



THE

# VOICE

OF THE MARTYRS

October 2025

## CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN THE BIRTHPLACE OF VODOO

SAVED BY A  
GREATER POWER

WIDOWED BY  
VOODOOISTS



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





Amadine endured 20 years of mistreatment from her voodooist husband because she would not give up her Christian faith.



## Dear heavenly Father,

*We pray for our brothers and sisters in Benin as they stand in faith against the devil's schemes. Equip them, Lord, with Your full armour as they struggle against the rulers, authorities and powers of this world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms that manifest themselves in voodooism.*

*We praise You that Amadine has remained faithful to you amid overwhelming pressure and suffering. Thank you for her example of courage and perseverance.*

*Lord, we pray that these and other Christians in Benin will continue to stand firm in Your truth, with the righteousness of Christ to guard their hearts and with a readiness to make Your Gospel known.*

*May their testimonies inspire us to be alert and prayerful, so that we are ready to make known the mystery of the Gospel at any cost.*

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**



# Deliver Us from the Evil One

As followers of Christ, we are all familiar with how our Lord has taught us to pray. “After this manner therefore pray ye” He says, before explaining that we are to address God as “Our Father,” give Him praise and then make six requests (Matthew 6:9-13). Given such a short list of requests, they are clearly the most important things about which we should pray. Yet it is easy for us to overlook the significance of — or even to understand — the sixth request, “deliver us from evil.” In our material- and technology-focused culture, we can become blind to the spiritual realities at work in our lives. Two such realities evident in the Lord’s Prayer are our dependence upon God for provision (“give us this day our daily bread”) and our need for His protection (“deliver us from evil”).

As we pray for deliverance from evil, we must ensure that we have adopted the Bible’s — and not our culture’s — view of evil. The truth about evil, revealed in God’s Holy Word, is that it is personal. Evil is not a vague spiritual force, and it is not the result of chance, as in some notion of “bad luck.” Our enemy, the devil, is a fallen angel, a spirit creature of our Creator who leads others of his kind. We ultimately experience evil because these fallen spirits are dedicated to destroying God’s creation and opposing His plans. We pray and work to see “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” and evil spirits work to see humans destroy themselves by choosing to build their own kingdoms and manifest the desires of their own wills.

In this month’s magazine, you will read about Christians in Benin, the field within VOM’s work in which spiritism — the worship of spirits — is practiced most overtly. Practitioners of voodoo and other forms of tribal spiritism intentionally become demonically possessed and offer sacrifices to spirits they know to be evil. One sacrifice routinely offered in Benin’s villages is the virginity of young girls, who are offered to demonic spirits through ritualistic rape by male spiritist practitioners. The girls’ parents willingly offer them for sacrifice.

Please remember that those who — whether around us or around the world — live apart from the way, the truth and the life are captives to our spiritual enemy. But also remember that he is a defeated enemy. The fallen angels, including their chief, are not a power that can oppose God. Like their peers, Michael and God’s other holy angels, they may be mighty but they are not almighty. God has judged and defeated the evil spirits, and they know that their destiny is “the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). Christ is victorious! Our persecuted Christian family members in Benin are showing us how to obey God by loving the lost and bravely taking back that which the enemy has stolen.







# TRUSTING THE ONE

## Who Never Fails

*For 20 years, a Christian woman in Benin held onto her faith while her voodooist husband mistreated her. When her husband's heart eventually softened to the Gospel, he paid the ultimate price for leaving voodoo to follow Christ.*

“The Good News was spreading,” Amadine said, recalling the Gospel advances that were occurring in the early days of her marriage two decades earlier. Every day, preachers in the West African country of Benin were teaching from God’s Word, actively and publicly proclaiming the peace and salvation found in Jesus Christ. After listening to the preachers, Amadine became convinced of the truth of Scripture.

“Please, my husband, let’s try to follow Jesus,” she pleaded with her husband, Bernard. But she had little hope that he would agree. Bernard, like many in Benin, practiced voodoo, and he was a leader among the voodooists in their community.

Benin is considered the birthplace of voodoo. Every village and many homes in the north have a designated location for the ritualistic killing of animals (and sometimes humans), a practice believed to win favour with or appease the wrath of demonic spirits.

Witchcraft is also deeply ingrained in the culture and is practiced openly. Conversely, Christianity is considered a foreign religion that steals a community’s young people and prevents them from being properly initiated into the local tribes. Amadine described Bernard’s version of voodoo as “very wicked.”

“If he met you in the night when he was conducting rituals, he would kill you,” she said. Bernard warned his young wife that he would kick her out of the house if she continued listening to the Christian preachers and following Christ. And he was true to his word.

Every time Amadine attended a church service, Bernard locked her out of the house, a punishment that continued even after they had children. When Amadine took the children to church, Bernard made them all sleep outside and go without food. As the children grew older and began following Christ themselves, Bernard increased the pressure on his family, refusing to pay school fees and ultimately withdrawing the children from school altogether.

Amadine persevered for 20 years, faithfully attending church despite the price she paid at home. To compensate for the lack of support she and the children received from Bernard, Amadine worked as a hairdresser and sold food she had made.

Then, one day in 2023, Bernard’s abuse reached a new level. He beat Amadine so severely that neighbours who had never before attempted to stop his mistreatment took action to physically restrain him. He broke the few possessions that Amadine had and threw her out of the house.

“All my face was broken,” Amadine said. “When he did that, I just went away with the children.” She rented a small house, where she and the children finally had a place to sleep every night. Soon, however, she got some surprising news from her pastor.

“Please come back to your house,” the pastor told her. “He has decided to follow Jesus!”

Amadine couldn’t say what had caused her husband’s change of heart, but she could see that it was real. She learned that he had simply refused to join some other voodooists who came to take him to the rituals one night. “I am no longer with you,” he told them. “I am now with Jesus.”

The voodooists tried to convince him that he could be a Christian and still perform the rituals of voodooism, but he stood his ground. From that time, when the church was open for prayer or worship, Bernard was there. Amadine and the children returned home to live with Bernard, but their time together as a Christian family did not last long.

About two months after Bernard came to faith in Christ, his former friends — the voodooists — offered

him a job making bricks for a construction project. Bernard took the job and went to work with his former friends.

Later, after returning

from the worksite, Bernard began to complain of severe stomach pain. Amadine took him to a hospital, but he soon died; Amadine believes he was poisoned by the men at the worksite.

Bernard’s family added to Amadine’s grief by threatening to take the family’s property. “They said I was the cause of his death because I was the one who took him to the church,” Amadine explained. The family demanded that she return to voodooism and marry one of Bernard’s brothers, but she rejected both demands and moved out of the home where she and Bernard had lived.

Since September 2023, Amadine has relied on support from her local church and the global body of Christ. But despite her difficult circumstances, she has kept her eyes fixed on Jesus.

“I have one certainty,” Amadine said, “and that is that I put my trust in the one who never fails. He will never abandon me.”

Amadine requests prayer for her children as they continue school and for herself as she tries to establish a business to help support her family. As she waits for answers to those prayers, she sings with joy about the God who rescued her from darkness 20 years ago.

“I thank you, my God,” Amadine sang in a strong alto voice. “You really are the one who holds us till the end of life. I want to do all I can to tell the whole earth that You are the only God.” ■

*“I have one certainty, and that is that I put my trust in the one who never fails.”*





## Forsaking His FATHER'S IDOLS

**O**n the day Mattias Sossou was baptized two years ago, his life changed dramatically. But not in ways he had imagined.

After walking home from his baptismal service, Mattias was greeted by a group of people standing in front of his home. “They were going to tie me up and beat me,” he said.

Their reason for planning to attack Mattias was common knowledge in the community. As the oldest child in his family, Mattias was expected to care for his father’s voodoo idols when his father died. But 19-year-old Mattias had become a follower of Christ, forsaking the rituals and responsibilities of voodooism.

Voodooists in Mattias’s community believe the idols’ spirits take revenge on anyone who defies them, sometimes attacking the person’s wider circle of family and friends, so rejecting voodoo is unacceptable. Knowing what the voodooists might do to him, Mattias chose to run.

### Turning from Fear

Mattias had grown up performing ritualistic animal slaughter to receive favour with demonic spirits, but a Christian classmate gradually changed Mattias’s spiritual perspective. After the friend described what it was like to have Christ in his life, Mattias was intrigued. Still, when the friend invited him to church, Mattias felt he had to explain the potential repercussions of offending the spirits his father had worked to appease.

His friend’s response surprised him. “Don’t be afraid of your forefathers or your father,” the friend said. “Don’t be afraid of anyone, because the one who is calling you is greater than them, and he can save you from anything. The person who is calling you, his name is Jesus.”

Mattias agreed to visit the church, so his friend came to his house so they could walk together. When Mattias returned home, however, his father told him that if his classmate came to the house again there would be trouble. Mattias warned his friend, who agreed not to come to the house but urged Mattias to keep attending church services. “No matter what is going on,” his friend said, “don’t

*“What made me to have courage is that in the Bible Jesus himself says, ‘I will not abandon you.’”*

leave the church.”

Mattias continued to attend church, receiving frequent warnings from local voodoo elders who tried to persuade him that what he was doing was wrong. Undeterred, Mattias eventually came to faith in Christ and received baptism.

Mattias considered it a great day, both because of its spiritual significance and because he believed God had saved him from an awaiting trap. “I really sensed that Jesus loves me so much,” he said.

### On the Run

When he saw the group of men lying in wait for him, Mattias ran directly to his classmate’s house and hid inside. They came to the house looking for him, but his friend persuaded them to look elsewhere.

The next day when Mattias returned home, his father ordered him to leave. “Pack your things and go where you want to go,” he said, “because we are not the same.” Rejected by his father, Mattias left home, eventually moving in with an aunt who lived in a distant village.

After discovering where Mattias was living, his father threatened the aunt who was helping him. She, in turn, pleaded with Mattias to leave the church. “Your parents want to abandon you!” she told him. “If your parents abandon you, who is going to take care of you?”

Mattias told his aunt that he would never leave Christ or his church family. “On the last day of my life,” he said, “God will ask me, ‘Is it because of your parents that you left the church?’ What am I going to tell God?” Seeing that Mattias could not be persuaded, his aunt kicked him out of her home too.

With no place else to go, Mattias walked back to his village carrying a bag with all his possessions. Someone who recognized him asked, “Why do you come back to the village? Are you going to leave the church? Are you going to start with voodoo?”

He assured the person that he wasn’t leaving the church, and then he went to his family’s home, where he expected to again be pressured to recant. As he waited in a room, someone locked the door so he couldn’t leave.

Several hours later, a younger sister unlocked the door and Mattias escaped. He ran until he was far from the village, and eventually he was invited to move in with a pastor’s family. He has lived with them ever since.

Mattias is grateful that the pastor, whom he didn’t know previously, accepted him into his home, and he’s also thankful for Christians who have been providing for his needs. “No matter how my family abandoned me, I have a great family that is more than my family,” he said.

### Praying for His Parents

Today, Mattias is an active member of his new spiritual family. He plays in a worship band, teaches a children’s Sunday school class and participates in a prayer group. He would like to support himself by becoming a barber, and he dreams of one day returning to his village and telling those who rejected him about Jesus Christ.

Knowing that his parents can’t imagine a world outside voodoo, he requests prayer that their hearts will soften to the Gospel. But approaching them now, he says, is probably too soon. “They wouldn’t like it,” he said. “They would laugh at me. If they had a gun they would shoot me.”

Regardless of what his parents think of him, Mattias is committed to the life he has in the body of Christ. “What made me to have courage,” he said, “is that in the Bible Jesus himself says, ‘I will not abandon you.’” ■



▲ Mattias hopes to support himself as a barber and to someday share the Gospel with his family. Inset: Some Beninians believe voodoo idols can attract helpful spirits or keep harmful ones away.





## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

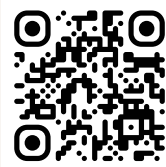
**Sunday, 2 November 2025, and throughout the month of November**

*The International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians (IDOP) is a special day when Believers around the world join in prayer for our brothers and sisters who serve Christ and proclaim the Gospel in hostile areas and restricted nations.*

### FOUR WAYS TO GET INVOLVED WITH IDOP

#### » Watch the Short Feature Film

This year's IDOP short feature highlights ministry to Christians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who have suffered trauma from violent Islamist attacks.



#### » Pray with Social Media

Follow VOM on your favorite social media platform, and use the prayer requests posted hourly on 2 November to pray for persecuted Christians.

#### » Inspire Others to Pray

Invite your family, group or church to use VOM's free IDOP resources to pray for persecuted Christians.

#### » Pray with the App

Download the VOM App on your smartphone to receive daily prayer requests for persecuted Christians and to access free audiobooks, videos and VOM Radio episodes.

**VISIT [PERSECUTIONSA.ORG/IDOP](https://persecutionsa.org/idop) TO WATCH THE SHORT FEATURE FILM AND  
DOWNLOAD FREE RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY, GROUP, CLASS OR CHURCH.**



# Prayer Diary

1 – 31 October 2025

|   |     |              |                                                                                                                                    |
|---|-----|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| W | 1.  | MALDIVES     | Pray that Maldivians who are led to Christ through the internet or social media will grow in faith.                                |
| T | 2.  | JORDAN       | Pray that Muslim refugees in Jordan will come to know Christ through the witness of Jordanian Christians.                          |
| F | 3.  | BURUNDI      | Pray that churches will provide ongoing support and discipleship to Christian converts from Islam.                                 |
| S | 4.  | CHAD         | Pray for an end to Boko Haram attacks on Christians in the Lake Chad Basin.                                                        |
| S | 5.  | UGANDA       | Pray for ministry efforts that prepare Believers to share the Gospel with Muslims.                                                 |
| M | 6.  | IRAN         | Thank God for Christian media ministries reaching Iranians. Pray that God will use them to draw Muslims to himself.                |
| T | 7.  | INDIA        | Pray for the protection, encouragement and faith of Hema and her family, who were rejected by their village.                       |
| W | 8.  | SIERRA LEONE | Thank the Lord for small churches that stand firm despite pressure from Islamists and secret occult societies.                     |
| T | 9.  | ERITREA      | Pray that imprisoned Believers will encourage one another and share the Gospel with fellow prisoners.                              |
| F | 10. | MYANMAR      | Pray that Buddhist monks who seek to suppress Christianity will instead place their faith in Christ.                               |
| S | 11. | TURKEY       | The Turkish government has deported many missionaries. Pray that local Believers will boldly proclaim the Gospel.                  |
| S | 12. | KUWAIT       | Pray that indigenous Kuwaiti Believers will grow in faith and wisely share their faith.                                            |
| M | 13. | KAZAKHSTAN   | Pray that Bible distributions will reach beyond the large cities to the most remote areas of the country.                          |
| T | 14. | LEBANON      | Pray for persecuted Christians in Druze communities, and pray that more Druze will come to know Christ.                            |
| W | 15. | TOGO         | Pray for Togolese missionaries who are working to reach people in remote areas with the Gospel.                                    |
| T | 16. | CUBA         | Pray that Christians summoned for questioning will speak with boldness and wisdom during interrogations.                           |
| F | 17. | DJIBOUTI     | Pray that Christians will live according to God's Word and proclaim the Gospel boldly.                                             |
| S | 18. | MOROCCO      | Pray that Believers in Morocco will have "not the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). |
| S | 19. | GUINEA       | Christian converts in Guinea are often violently persecuted by family members. Pray that their hearts will change.                 |
| M | 20. | NIGERIA      | Pray that Christians, through God's grace, will be able to forgive their persecutors, some of whom are their neighbours.           |
| T | 21. | BHUTAN       | Pray for effective discipleship efforts to prepare new leaders for local churches.                                                 |
| W | 22. | PHILIPPINES  | Pray for the families of pastors and other Believers who have been killed for the activity of their faith.                         |
| T | 23. | COLOMBIA     | Pray that Marxist guerrillas will come to faith in Christ through the testimonies of Christians in "red zones."                    |
| F | 24. | AZERBAIJAN   | Pray that many Azeris will receive copies of God's Word, despite heavy restrictions.                                               |
| S | 25. | MEXICO       | Pray for Pastor Filadelfo, who has been jailed repeatedly for his witness and kicked out of his village.                           |
| S | 26. | CAMEROON     | Pray that Christians living along the Nigerian border will stand firm as they experience attacks by Boko Haram.                    |
| M | 27. | UZBEKISTAN   | Pray that Uzbek church leaders will have the necessary ministry tools to expand their Gospel outreach.                             |
| T | 28. | SRI LANKA    | Praise God that churches are engaged in churchplanting and missionary sending activities despite threats and attacks!              |
| W | 29. | MAURITANIA   | Ask the Lord to remove obstacles that prevent Christians from reaching Muslims with the Gospel.                                    |
| T | 30. | SOMALIA      | Pray that Somalis arrested in Somaliland will stand firm and persevere amid trials, for Christ's glory.                            |
| F | 31. | AFGHANISTAN  | Pray that imprisoned Christians will have opportunities to share their faith.                                                      |



# Stand with Persecuted Christians



Serve persecuted Christians in hostile areas and restricted nations and be a voice for them. Your gift addresses all ministry needs, including the immediate needs of our persecuted brothers and sisters, while calling Christians around the world into closer fellowship with the persecuted and to a deeper commitment to Christ.

*Please consider a donation into any one of the following bank accounts:*

## Banking details: Christian Mission International

### Nedbank

Account no.: 1925-024946 (Cheque)  
Branch Code: 192505 (Bedfordview)  
Ref: Your Name/Cell Number

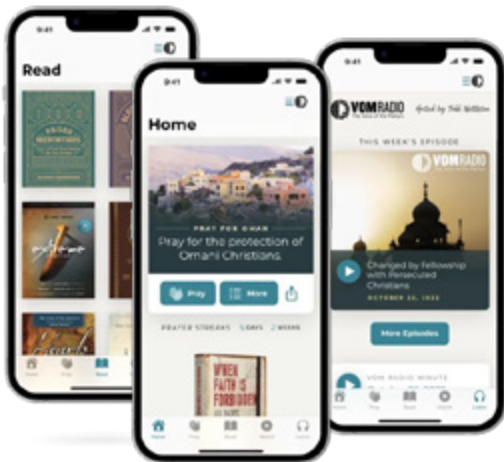
### Standard Bank

Account no.: 02-249-5592 (Cheque)  
Branch Code: 018305 (Bedford Gardens)  
Ref: Your Name/Cell Number

### ABSA Bank

Account no.: 909-861-7711 (Savings)  
Branch Code: 632005 (Bedford Centre)  
Ref: Your Name/Cell Number

## Helpful Prayer and Information Resource



### Download our FREE "VOM App" ON YOUR SMARTPHONE.

Type in "Voice of the Martyrs" when searching or click on the appropriate Google Play or App Store icon.

Daily reminders to pray for the persecuted; research Hostile or Restricted countries and the work VOM are doing there; connect to VOMRadio plus much, much more.



VOM App



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



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