

Then, one night, Shankar had a dream that someone handed him a piece of paper with a passage from Isaiah 41 written on it. He read the passage in his Bible the next morning, but as a new Christian he was puzzled by the dream and meaning of the Scripture. When he eventually shared it with the pastor who had led him to Christ, the man encouraged him to see the dream

as a calling to ministry. He reminded Shankar, however, that persecution comes with being a faithful follower of Christ. Accepting the risk, Shankar decided to seek formal training to become an ordained pastor.

Faithful, Fruitful, Fearless

Shankar loved his ministry work. He rode a bicycle to many villages — often more than 16km each way — to preach and teach, establishing and nurturing a large network of house-churches. Having learned early the cost of following Christ, he diligently taught the members of these churches about persecution. He urged them to stand firm and remain faithful witnesses for Christ in their villages.

“Shankar dedicated his life for the work of the ministry,” Kamla said. “He was a good student of the Scripture and had a disciplined Bible study life. He used to try to meet with other pastors whenever he would travel and try to learn more about the Word of God from them.”

Shankar also had a reputation for defending Christians facing persecution. “He was outspoken for the rights of the Christian community,” Kamla said. “He would educate other pastors about this and encourage them to continue ministry without fear.”

Recounting how his father helped Christians in times of trouble, Shankar’s older son, Gopal, said he frequently visited police about Christian persecution. In November 2021, this

► Training for Naxalite guerrillas includes Marxist indoctrination. Though Hindu nationalist groups oppose the Naxalite cause, they encourage Naxalites to persecute Christians because it serves their goal of creating a purely Hindu state.



"I could go anywhere and live a good and safe life, but by doing so no one will remember us like they will remember my father."

advocacy work led to a series of meetings before the local village council. Hindu nationalists and tribal leaders demanded that local Christians return to their first religion.

Shankar defended the Christians' right to choose their own faith. And after he answered the demands of villagers for hours, the challengers eventually abandoned their efforts.

Gopal believes those who led the opposition are the ones who later plotted his father's murder. "These Hindu leaders gave wrong information about my father, claiming he was a police informant and a spy," he said. "They said he was collecting information about the activities of the Naxalite group and turning villagers against them."

The Naxalites, who have lost influence in much of India, still have a strong presence in the state where Shankar planted churches. They routinely terrorize poor communities to ensure support of the Naxalite cause, and they suppress opposition with violence, often targeting Christian pastors. Even Hindu nationalist groups, who are opposed to the Naxalite cause, encourage the Naxalites' persecution of Christians to serve their own goal of creating a purely Hindu culture in India.

In early 2022, a leaflet appeared in the village, nailed to fence posts and littering the roadside. It named 22 Christians who were on the Naxalites' "Most-Wanted" list, and Shankar Yalam was No. 2.

Being one of the Naxalites' most-wanted didn't keep Shankar from his work, however. He told his family and his congregation that he expected one day to be attacked because of his commitment to Gospel ministry. But he also told them about the hope he had in Christ.

"He always said that we are Christ's witnesses, and the day we are

persecuted we will become stronger witnesses," Kamla said. "He said people around us will know why we are persecuted, and this may cause people to search for Jesus."

With the Hindu Holi festival approaching, the conspirators saw their opportunity. To ensure that Shankar's neighbours wouldn't be around to witness an attack, they moved the pre-Holi festival of Holika Dahan to a location away from the village. Holika Dahan involves loud music, dancing and the burning of demonic images to celebrate the victory of good over evil.

On 17 March 2022, while eating dinner



with his family, Shankar heard someone calling loudly from the open gate in front of the family home. As he walked toward the gate, with his daughter-in-law following behind, six masked men entered the courtyard shouting insults against his Christian faith. They struck Shankar in the face, bound his arms behind his back and forced him to kneel.

After one attacker slashed him across the back of the neck with a knife, another fired two shots into his chest with a handgun. The masked men then began to run away, but one attacker returned a minute later and stabbed the prostrate pastor in the heart. Forced at gunpoint to watch the traumatic scene, Shankar's daughter-in-law fainted. Kamla rushed out of the house and held

her husband's head on her lap as he whispered a final prayer.

The attack was over in minutes, taking the life of a beloved husband, father, grandfather and pastor.

Growing in Grace

The next day, local Christians turned out en masse to pay their respects to Pastor Shankar. More than a thousand people attended the burial, joining boldly in public worship and prayer. Amid her deep grief, Kamla gave testimony about the power of staying committed to Christ in the face of suffering.

"As Believers, we all have to carry a cross," she said, "but after some time, we will see because of carrying this cross that many people will come to know Jesus and worship Him." She said Hebrews 10:39 — "But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." — has sustained her through this difficult year.

While Shankar's family still mourns and his daughter-in-law continues to recover from

witnessing his murder, the testimony of his life inspires them in faith and in their ability to forgive.

Shankar's younger son, Pawan, had already decided to pursue law studies because of his father's commitment to justice, and now his father's teaching about forgiveness is giving him strength to forgive the murderers. Pawan's older brother, Gopal, has sensed God's call to take up his father's work and continue proclaiming the Gospel and growing the church.

"I had an average Christian life," Gopal said, "but after the death of my father, my relationship with God has become more intimate. I feel more the presence of God in my personal life."

Gopal considered moving the family



◀ Top: Shankar's wife and children continue to follow in his footsteps. His son Gopal (blue shirt) is leading the local church, while Pawan (standing) pursues a law degree. Bottom: Described by his wife as "a student of the Scripture," Shankar kept a journal with his Bible reading notes.

to a safer area, but the loving care his father had taken in planting churches ultimately persuaded him to stay. "I could go anywhere and live a good and safe life," he said, "but by doing so no one will remember us like they will remember my father. If I remain here in such a challenging place, I will be able to bring many more into the kingdom, and when I am gone from this world, I will have a legacy like that of my father."

Front-Line Workers helped provide the family with food for several months and continue to minister to their spiritual and emotional needs. The outpouring of love the family has received from both the local and global body of Christ has served not only as an encouragement to the family but also as a testimony to the community around them. "The Lord's continued provision gives the family fresh hope," Kamla said.

The congregations that Pastor Shankar led have remained united and have

grown since his murder. And Kamla longs for all nearby villagers to hear the Gospel and experience its transforming power. She asks for prayer that the churches her husband planted and nurtured will continue to grow and will not respond in

fear if they suffer severe persecution.

"Do not turn back when you must face persecution," she said. "During the time of persecution, you will be very close to God. Persecution and opposition may come in many forms, but never turn from Jesus." ■



Dear heavenly Father,

I praise You as our all-knowing God. You miss nothing, and all things matter to You, especially the death of Your saints and the lives of those they leave behind.

Lord, we lift up the surviving spouses of martyrs. May they experience Your presence through the companionship of the Holy Spirit.

Father, we lift up the children of martyrs. May they hold no bitterness toward You or others for the loss of their parents, and may they grow into mature disciples.

Almighty God, we lift up the disciples of martyrs. May they continue to gather for worship and share Your Good News without fear.

May the lives of martyrs, who paid the ultimate price for following You, inspire us to live in fearless faith as Your obedient witnesses!

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer Diary

August/September 2023

AUGUST

S	13	SAUDI ARABIA	Pray that Christians who feel isolated will be encouraged in their walk with Christ.
M	14	NIGER	Pray for the protection of Believers living in areas where Islamists often attack Christians.
T	15	TUNISIA	Pray for local evangelists who are following up on social media contacts.
W	16	LIBYA	Pray that the Gospel will advance despite an unstable political situation.
T	17	YEMEN	Pray that discipleship training courses will effectively develop new leaders.
F	18	TAJIKISTAN	Pray that Christians meeting for worship will be undetected by potential persecutors.
S	19	EGYPT	Pray for emerging leaders attending a summer apologetics school.
S	20	MAURITANIA	Pray that Believers will boldly gather for worship, fellowship and discipleship.
M	21	MALDIVES	Pray for creative approaches to ministry in this hard-to-reach country.
T	22	INDONESIA	Pray for the courage of Christians who have seen other Believers killed.
W	23	PAKISTAN	Pray for the bold witness of Shakeel, who came to faith in Christ after reading the Bible.
T	24	CUBA	Pray that pastors who are detained for questioning will convey boldness, love and truth.
F	25	UGANDA	Pray for Christians confronted with encroaching Islamization.
S	26	ISRAEL	Pray that residents of Jerusalem will seek the Prince of Peace.
S	27	AFGHANISTAN	Pray for creative means of providing Christian resources to Afghan Believers.
M	28	ETHIOPIA	Pray that the 20,000 kids who will receive their first children's Bible this year will encounter Christ.
T	29	KYRGYZSTAN	Pray for more Bible distributions to those who have no access to God's Word.
W	30	IRAN	Pray for Abid, an Afghan refugee in Iran who is curious about God's Word.
T	31	MEXICO	Pray for the protection of new Believers when they gather for fellowship and worship.

SEPTEMBER

F	1	CAMEROON	Pray for the success of Bible translation work so that all will have access to God's Word.
S	2	BRUNEI	Pray for the bold witness of Malay Christians in Brunei.
S	3	UZBEKISTAN	Pray that more teaching resources will reach the growing number of Christians.
M	4	UGANDA	Pray that those working with Christian converts from Islam will receive pastoral training.
T	5	BAHRAIN	Pray that Bahrainis will receive their own copy of the Bible.
W	6	CHINA	Pray for greater freedom of worship.
T	7	QATAR	Pray that those who hear the Gospel will seek to know more about God's saving grace.
F	8	ETHIOPIA	Pray for an end to the conflict between the government and minority groups.
S	9	MALDIVES	Pray that Christians will find new ways to share the Gospel despite severe restrictions.
S	10	MALI	Pray that Believers who lost jobs as a result of military coups will find new employment.
M	11	NEPAL	Pray that Christians will be living testaments of God's grace to their neighbours.
T	12	YEMEN	Pray that Yemeni Believers will be strengthened in faith.
W	13	KUWAIT	Praise God for new Believers.
T	14	SAUDI ARABIA	Pray that as Saudi Arabia becomes more open politically, it will open spiritually as well.
F	15	MYANMAR	Pray for the courage of Christians threatened with expulsion from their village.
S	16	BURKINA FASO	Pray that Pastor Albert will persevere in faith as Islamists take control in his area.

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