



# THE Voice OF THE Martyrs

December 2024

COLOMBIA'S

## Redeemed Rebels

FROM COCA FIELDS  
TO CHRIST

|| HER MOTHER'S  
LAST WORDS

|| REACHING THE  
RED ZONES



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





#### QUOTE:

“It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. A number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted the communists’ terms. It was a deal; we preached and they beat us. We were happy preaching. They were happy beating us, so everyone was happy.”

—Richard Wurmbrand, *Tortured for Christ*

# Marxism, Cocaine and Persecution

VOM serves our Christian family members in places around the world where they are most frequently and severely persecuted for their faith and witness. We categorize each location as either a Hostile Area or Restricted Nation — “hostile” for areas where the persecution comes primarily from individuals and groups, and “restricted” for nations where the federal government is the main source of persecution. Today, the persecutors in Hostile Areas are almost entirely Islamic terrorist groups seeking to bring Islam to power through violence. One notable exception, however, is in Latin America, where drug traffickers violently persecute Christians as they advance their Marxist (atheistic Communist) ideology.

In parts of South America and Central America — including some areas in northern Mexico — the persecution by drug traffickers is sporadic and localized. But in other areas, especially in far southern Mexico and parts of Colombia, well-funded and heavily armed groups of guerrillas (rebels) control the land and operate with almost complete autonomy. The respective governments lack either the means or the will, or both, to protect the people. Our Christian brothers and sisters suffer in these “red zones.”

While neo-Marxism continues to gain influence through cultural and political means in the USA and Western Europe, strong and fundamental violent Marxism is on the rise in Central America and South America. In Colombia, Marxist ideology identifies Christians as targets for violence by characterizing our faith as a weapon used to oppress the working class. The reality, of course, is that the guerrilla's are among the most oppressive organisations, political or otherwise, in the world. Funded by the drug trade, staffed through forced

conscription of villagers (including children), to work their coca fields and carry out violent atrocities, and supported by leftists in government bought by their blood money, the guerrilla rebels are dedicated to eliminating freedom of thought, speech and worship.

Americans, amongst others, have driven the demand for the Colombian guerrillas' cocaine for decades. Recent government statistics show that nearly 90% of the cocaine seized in the USA originated in Colombia's red zones. What a horrible irony it is that people in the USA, a nation where more than 80% of the population claim to be Christians and whose government is meant to be a beacon of democracy, fund the Marxist guerrillas and other drug traffickers.

The money Americans spend on drugs, funds the oppression and killing of our brothers and sisters in Christ. May we never cease to share the saving message of the Gospel with those on both sides of these transactions, and may we never fail to see God's sovereign grace amid such wickedness. On the previous page, you can see the Martinezes, a faithful Christian family featured in this year's campaign for the International Day of Prayer (IDOP) for Persecuted Christians. And be sure to read the story about Gonzalo, who was once a worker in the coca fields but, after coming to faith in Christ, now works for a better harvest.

*Ashley*

**About the cover:** Juan Carlos, Pedro and Jorge once served with different Marxist groups in Colombia. But today they serve Christ in the country's dangerous “red zones.”

**Please pray about giving to the Persecuted Church.** Our brothers and sisters in Christ need encouragement. Most of them no longer have access to a Bible. Help us get Bible's into the hands of Christians throughout the world.

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# Trading Coca Plants for Church Plants


**Saved from a life of desperation and sin, a Colombian coca-field worker now ministers to the violent rebels with whom he once worked.**

**W**hen Gonzalo began working in the Colombian coca fields and labs that produce cocaine, he was a hard man — and an increasingly desperate one. His father had left the family when Gonzalo was young, and his mother made the children fend for themselves. His brother, who joined one of the guerrilla groups as a youth, had died violently at age 16.

“I grew up in an environment where you have to fight to survive,” Gonzalo said. And the fighting didn’t end with adulthood; he was physically and verbally abusive toward his wife, Edilma, and their four daughters.

Though the coca harvest provided steady work and a regular income, Gonzalo lived under constant threat of attack. The coca fields, located inside Colombia’s notorious “red zones,” are the domain of Marxist guerrillas like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and various right-wing paramilitaries. These groups fight for control of the drug trade and resist government attempts to eradicate it.

The guerrillas, protective of their lucrative crops, punished workers they didn’t know or couldn’t trust, and government forces routinely raided the guerrilla compounds in attempts to destroy the coca fields. Bombs and bullets



“God is faithful. He opened this door for us, ... and we have seen the miracles God has done with these families.”

◀ Gonzalo worked in coca fields before coming to faith in Christ. He and his wife, Edilma, now minister to rebels in the red zones.

wasn't mistreatment anymore, neither verbal nor physical," Edilma continued. "God made a transformation in all of us. That is when we began serving the Lord very passionately."

### A Better Harvest

The pastor at their church helped Gonzalo and Edilma learn and grow as followers of Christ. As their faith matured, they took on leadership roles, and in 2016 they were sent out to plant a new church. "It was me, my wife and another couple," Gonzalo recalled. "There wasn't a church; there was just a house."

Colombia's red zones, already dangerous because of ongoing violence, narcotics trafficking and other criminal activities, are especially perilous for Christians. The guerrillas specifically target Christians because their obedience to God's Word makes them natural opponents of the militants' cause. Worship, evangelism and travel are difficult in these areas, as the guerrillas seek to control all aspects of villagers' lives.

Despite the risks, Gonzalo and Edilma willingly returned to a red zone, this time as ministers of the Gospel prepared for spiritual battle. They planted a church and trusted God to provide a harvest far more valuable than coca leaves.

"God is faithful," Gonzalo said. "He opened this door for us, ... and we have seen the miracles God has done with these families. More people are coming and adding to the numbers. How have we seen God work? In the transformation of families through the Word. These families have changed, been restored. God has given us families, entire families, that have converted."

Those who have been restored and converted include some from the enemy camp — former guerrillas who had become disillusioned with the violence but were still rejected by their community because of their former affiliation with the FARC. "They are rejected by others in the community, but we show them love," Gonzalo said.

That love, however, is seen as a threat by the guerrillas

frequently sent workers fleeing into the bush.

Gonzalo eventually found his way out of the coca fields and into construction work. But he still couldn't shake the desperation caused by years of violence and an inability to control his own anger and violent tendencies.

"I didn't know how to pray," he said, "so I just prayed how I felt. On several occasions, I had to run to my bedroom and cry out for God's help."

After an incident with some soldiers that resulted in a severe beating and a deepening sense of hopelessness in his family, Gonzalo sought the Lord in earnest. In 2006, his search led him to church and an encounter with the living God.

"I asked the Lord to do something with my life," Gonzalo said. "I started to feel strange things that I had never felt before. My mind was renewed and I received Christ. I started thinking differently, speaking differently. I was in love with the Lord."

And when Edilma saw the dramatic change in her husband, she was convinced of the existence of a loving God. "We had been together 11 years," she said, "and he always wanted to change but never could. In the two hours we were in the church, he came in as one man and left as another. I realized that there really is a God, a very powerful God, who can make that kind of transformation."

Both their hearts and home changed dramatically. "There



who control the area. In early 2024, a local FARC commander gathered townspeople for a meeting and told them that church services were prohibited. The cost of disobedience, even when not stated, is well understood. “If we disobey their orders, we will have problems with them,” Edilma said. “They will either kick us out of the village, or they will find other measures that they take.”

The “other measures” include surveillance, kidnapping, assault, torture and murder, potential consequences that every Christian minister in a Colombian red zone must consider. And Gonzalo’s congregation is not immune. One church leader was kidnapped for four days and chained by the neck during his captivity; Gonzalo is routinely watched, followed and questioned; and in one village, an entire congregation of 25 Believers was forced to flee.

“That is just kind of the way things happen here,” Gonzalo said. “But in the midst of that, God gives the strength and ability to keep preaching the Gospel.”

### Ministry on the Move

Gonzalo and his family acknowledge the very real threats they face and the fear that results, but they take comfort and encouragement from Scripture. As with many Christians over the centuries, Edilma takes solace and strength from Psalm 23. Gonzalo, meanwhile, looks to 2 Chronicles 16:9 as an encouragement to persevere in righteousness: *“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.”*

Preaching the Gospel under threat of violence requires Gonzalo and Edilma to keep their ministry work light and mobile. Their primary support comes from three of their daughters and two sons-in-law.

“We don’t get together as a group,” Edilma said, “because the guerrillas won’t allow it.” Instead, they travel home to home,

visiting families individually. While they could stay in larger, and therefore safer, cities, they choose to visit smaller villages that suffer great oppression from local militants. Front-Line Workers have provided Gonzalo and Edilma with portable ministry tools to facilitate their work in areas severely affected by conflict and violence.

As anger and hate permeate the guerrilla groups, the communities dominated by militants, and even some Christians who have suffered great fear and deep loss in the red zones, Gonzalo and Edilma request prayer that the Lord will continue to give them passion for the ministry.

“Sometimes we think we would be better off going somewhere else,” Edilma said, “but then we think of the souls that are in need. Who is going to take the Good News to them if we leave? There are so many people who are hurting; ... there are people who need Christ. Christ is the one who heals their heart, and we are there to reach them.”

Gonzalo and Edilma have taken to heart the promise of Galatians 6:9, which their pastor shared with them as encouragement: *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”* ■

▼ Since the guerrillas prohibit worship services, Gonzalo and Edilma meet in the homes of church members. Front-Line Workers have provided the couple with ministry tools to facilitate their work in areas affected by violence.



# Her Mother's LAST WORDS



Salome has vivid memories of the night 13 years ago when she and her three sisters were awakened by gunfire. When one of her older sisters asked the others if they had heard it, the girls jumped from their beds and confronted a nightmare.

"We got up to see what was going on," Salome recalled, "and we saw that our mom was dead."

Moments earlier, two men had knocked at the front door of their home in Colombia, awakening Salome's parents, James and Rocio Pino. When they opened the door, the men asked for help with their motorcycle. While James went outside to help, one of the men stayed by the door with Rocio, watching her husband.

"Is your name Maria?" the man asked Rocio.

"No, I'm Rocio Pino," she replied.

Suddenly, the man shot Rocio three times. James turned around as his wife fell to the ground, and Salome and her sisters quickly ran to the doorway. James attempted to confront the shooter, but the two men sped away on their motorcycle. Salome said she is grateful the men didn't shoot their father as well.

When James called for help, emergency services refused to respond because the family lived in one of Colombia's "red zones," areas controlled by militant guerrilla groups like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The road to their village was heavily mined and guarded by FARC guerrillas, so James and his daughters were unable to help Rocio as she died on their front doorstep.

The next day, 7 March, 2011, would have been a typical

Monday filled with school, housework and church activities. But instead, 10-year-old Salome and the rest of the Pino family worked to arrange a rushed funeral for Rocio.

Before sunrise that day, some men claiming to be from the government had come to their door and asked to take Rocio's body as part of an investigation into her murder, but the family didn't believe them. James believed they were FARC guerrillas attempting to hide evidence of their crime.

"My dad said, 'No, we are going to take the body. Who sent you?'" Salome recalled.

As soon as the men left, James told the girls to gather what they could and get in the car, along with their mother's body. He knew they weren't safe.

The girls, understandably, were in shock. "We were little girls," Salome said. "We actually didn't grab anything. We four rode with my mom."

The family drove to a nearby town, where they held an impromptu funeral at a church where many people knew and loved Rocio and the Pino family.

"I don't know why the bad people wanted to hurt her," Salome said. "She was preaching to those people. In those days, there were a lot of guerrillas in that area. I remember we were alone with my mom, and at that time a female FARC soldier about my age came to her. My mom gave her a New Testament ... and told her that she was doing wrong things."

Salome also overheard her mother urging the militant to leave the FARC. "The Lord is waiting on you," her mother told the young woman.

Salome and her family believe Rocio was killed for witnessing





◀ Salome believes the guerrillas targeted her mother because she had witnessed to a female guerrilla soldier.

to the young guerrilla. Leaving the FARC or encouraging someone to leave is considered an act of treason. “When the guerrillas try to demobilize, which is what they call it, they get killed,” Salome explained. “You can’t get out.”

After the funeral, friends helped Salome and her family go into hiding. FARC militants searched for them for several years, forcing them to move constantly. Each time their location was discovered, the Pinos wondered who had told the FARC. Salome knows what would have happened if they had been caught.

“They would have killed my dad,” Salome said. “We would have been kidnapped. We would have been part of the FARC. They would probably make us, force us, to be one of them.”

The Pino family struggled after Rocio’s death. Frequent moves made it hard for Salome and her sisters to settle into a school, and finances were tight.

“It is very hard to grow up without a mother,” Salome said tearfully. “When I was little, I always asked God, ‘Why me, God, why me? I am a child.’”

Some life events, such as Salome’s 15th birthday, were especially hard without her mother. In Latin American cultures, a girl’s 15th birthday marks her maturity into adulthood and is traditionally celebrated with a *quinceanera*, a festive gathering of family and friends. The young woman being celebrated often

wears extravagant attire for the milestone event, and Salome recalls her disappointment at not being able to buy new shoes for her party.

“We didn’t have the budget,” she said. “It was a small party, my friends and my sisters. But what hit me was that my mom wasn’t there. That marked me, really.”

Salome’s oldest sister had celebrated her quinceanera before their mother was killed, and Rocio had prepared a special chicken and rice dish for the occasion. The family cooked the same meal for Salome’s celebration and has continued to make that special dish for every birthday since.

“That was, I think, my hardest time,” Salome said. “I didn’t have my mom for my 15th, but I had my dad and some friends. I know they did the best they could. I didn’t even want to turn 15 because, you know, you turn into a woman.”

But she told herself she had to grow up, even without her mother.

Reflecting on her mother’s death, Salome remembered a special moment she shared with Rocio shortly before her murder. The family had gone outside on a Sunday afternoon to gather yuccas and potatoes from a nearby garden, when Salome and her younger sister approached their mother. “I blessed my mother, and I hugged her,” Salome said. “That is the last time I hugged her.”





"I focused on the words  
my mother left me:

***'Go forward  
without me.'***"

Salome also distinctly recalls her mother's final, surprising admonishment. "The last words she told me," Salome said, "'When something happens to me, I want you to go forward without me and take care of your dad.' It was almost like she knew."

Today, as a 23-year-old college student, Salome carries her mother's lessons with her. "My mom was always strong," Salome said. "I was born in a Christian home. My parents always talked to me about God, ... and I see that my mom left me a great gift to believe in God."

Salome's faith led her to forgive her mother's killers, but it took time. "I had a lot of hate," she said.

Eventually, Salome overcame her resentment toward the FARC guerrillas. "Right now, I have no anger toward them," she said. "My heart is clean. If I had hate for them, then I could not be happy. I would always be living with that hate. In my case, I forgave them. In my heart I have peace toward them."

Salome currently serves as a Sunday school teacher in a church that she loves. She attends church services twice a week, while continuing her college studies in graphic design and working to help support her family. Salome is the only child in the family to pursue a college degree, and her tuition is paid by the global body of Christ through Front-Line Workers.

During the pandemic, Salome and her family struggled financially, living on 70,000 pesos (less than R350) a week. But God always provided. "God multiplied those 70,000 pesos to pay everything," she said. "You know, I have seen how great my God is. I have never been alone."

Salome says her mother's last words have helped her through all the challenges she has faced growing up. "I asked for a lot of strength from God," she said, "because it was very difficult. I focused on the words my mother left me: 'Go forward without me.' That little phrase is what kept me." ■

► Salome said she has been sustained by God-given strength and her mother's last words.





# REDEEMED REBELS

*After serving with Marxist groups in Colombia, three brothers now proclaim the Gospel.*

Pedro, Juan Carlos and Jorge seem like three average guys who love their wives and children. They clearly enjoy one another's company, randomly breaking out in song, cracking jokes and laughing heartily. But the foundation of their relationship is more profound than it may at first appear. They are brothers, in both the familial and spiritual sense, who are united by a common purpose: advancing God's kingdom in one of the most dangerous places on earth to follow Christ.

The brothers grew up in Arauca, a "red zone" controlled by guerrilla activity along the border with Venezuela.

The region has long been known for violence and drug trafficking by two Marxist groups — the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN). When the brothers were growing up, most young people were expected to join one of the militant groups, and they were no exception.

"It was either ELN or FARC, or you were a part of the Communist group," said Juan Carlos, "but you had to belong." Somewhat surprisingly, they chose different groups: Jorge joined the FARC, Pedro joined the ELN and Juan Carlos joined the Communist Youth (JUCO).





The oldest brother, Jorge, who is now 51, was the first to join. He enlisted with the FARC when he was 16 years old and quickly rose through the ranks to become a demolitions expert. His primary job was to make bombs and place them at locations designated for attack, including churches. This gained him a fearsome reputation among local Christians in the area.

"I was very scared of him," said Juan Carlos's wife, Mayerlin, whose father was a pastor in their town. "He was going to kill my dad because my dad would preach to the FARC."

Mayerlin's fears were not unfounded. "I almost blew up a pastor that was crossing through a bridge," Jorge said. "I almost killed her dad, who was the pastor."

**W**hile Jorge was gaining notoriety in the FARC, Juan Carlos was advancing in JUCO, the youth wing of the Colombia Communist Party. He was secretary of the organisation at age 17, when he met Mayerlin, who invited him to an evangelistic outreach. During one of the services, Juan Carlos believed he sensed God speaking directly to him.

"God gave me a word, personally, that I had three days to find Him or I would die," Juan Carlos said. At the time, he said he felt more fear than conviction. But three days later, as he was walking past a snack bar, some men inside shot at him thinking he was someone else. People screamed as bullets struck the ground next to where he stood.

Then Juan Carlos remembered the message he had received during the church service. "I could see that God kept me that day, because they almost killed me," he said. "That night, I accepted the Lord. I came to Christ."

After placing his faith in Christ, Juan Carlos faced a dilemma. "When I accepted Christ, I was still part of the young communists," he explained, "and that brought repercussions because are you serving God or are you staying in the organisation? I decided to quit and walk in the ways of the Lord."

But walking away wasn't so easy. The organisation's leaders told him that if he refused to continue serving in an active role, he would have to leave the area or be killed.

"As secretary of the organisation, I approached someone who knew secrets," Juan Carlos said. "They told me they would not be responsible for my life."

When Juan Carlos refused to continue serving in the organisation, his former compatriots retaliated against area churches. "They came and chained the doors up," he said, "all the churches in the area. No churches were functioning for a year. There were no services when I became a Christian."



▲ Marxist groups prohibit worship services and lock church buildings in red zones.

Though Mayerlin and her family suffered because of the closures, the Gospel didn't. Local Christians adapted and met in homes throughout the town.

"I was hungry," Mayerlin recalled. "My dad was a pastor, and we had no food to eat because we were not allowed to meet or pick up offerings. But God used that persecution and made the church grow. When they closed it, we couldn't fill half the church, and then when we opened it again, we couldn't fit everyone inside the church."

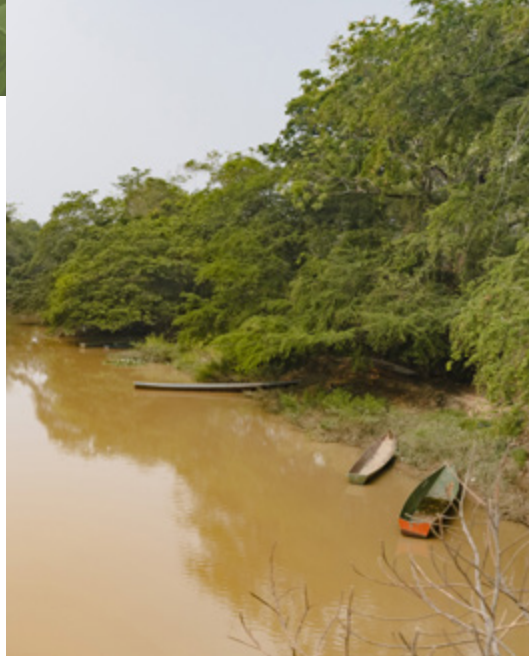
**A**s the church grew, so did the mutual affection between Juan Carlos and Mayerlin. And with their eventual marriage, Mayerlin's dad, Pastor Guillermo, began discipling Juan Carlos and urging him to share the Gospel with his brothers. Juan Carlos decided to share his faith with Pedro, the ELN member, first.

Working for the ELN as a courier gave Pedro special privileges, including the company of women, so he was not initially receptive to the Good News his brother was proclaiming. And since the pastor's daughter was already spoken for by his brother Juan Carlos, he didn't believe the church had much to offer.

"I told my brother, 'There are no more daughters here; the pastor has no more daughters,'" Pedro recalled, laughing. "What am I going to go get there?"

Through Juan Carlos's faithful and relentless witness, Pedro eventually placed his faith in Christ. "What convinced me is the way the pastor talked and my brother Juan Carlos's example and persistence," Pedro said. "He was an example that caused curiosity."

Then Juan Carlos, along with Pedro and Pastor Guillermo, turned their attention to the FARC member, Jorge. They invited him to attend a service, and one day he agreed.



▲ Pedro's church is located across the road from a guerrilla camp. Recently, the guerrillas shot at a canoe carrying passengers upriver to Pedro's church.

"I started going to the church, and God began to deal with me," Jorge said. "The pastor told me, 'You are going to serve the Lord. Even if you go back into the life of sin today, one day you will serve the Lord.' That word was a seed, and one day in the service without the pastor's knowing, I felt the need to look for God. On that day, I knew the Lord."

Since coming to know Christ, the three brothers have spent the last two decades proclaiming the Gospel.

"We have been able to save many from going to the FARC, from going down that road," Jorge said. "I have the experience and the authority to tell them that is not the correct way, because I am from that way. It has allowed us to evangelize, and there are a lot of people in our church that have worked with the group, but today they serve the Lord."

As others in the area have turned to Christ, the brothers have experienced opposition from those hostile to the Gospel. Pedro explained that when families come to faith in Christ, they stop participating in guerrilla activities. And when the guerrillas learn that the families have left them because they have become Christians, the guerrillas then target the pastors.

"Whose fault is it that families are leaving the guerrillas?" Pedro asked rhetorically. "It is the pastor's fault, the Gospel. The guerrillas always have to be enemies of the Gospel."

Pedro's church is located across the road from a guerrilla camp, so every sermon he gives is within earshot of the guerrillas. Recently, the guerrillas shot at a canoe carrying passengers upriver to Pedro's church.

On another occasion, armed guerrillas entered his church. When a pastor in attendance at the service later asked Pedro how he could preach under such complicated circumstances, Pedro said, "You have to be very Christ-centred. It is not easy, but there is a lot of work to do."

Pedro said the FARC placed about 250kg of explosives around the church one day and then interrupted the service to warn those inside. After the church members had taken shelter at a nearby farm, the militants tried to detonate the explosives. But something surprising happened.

"When they went to blow the bomb," Pedro said, "they pulled the pin and it didn't pop! It never went off, so they put it on a truck and drove it 6 kilometres away. At 5am the next day, they pulled the pins and it blew up. From 6 kilometers away, I lost two of the lights in my truck. My son suffered a little trauma, and big sounds still really bother him because they have done so many bombs in that area."

Pedro said he believes God protected his church and congregation from the bombs. "We have so many big testimonies like this," he said. "I've understood that God takes care of things."

While grateful for God's protection, Pedro, Juan Carlos and Jorge know that their Gospel work puts them at great risk in the rebel-controlled area where they live and work. In early 2024, a friend told Juan Carlos that militants were planning to kidnap him and tie him up in the jungle for three days. When they want to kill someone, they sometimes tie the person up in the jungle and put blood on him or her to attract wild animals.

"I know I make some people in the place uncomfortable," Juan Carlos said. "Like many pastors here in this area, we now have restrictions: no services at night, no vigils. If we are going to invite someone to the region, we have to inform the guerrillas who they are, where they are from."

Pedro and Jorge have also received warnings and restrictions on church services in their areas. Pedro's life has been threatened, and several of his church members have lost loved ones at the hands of the guerrillas.

"The majority of the people there have been touched by the violence," he said. "The musician of the church? They killed his dad. My father-in-law and mother-in-law were killed by ELN." Pedro is also concerned about his teenage son being recruited



to join a rebel group; they have offered him money and material possessions to join them.

Still, Pedro and his brothers remain faithful to the calling they each received to proclaim the Gospel of Christ in this dangerous place. They view the church as a beacon of hope amid the violence.

“The guerrillas are in charge of all the city,” Pedro said. “They are in charge of any civil organisation, military organisation in the area. The only thing they have not been able to control is the church. They’ve tried to close my church and I said, ‘I can’t do that; I am not closing the church because the church has no doors.’ The church has become a refuge.

“It is uncomfortable to live here,” he continued. “There are mosquitos, there is mud, there is no light, there is no freedom.

Sometimes I am ready to throw in the towel; I even have my bags packed. But my wife is stronger than I am, and God gave her a word and said, ‘You will be a blessing to many.’ That is why we are there.”

Jorge shares his brother’s resolve.

“Today I remember the word God has written in the Bible that says, ‘*All things work together for good to them that love God*,’” Jorge said, recalling Romans 8:28. “We have had this experience. I think that the Lord in all of this does the work, and we are living to serve the guerrillas so they can know the ways of the Lord.

“We are the three musketeers of Arauca,” he added, laughing. “And I know we have brothers praying for us around the world. Your prayers are what keep us in these hard places.” ■

▼ Pedro (*left*), Juan Carlos (*middle*) and Jorge (*right*), along with their wives, remain committed to proclaiming the Gospel in a dangerous region of Colombia.



**For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.**

# Prayer Diary

December 2024

S 1	BAHRAIN	Pray that ongoing political, religious and economic tensions will allow evangelism and discipleship to go undetected.
M 2	MALDIVES	Front-Line Workers take many risks to share the Gospel. Pray for their wisdom and grace.
T 3	UAE*	Pray that Christian foreign workers will have opportunities to share the Gospel with Emiratis.
W 4	IRAQ	Pray for evangelism efforts among the Shabak, a Muslim people group yet to be reached with the Gospel.
T 5	LAOS	Pray for young people like 18-year-old Rung who have to flee their homes after placing their faith in Christ.
F 6	SOMALIA	Pray that members of al-Shabab will see through the lies of Islam and turn to Christ.
S 7	KUWAIT	Pray for increased access to God's Word in both digital and print formats.
S 8	OMAN	Pray that persecutors will be drawn to Christ through the forgiveness and love of Christians.
M 9	BENIN	Pray that a local witch doctor who tries to cast spells and disrupt church services will find peace in Jesus Christ.
T 10	QATAR	Pray that the Lord will lead new Christians into fellowship with other Believers so they can receive discipleship.
W 11	SYRIA	Pray that Islamist groups will not go unchecked in their oppression and abuse of Christians.
T 12	ALGERIA	Pray for efforts to help Algerian Christians who have been expelled from their homes.
F 13	TURKMENISTAN	Pray for Front-Line Workers who distribute Christian literature throughout the country.
S 14	UZBEKISTAN	Ask the Lord to raise up and equip a new generation of Uzbek church leaders and evangelists.
S 15	ETHIOPIA	Pray for pastors who work in regions of longstanding conflict.
M 16	CAMEROON	Pray for Christians whose church buildings have been destroyed in Islamist raids.
T 17	JORDAN	Pray that Jordanians will continue to have access to Bibles.
W 18	TANZANIA	Pray that government officials, especially on the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, will treat Christians fairly.
T 19	COMOROS	Pray for the courage of new Christians who have illegally left Islam to follow Christ.
F 20	VIETNAM	Pray for Front-Line Workers who distribute Bibles in remote areas of Vietnam.
S 21	SRI LANKA	Ask the Lord of the harvest to produce visible fruit from ongoing Christian work among Sri Lankan children and youth.
S 22	MALAYSIA	Pray for greater access to Malay-language Bibles, which are largely unavailable outside Christian-majority areas.
M 23	SAUDI ARABIA	Pray that Saudi women who are oppressed will find true freedom through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
T 24	MALI	Pray that more Bibles will become available in Mali's minority languages.
W 25	SUDAN	Pray for increased access to Christian literature so Sudanese Believers can continue to grow in faith.
T 26	BHUTAN	Pray for the effective training and discipleship of local church leaders.
F 27	TAJIKISTAN	Pray that the government's efforts to label Christian literature "extremist" will backfire and Tajiks will seek truth.
S 28	COLOMBIA	Pray for Front-Line Workers who share the Gospel under the constant threat of violence.
S 29	NIGER	Pray that Christians in Niger will mature in faith and multiply in number.
M 30	INDONESIA	Pray that Front-Line Workers will help the word of the Lord "have free course, and be glorified" (2 Thessalonians 3:1).
T 31	ERITREA	Pray that imprisoned Christians will have many opportunities to share the Gospel.

\*United Arab Emirates



## Christian Mission International

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