



THE VOICE OF THE MARTYRS
DIE STEM VAN DIE MARTELARE

December 2022

CROSS-BEARING *Youth*

**BIG STICK,
BIGGER JESUS**

**52 DAYS IN
CAPTIVITY**

**A BRIDE'S
WITNESS**

**WALKING IN
THE RIGHT DIRECTION**



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

CROSS-BEARING YOUTH



Min Maya

She trusted in Christ after being healed through the prayers of some local Christians. Now she is persecuted by her Buddhist mother.



Evangelistic Team

While distributing leaflets about Christ in a Pakistani village, the team was detained by secret police. Five men in the group were held for 52 days.



Three Friends

When Durgawati (on right) and Gulsan (on left) trusted in Christ, their parents beat them. After their friend (pictured on the phone) died from cancer, they continued with her ministry.

MaLaiWan

After her father was pressured by village leaders, he kicked her out of the house. But that didn't stop her from reaching out to him with the Gospel.



Our Heritage Prepared for Persecution

As we obediently follow Christ by sharing His love and truth with the lost, we will face opposition at every turn. Our enemy works tirelessly to steal, kill and destroy — all with the objective of silencing Christ's witnesses. Christ's *faithful* witnesses have always been and will continue to be *suffering* witnesses who must take up their crosses daily. We do not seek suffering, but we resolve to obey our Lord at any cost, understanding that those costs will surely come if we are faithful.

Once we understand the reality of opposition and, undeterred by the enemy, choose to pay the price of obedience, many questions arise about applying scriptural principles in difficult situations: I must love my enemies and win them for Christ, but how is that possible? How can I proclaim truth in love to people who seek to silence truth by identifying it as hate? I must obey God rather than men, but how and when should I defy authority?

Many people respond to opposition by seeking instruction in the particulars, as if a how-to guide or seminar might teach them how to overcome it. But Scripture does not provide this kind of instruction. I can assure you that no training curriculum or checklist of supplies will prepare you for persecution the way they might prepare you for crises such as natural disasters. Persecuting groups and regimes often overwhelm Christians' physical defences, and anything that can be stockpiled for a crisis can also be stolen by an enemy (Matthew 6:19). We are called to actively advance God's eternal objectives rather than merely defend our possessions in this world.

We cannot possibly prepare for persecution in every instant, so God has given us something much better than training seminars, instruction manuals or checklists. In addition to Christ's example, God has given us countless testimonies of our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. In Scripture, throughout church history and continuing today, their testimonies exemplify biblical discipleship in the face of any opposition. Their stories are our Christian heritage.

We must pass on this heritage to the young people in our lives. We sometimes err by overemphasizing the transfer of knowledge while underemphasizing the importance of examples — *and of being one for them ourselves*. Instead of just repeating discipleship principles, let us show them how to be disciples through our own victories and failures as well as those of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world. The stories found in this newsletter are a great start, and please do not miss the thoughts of VOM founder Richard Wurmbrand on the subject on the second last page. What a great God we have! In Him we have not only the love of a heavenly Father but also the encouragement and inspiration provided by His other children, our brothers and sisters for eternity.

Ashley

A BIG STICK, a Bigger Jesus

Growing up as a Buddhist in Nepal, Min Maya made fun of her Christian friends. She occasionally visited the church in her village to get free school supplies, but otherwise she had no use for Christianity. And her mother didn't even like her accepting free pencils and paper from the church.

Min Maya's mother was a Buddhist lama who performed rituals to bless the many villagers who requested her services. So every morning, Min Maya was required to join in Buddhist worship at the family shrine.

When she was old enough to leave her parents' home, Min Maya moved in with her older sister in the Nepali capital, Kathmandu, where jobs were plentiful and the pay was better. While in Kathmandu, she became severely ill, and her mother sent Buddhist priests to offer remedies. Min Maya's health remained unchanged, so her sister, Suku Maya,

who had received a Bible from a Christian friend, invited some Christians to pray for her.

Min Maya's health quickly improved, but she worried that accepting the Christians' prayers might mean she had to become a Christian. Then, when another Buddhist priest learned about Min Maya's illness and prayed for her, Min Maya's health again deteriorated. She knew she had to call the Christians for help.

That night, a pastor and his wife visited Min Maya and prayed for her. "That was the right moment for me to know that I must follow the Lord Jesus Christ," Min Maya said. "But my mom disagreed with this decision."

Min Maya's family soon decided that she needed to return home, and her mother urged her to find another lama to pray for her. "If I go to the lama, I will die," Min Maya thought. "I don't want to die; I want life."

When Min Maya told her parents that she had been healed through the Christians' prayers and wanted to attend church every week, her mother became very angry. "If you go to church," she shouted, "I will kick you out of this house!" Min Maya spent the night at her aunt's house, and the next day she returned home and began attending church secretly. Each Saturday, the day Nepali Christians gather for worship, Min Maya waited for her mother to leave before taking a 20-minute bus ride to a church in another village.

After about a month, some neighbours discovered where Min Maya was going and told her mother. When Min Maya returned that day, her mother tried to hit her with a large wooden board, so Min Maya ran to a friend's house and called her pastor.

The next day, Min Maya gathered her courage and returned home to speak with her mother. But her mother, still

▼ While the prayers of Buddhist priests failed to help Min Maya, her health quickly improved after a group of Christians prayed for her.





▲ A Front-Line Worker arranged for Min Maya and her sister to receive training as tailors so they can support themselves.

in a rage, ordered her to leave and not come back. “It was a very fearful moment,” Min Maya said.

After taking refuge for several nights with a Christian family and then in her church, she was invited to a Christian training programme in Kathmandu. Meanwhile, she stayed in touch with her father, who was careful to keep his phone away from his wife so she wouldn’t know he had been talking with Min Maya.

Several months later, Min Maya’s mother called and said she wanted to see her. After the family shared a meal one evening, Min Maya’s mother pulled out a big stick and brandished it at Min Maya and her sister, who had returned home during the pandemic. “Who is the biggest?” her mother asked. “Is your mother the biggest, or is your Jesus the biggest?”

When Min Maya and her sister replied that Jesus is the biggest, their mother struck Suku Maya’s leg and then walked toward Min Maya. Her brothers and father protected her from harm,

but Min Maya’s mother continued to oppose her and her sister because of their Christian faith.

Every Saturday, their mother would stay by the front door with her stick, preventing the girls from leaving the house to attend church. “We decided Jesus is with us,” Min Maya said, “so why don’t we pray together inside the house?”

Realising that the girls were praying when their eyes were closed, their mother ordered them not to close their eyes. Then she hid food from them, leaving the girls with nothing to eat. When she offered them rice, they knew she was purposely serving them food offered to idols at the temple.

During her difficult time at home, Min Maya took comfort from the Gospel of Matthew. “The major thing was that Jesus came into this world for our sins and He experienced pain like we experienced,” Min Maya said. “Jesus also suffered ... for us. That is really special for me.”

One night, after Min Maya’s brother became so angry that he beat her, the

sisters decided they had to leave. A Front-Line Worker helped them get training to become tailors, and they soon opened a shop where they produce formal gowns like wedding dresses. Christians have helped them purchase five sewing machines, and they have hired another Christian girl to work with them. The sisters live in a room above the shop, but the building owner has warned them not to allow Christians or foreigners in their store.

One of Min Maya’s favourite verses is, “*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*” (1 Timothy 4:12). The sisters’ relationship with their family is still difficult, and their mother and most villagers blame the recent death of the girls’ father on their Christian faith.

Min Maya, now 23, continues to follow the Lord, rising early every morning to read the Bible, pray and worship. “Worship is the best for me,” she said. “It is like the heart-to-heart time with the Lord.” ●

52 DAYS IN CAPTIVITY

The eight young Christians chatted excitedly in the back of their van as they headed towards far western Pakistan, near the border with Afghanistan. They had just completed a three-month discipleship course and were setting out on their first ministry trip. Then, on 24 December, 2017, their van had a flat tyre near a local market.

Knowing that people who lived in the area were Muslims and that many struggled with drug abuse, they distributed leaflets about Jesus Christ while their tyre was being repaired. As a group of men gathered around a Believer named Haroon, he eagerly told them about Christ's love for them and encouraged them to place their faith in Him. Several people stepped forward to receive literature, but then one of the other Christians, Atish, noticed several men pushing their way through the crowd toward them.

"Come with us now!" the men demanded. They were members of the secret police.

After ransacking the van, the authorities put five of the eight Christian men into a car and drove them to a local police station. The three Christian women followed in another vehicle.

Police confiscated all of the Christians' belongings — their bags, computers, Bibles and SD cards. Scared and shocked, the young Christians began to pray. This was the first time they had experienced such opposition for their faith.

Accused

Police led the five men into a room and began to interrogate them. "Did you come to spread Christianity here?" one of them asked. "You want all people to become Christians!"

After an hour of verbal abuse, some armed soldiers arrived and repeated the same accusations: "You came here to spread Christianity!" they insisted. Then, compounding the Christians' fear, the soldiers put sack-cloth bags over their heads and loaded them into a truck, leaving the women at the police station. At about midnight, they arrived at a new location, where, still blindfolded,

the interrogations continued for several more hours.

In the early hours of the morning, around 4am, the young men were loaded back into the truck and taken to yet another location. There, the soldiers hit their legs with a stick to make them talk.

Haroon was scared. As the group's leader, he was responsible for the students. "Please help us, God," he prayed. After several more hours of one-on-one interrogation, the five Believers were led into a room and ordered to sit down.

Every day was the same — interrogations and beatings. "If you accept Islam, I will forgive you," the interrogator told Haroon. "But if you don't accept Islam, I will kill you. We will cut you up with a knife and throw you in the river."

Haroon was unfazed by the interrogator's threats. "I am ready to die," he replied. "I will not leave Jesus Christ. He is my Saviour, and I am His son, and He will get me free."

The five men were kept in dark cells, where they slept on a hot concrete floor. They were whipped, beaten with sticks, kicked, and forced to stand on one leg or remain in one position for hours at a time. During their beatings, they could hear the cries and screams of another captive in a nearby room. When they insisted that they would remain faithful to the Lord, they were beaten more severely.

"We were very scared," Atish said.

"They told us we would spend six or seven years in the prison, and our families didn't know where we were."

They got up at 5am each morning to pray together, and they maintained a regular schedule of fasting, with a different man fasting each day. They prayed for the people of Pakistan, for their parents' comfort and strength, for perseverance and for freedom. "We were praying to the Lord, 'We don't know where we are, but please release Your favour so that we can get out,'" Atish recalled. They also worried about what might happen to the three women in their group. "We were praying for our sisters," he added.

Count to 500

After 52 days, the authorities again placed bags over the Christians' heads and loaded them into trucks. They drove up a mountain, stopped the trucks, pulled the men out and ordered them to kneel. Atish thought they were about to be killed. Instead, however, the soldiers told them to count to 500, climbed back into their trucks and drove away. After waiting a minute, Atish lifted the bag from his head and saw that all of their captors were gone!

"We started praising and worshiping God," Haroon said. "That day was very exciting for me. God helped us and answered our prayers."

After flagging down a passer-by on the

road, the five young men soon returned home. They were thankful to learn that, although the women had been kept at the police station for a week, they suffered only verbal abuse.

Haroon and Atish returned to ministry work after their release, but Haroon struggled with anxiety for months and both men still deal with fear as a result of their ordeal. "I had bad dreams and worried that the same thing will happen to us," Haroon said.

Atish said he relies on faith and prayer to overcome his fear. "Sometimes I become courageous, and sometimes it haunts me," Atish said. "I would say that only prayer gives you strength in these trials." And although Haroon's family tried to dissuade him from returning to mission work, he too is steadfast in his commitment to serving the Lord: "I am ready to die for Jesus Christ." ●

▼ Secret police detained a group of young evangelists in Pakistan who were distributing leaflets about Christ. After their release, they returned to their ministry work.



A BRIDE'S Witness



MaLaiWan's eyes filled with tears as she recalled the moment her father ordered her to leave. "He was so angry," she said. "The village leader did not like that I had become a Christian." At age 16, she packed her bags and walked to a bus stop alone.

Four years earlier, MaLaiWan had placed her faith in Christ after struggling with an illness that baffled doctors. She had occasionally met Christians from other villages who told her that Jesus died on the cross for her sins and that He could heal her. And when she put her faith in Him, those claims proved true. "I prayed to the Lord and He healed me!" she said.

An Angry Village

As a new Christian, MaLaiWan began attending a small, newly formed church in her village. Then one morning, village leaders interrupted their worship service just as they were beginning the opening

prayer. "They came in a big car, and we were scared," MaLaiWan recalled.

In Laos, Christians like MaLaiWan often face intimidation and opposition for their faith. Laos is a Communist country where about 60% of the people consider themselves Buddhists. But people in villages like MaLaiWan's often practice a syncretistic religion of Buddhism mixed with tribal animism. And only 4% of Laotians are Christians.

Village authorities took MaLaiWan and the other church members to the village hall, where the Christians endured hours of shouting and scolding from police, the village leader and even some of their parents. Then authorities ordered the Christians to sign a document renouncing their faith. "I wanted to follow Jesus," MaLaiWan said, "but at the same time, I was thinking of my parents."

Several church members eventually signed the document, but MaLaiWan would not deny Christ. Village leaders soon began to pressure MaLaiWan's

father, Sung, about his daughter's Christian faith, and he finally ordered her to leave.

MaLaiWan moved in with some Christians in another area, where she joined a local church and began to grow in faith. As a young woman, she prayed that she would marry a Christian man. "I wanted to marry someone who would want to live together for the Lord," she said.

A Wedding Transformation

MaLaiWan's prayer was answered when she met her future husband, Keow, at church. Although Keow had grown up in a difficult home, MaLaiWan noticed that he was different from other men. "He loves the Lord," she said. "He goes to the church regularly. He does not hit me or scold me."

Eight years had passed since MaLaiWan had left home, and she wondered whether to invite her parents to their Christian wedding. "I asked the Lord for wisdom on how to ask or what to say to

my parents,” she said. And after sensing the Lord telling her not to be afraid, she invited her family.

A few relatives refused to attend the wedding, but MaLaiWan’s parents were there. The Christian wedding held at a church was a new experience for them. “We wore traditional clothes,” MaLaiWan said, “but we conducted the wedding in a Christian way where we do not honour the spirits.”

MaLaiWan said her father was deeply affected by the love and joy he experienced during the Christian wedding ceremony and festivities. “The next morning, right after the wedding, he wanted to accept Christ!” MaLaiWan said with a laugh. She had been praying for many months that her father’s heart would soften toward the Lord. “I was excited,” she said. “I was extremely happy. ‘My father accepted Jesus!’ I told my friends who were praying specifically for this. They said, ‘Really? Is it real? Did it really happen?’ I told

them, ‘Yes! It is real!’”

Patient Through Persecution

After coming to faith in Christ, Sung gave up alcohol and started attending church in another village. And soon, several of MaLaiWan’s siblings also became Christians.

When Sung and his family left their village to attend church on Sunday mornings, they wore work clothes to avoid suspicion. But as Sung stopped participating in rituals in which villagers sought the blessing of ancestral spirits, the community began to persecute him just as they had persecuted his daughter years before.

One Laotian ritual in which Sung refused to participate, called a *Baci* or “tie-the-knot” ceremony, involves summoning spirits to bring good luck. During the ceremony, a white cord or cloth is tied around participants in the belief that the spirits and good fortune

will linger upon those people and their town. Many villagers grew angry when Sung refused to participate in the *Baci* rituals.

“The villagers said my family must all stop believing in Christ,” MaLaiWan said. “The villagers fear that if someone gets sick and there is a Christian in the village, they are the cause. They say Christianity is not a good thing.”

MaLaiWan requested prayer that her father and Christian siblings will stand firm in their faith regardless of persecution and that her mother will also come to know Christ as her Saviour. MaLaiWan said she never expected persecution when she placed her faith in Christ but now understands that it is part of the Christian life. “Persecution? Oh yes, of course,” she said. “It is part of our faith. It is what the Bible says; we will face persecution from those that do not like us. We must be patient through this.” ●



▲ MaLaiWan and her husband, Keow, prepare a meal together.

WALKING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



Growing up near a city in India known for its many Hindu festivals, Durgawati and her nephew, Gulsan, sought peace through Hindu rituals and the worship of numerous deities. But despite their devotion, their hearts remained troubled.

“Because of continuous sickness of our family members, we never felt peace in our hearts,” Gulsan said. “We were searching for solutions to our problems, but we failed in all our efforts by devoting ourselves to the Hindu gods and goddesses.”

Then, one day a villager named Vidhayawati told Durgawati and Gulsan something that piqued their interest. She said that after suffering from a chronic stomach illness, Jesus Christ had completely healed her.

“She shared the Gospel message with us,” Durgawati said, “and we started meeting with her and listening to the Word of God. We put our faith in Jesus.” Soon, the three Believers — all in their early 20s — were forced to make another life-changing decision because of their Christian faith.

Viewed as a Threat

Durgawati and Gulsan started attending Vidhayawati’s church regularly and were baptised in a river near their village on 2 October, 2020. A pastor from the church occasionally visited the three young Christians, and as they matured in their faith they began sharing their testimonies and proclaiming the Gospel in their village. They also prayed for the sick.

When villagers became aware of the Christians’ evangelistic activities and the pastor’s visits, they grew concerned. Some villagers spoke with the young

Believers' parents, urging them to prevent their children from attending church and telling others about Christ.

When the parents failed to take action, the village council met and, in November 2020, ordered the three Believers to stop visiting the church and to cease their evangelistic activities. If they did not, the authorities warned, they would be banned from the village.

Vidhayawati, Durgawati and Gulsan each boldly refused to stop worshipping at the church, saying they were prepared to face the consequences. Frustrated, the council ended the meeting.

At a subsequent meeting, village authorities raised the stakes. They told the Believers' parents that they would lose their land and property and be banned from the village if their children did not leave the Christian faith.

Though the parents had been somewhat supportive of their children's Christian faith to that point, the council's threats filled them with fear, and they soon began pressuring their children to stop attending church. Desperate to restore their good standing with the village council, they even beat their children, locked them in their rooms and refused them food.

Affirming Their Faith

After being locked in her room for days, Vidhayawati escaped and fled to a Christian friend's house in a nearby village. Two weeks later, Durgawati and Gulsan also fled their village.

The three Believers moved in with their pastor, who lived a few miles from their village. News of their Christian faith spread quickly after they left their families, and a local newspaper even published a story about them. Although

the publicity cost them jobs and relationships, they were not discouraged.

"Persecution built up our faith," Gulsan said. "We became stronger in our prayer and devoted ourselves to learning more of the Scriptures. We feel that God is with us all the time."

As they've grown in faith, they have also come to forgive their parents and others who persecuted them. Durgawati said that when they see their persecutors at the local market, they ask them how their families are doing. "We have learned from the Scriptures that we must pray for our persecutors and forgive them," Durgawati said. "We have no anger toward those who have persecuted us."

Front-Line Workers have supported the young Christians by providing food, clothes and tools to help them earn an income. Grateful for the support, Durgawati and Gulsan said they have come to understand that persecution naturally follows faith in Christ.

"When we started reading Scripture, especially Matthew 5 and onward," Durgawati said, "we realized that we would be persecuted for our faith in Jesus. Therefore, this persecution affirms our faith and trust in Jesus Christ."

And Gulsan also takes encouragement from their persecution. "Now we think that persecution is a sign that we are walking in the right direction," he said.

Honouring a Friend

Vidhayawati, who helped lead Durgawati and Gulsan to Christ, died in June 2021 after being diagnosed with cancer three months earlier. Since her death, Durgawati and Gulsan have continued to grow in faith and proclaim the Gospel to their neighbours. They said they could never think of stopping the ministry work they started with Vidhayawati or of rejecting

Christ, even if their faithfulness costs them their lives.

"For us, the greatest blessing is being with Christ," Gulsan said. "We consider God's presence to be the greatest blessing. Material things will come and go, but the peace of Christ always remains with us."

When a villager becomes ill or is struggling with a personal issue, Durgawati and Gulsan see an opportunity to share the Gospel. They also share their own stories, describing how faith in Jesus Christ gave them peace and changed their lives. And they do so in full expectation of receiving more harassment and persecution.

"We are sure that in the future more persecution is waiting, but we know that all those who live godly lives will be persecuted," Durgawati said, quoting 2 Timothy 3:12. "We continue to read the Scriptures because we know at the time of opposition and rejection, Scripture gives us strength."

Durgawati and Gulsan have not talked with their families since leaving home. But they continue to pray that their family members will come to know the peace of Christ, which no Hindu deity can provide.

"We hope that someday our family will change," Durgawati said, "and we will be able to share the Gospel with more villagers. We are hoping that someday we will have a church gathering in our house where, along with family and villagers, we will sing a hymn of praise together."

To other young Believers experiencing challenges to their faith, especially from family members, Gulsan urges faithfulness to Christ. "There is so much joy in Christ in spite of persecution," he said, "so never give up your faith in Jesus." ●

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"For us, the greatest blessing is being with Christ," Gulsan said. "We consider God's presence to be the greatest blessing. Material things will come and go, but the peace of Christ always remains with us."

Prepare Your Children TO BE CROSS- BEARERS

By Richard Wurmbrand

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, ... Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body,

Deuteronomy 28:1, 4



I thought about this promise of God when I read the second volume of *The Gulag Archipelago*, by Russian writer and Nobel Prize winner Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Solzhenitsyn, who was expelled from the Soviet Union by the Communist government, tells the story of 10-year-old Zoya Leshcheva, whose parents, grandparents and brothers were sent to concentration camps because of their Christian faith. The Leshcheva children had been richly blessed with parents who hearkened to the voice of God even when it meant heavy suffering.

Zoya was first placed in a home for children whom the government thought needed “re-education.” Refusing to part with the cross pendant her mother had given her just before being taken away, Zoya tightened the cord of her necklace at night to prevent Communist authorities from taking it.

As a result of her stubbornness, she was sent to a home for developmentally disabled children, where she continued the fight for her cross and the Saviour it symbolized. When other children encouraged her to blaspheme and steal, she replied, “My mother should not have a criminal child.”

Sentenced to death at age 14, Zoya’s punishment was later reduced to a long imprisonment. Her parents and brothers had long since been freed while she remained in prison.

When we read in the Bible that blessings are promised to children of the faithful, some of us expect a good position at work, a happy marriage, academic success or some position of honour. But the Bible often defines “blessing” another way. The Lord Jesus said, “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.” (Matthew 5:10–11).

As parents and grandparents, we search our hearts to determine what is best for our children and grandchildren. But what we should desire most for them is that they would “share his sufferings” and become “like him in his death” so they “may attain the resurrection from the dead” (Philippians 3:10–11). Obviously, not everyone will go to prison for his or her faith. But as Christians, we must remember our family members like Zoya Leshcheva “as though in prison with them” (Hebrews 13:3).

Do you wish for your children earthly possessions, fun, enjoyment and good careers, none of which are to be entirely despised? Or do you think primarily about preparing them for the highest blessing — to become, like Zoya and thousands of others, partakers of Christ’s Passion? It is not enough to take children to Sunday school and church or to have devotions with them in the home. They must come to understand what it means to be a Christian, a cross bearer who views suffering with Christ as pure joy.

Obey the Word of God and prepare real blessings for your children. Instead of giving them riches and recreation, prepare them to endure sufferings gladly while sharing in the sorrows of Christ. There is no higher blessing than this. This is the path to glory. ●

Richard Wurmbrand (1909 – 2001) and his wife, Sabina (1913 – 2000), were imprisoned in Communist Romania for their faith in Christ. After their release, they sought ways to serve persecuted Christians and, in 1967, founded The Voice of the Martyrs. You can read Richard and Sabina’s story in Wurmbrand: Tortured for Christ — The Complete Story, which is available from the Mission Office in South Africa at a cost of R200, postage excluded. Please send Bianca an email on bianca@vomsa.org to place your order.

Prayer Diary

December 2022/January 2023

DECEMBER 2022

S 18	CAR*	Pray for Bible distribution efforts, especially in remote areas.
M 19	NEPAL	Pray for those ministering to the unreached in remote and difficult-to-reach areas of northern Nepal.
T 20	USBKISTAN	Pray that the country's government will change and become known for righteousness and justice.
W 21	SRI LANKA	Pray for unity among the churches so they can resist a new wave of attacks.
T 22	IRAQ	Pray for Christian converts from Islam in Baghdad, where persecution has intensified.
F 23	ISRAEL	Pray for African congregations and other ethnic churches that face discrimination.
S 24	IRAN	Pray for creative new strategies to reach more than 60 unreached people groups.
S 25	KENYA	Pray for Abdiweli's widow and sons as they learn to overcome fear and forgive his killers.
M 26	LIBYA	Pray that many will be reached by Christian satellite TV programs and internet evangelism.
T 27	INDONESIA	Pray for Rosyid and Misbach who minister among some of the most radical Muslims in West Java.
W 28	MYANMAR	Pray for the evangelistic work among Rohingya Muslims.
T 29	ETHIOPIA	Pray for Believers in the Bale and Arsi Zones whose homes, businesses and belongings were destroyed.
F 30	NIGERIA	Pray for Christians in Sagar, Adamawa state, who have been under attack from Boko Haram.
S 31	KYRGYZSTAN	Pray for Believers' integrity amid widespread corruption.

JANUARY 2023

S 1	NIGER	Pray that Muslims will hear the Gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ.
M 2	CAMEROON	Pray for Front-Line Workers who risk their lives advancing the Gospel in remote areas.
T 3	CAR*	Pray that those who have lived in refugee camps for years will continue to hope in Christ.
W 4	LIBYA	Pray that God will raise up indigenous church leaders who are willing to serve at any cost.
T 5	ETHIOPIA	Pray that God will provide for Christians who have been displaced by the civil war.
F 6	BRUNEI	Pray that all Malay Christians will have their own copy of God's Word.
S 7	KYRGYZSTAN	Pray that many new Kyrgyz Believers will be added to God's kingdom.
S 8	MALAYSIA	Pray that more Malaysian Christians will share the Gospel with the Muslim majority Malays.
M 9	BAHRAIN	Pray that those visiting Bahrain from other nations in the region will hear the Gospel.
T 10	INDIA	Pray for students at a Christian school in Madhya Pradesh that was attacked by a Hindu mob.
W 11	COLOMBIA	Pray that God will raise up Christian leaders for small groups.
T 12	BANGLADESH	Pray that Christian videos will be effective in evangelism.
F 13	MAURITANIA	Pray that those blinded by Islam will find truth in the person of Jesus Christ.
S 14	NIGERIA	Pray that Bibles will reach their destinations safely and touch many hearts.

*CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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