



THE VOICE OF THE MARTYRS  
DIE STEM VAN DIE MARTELARE

November 2023

# BETTER THAN REVENGE

**DANGEROUS  
QUESTIONS**

**CYCLES OF  
VENGEANCE BROKEN**

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



From the Executive Director

## A History of Violence and Cycles of Vengeance

The histories of the Near East and Middle East are replete with violence and instability. A dark heart of vengeance is at the root of these problems.

At the local and personal levels, we see this clearly in the tribal blood feuds of the Old Testament era and in the so-called honour killings within Muslim families today. At the regional and geopolitical levels, we see it in the 1,400-year history of violence within the Muslims' Sunni-Shiite conflict and in today's state-sponsored Islamist terrorism against Jews and Christians. Blinded by ideologies that feature a fallen definition of honour, the people of these regions have long valued revenge, considering it essential to their dignity.

Countering this flawed understanding, the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:19 provides instruction on trusting God's righteous judgment: *"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."* He then supports this statement by referencing Deuteronomy 32:35, *"To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence;"* As South Africans, we may read this as a powerful indictment against the values of non-Christian Middle Eastern ideologies — and rightly so. But we must also be careful to examine ourselves according to God's Word. Middle Eastern cultures are not alone in holding vengeance in high esteem.

Revenge stories, which portray violent avengers as heroes, are commonplace in the West. Consider Hollywood movies: A person taking matters into his or her own hands to repay an enemy with violence is among the most common character archetypes in nearly every genre. This is why the VOM film *Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years* ([SabinaMovie.com](http://SabinaMovie.com)) is so powerful.

Sabina Wurmbrand's decision to forgive and win to Christ one of the Nazi soldiers who murdered her family shows how antithetical Christian values and behaviour are to the actions of supposed "heroes" in most Hollywood films.

Deciding not to avenge ourselves, even going so far as to relinquish our rights for the sake of our witness for Christ, is unthinkable difficult. Forgiveness and love for those who have harmed us goes against everything within our fallen human nature, our cultural norms and even sometimes a proper sense of justice. But God is greatly glorified when we break the cycle of violence in His name. Ultimately, those who have harmed us and reject Christ will receive God's judgment. Justice will be done! But in the meantime, we are required to tell them about God's grace, working to see the stain of their sins cleansed — just as ours were — through repentance and faith in Christ.

I pray that you will be challenged and encouraged by the examples of our persecuted Christian family members in this month's Newsletter. As you read these true testimonies, I am sure that, like me, you will struggle to apply these principles to situations in your life. Christ commands us to do what would be impossible without Him. Our extension of love and forgiveness toward our enemies is possible only because, as Believers in Christ, we are indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit. God is greater than the wrongs committed against us. We glorify Him greatly by demonstrating this truth to a fallen world.

*Ashley*

*About the cover: Revenge was central to Samer's religious beliefs. But through the witness of his friend Hany, he placed his faith in Christ and abandoned his desire for revenge.*



A silhouette of a man with glasses, gesturing with his right hand, is superimposed over a sunset cityscape. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and the sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

# TROUBLE

## *on the Path of Peace*

About four years ago, Adnan made the dangerous decision to openly question the Quran in Lebanon. He had read the entire Islamic text multiple times and studied it carefully, but many verses still puzzled him.

When he took his questions to a local mullah, a Muslim theologian, expecting to find peace in the cleric's answers, the mullah told him not to be bothered by such questions. After accusing Adnan of having an evil mind, he ordered him to leave the mosque and pray at home.

"I was angry and confused," Adnan said. "Why were there no answers for my questions?"

Adnan was growing restless in his pursuit of sacred truth; even his internet searches failed to provide answers.

Hoping to uncover something new, he opened his Quran once more. That's when he came across a verse about Isa,

or Jesus, whom Muslims consider to be a prophet but not the Son of God.

"This verse says that Isa held mud and blew with his breath in that mud, and it turned into a bird and flew," Adnan said, referring to the 49th verse in the third chapter of the Quran. "I thought, 'This prophet is not a human being; he must be special or a partner with Allah because he is a creator. He created a bird from mud.'"

Adnan searched the internet again, this time looking for information about Jesus Christ. After visiting several websites, he found contact information for a local pastor. "At last," he recalled thinking at the time, "I might get answers to my questions."

### **Known Dangers**

Adnan called the pastor and was invited to visit his church. But accepting the

pastor's invitation in an area controlled by the Islamic extremist group Hezbollah came with considerable risks.

Though Lebanon has a sizable Christian population, Christians frequently face persecution, and Muslims who seek to learn more about Jesus as the Son of God are specifically targeted. People living in Lebanon's urban areas are generally more accepting of other faiths, but Christians outside these cities, especially those living in majority-Muslim areas, face significant opposition.

Adnan chose to accept the pastor's invitation, and during their time together the pastor answered his questions clearly and without hesitation. He also explained what Christians believe about Jesus.

The conversation touched Adnan deeply. "It was like I was holding heavy

things on my back and suddenly someone took them off my back," he said. "I was very happy."

Still, Adnan wrestled with the thought of leaving Islam for Christ. As he lay in bed that night, he called out to God. "God, please help me," he prayed tearfully. "I want to know the truth. I need Your help. Just give me a sign that I should follow You."

After falling asleep, Adnan had a vivid dream in which he heard Christ call to him — "I am the way, the truth and the life." As Adnan awoke, his eyes again filled with tears as he placed his faith in Jesus Christ. "That was the first time in my life when I woke up and I felt peace inside," he said.

### Facing Threats

The following Sunday, Adnan attended a worship service at the pastor's church. As he returned to the church each week, he got to know members of the congregation well. "Believe me, it was the first time that I knew I had a family," he said. "All the brothers and sisters here share in your troubles."

Soon, Adnan's relatives and friends began to see changes in his behaviour. He had always been angry with his wife and children, at times smashing dishes in a rage. But now, the fits of rage had stopped and he showed love toward people he once hated. "Before, when I was Muslim, I only loved Muslims," he said. "I didn't accept others."

Learning of Christ's redeeming work on the cross and of His resurrection from the dead has helped Adnan view people differently. "I love my enemies," he said. "I discovered Christ's love. His love is unlimited."



Adnan's new faith had the opposite effect on his family, however. When his wife heard that he had left Islam, she started sleeping in another room with their three children, believing she was forbidden to sleep in the same bed as her infidel husband.

She also told her parents and Adnan's father about his conversion, complaining that he was teaching their children about the Bible. In addition, she told them that he had shared the Gospel with neighbours and customers at his brother's shop, where Adnan repaired and filled gas canisters.

That was more than Adnan's brother could take. He told Adnan that if he returned to the church, he could no longer work at the shop. And Adnan's father responded more harshly, telling him that if he went to church again he would kill him. Adnan accepted his brother's decision, prayed for his angry father and trusted in God.

"Because I knew Christ," he said, "I was not afraid to be killed, but I was afraid for my children."

### Ready to Die

For his family's safety, Adnan attended church every other week, taking a

▲ The majority of Lebanese are Muslims, and those who seek to learn more about Jesus as the Son of God are frequent targets of persecution.

different route each time. Though cautious about church attendance, he grew bolder in his witness.

"Because my life had changed, I really wanted others to feel how I feel," he said. "I really want others to know Christ."

Today, Adnan remains committed to studying the Scriptures, growing in faith and reaching Muslims with the Gospel. His wife tolerates his Christian faith, but their marriage and other family relationships are difficult.

Adnan asks for prayer that his family will endure the challenging environment they live in and that his relatives will come to know Christ.

Despite an uncertain future, Adnan remains filled with the same peace he found years ago when he placed his faith in Jesus Christ. "I don't care if I die," he said. "I now know where I am going. Now I know there is no death with Jesus, because He promises those of us who follow Him that we will have eternal life." ■

Malachi 3:10 - KJV

10. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.



# FORWARD *into The Light*

*Having suffered deep wounds from years of beatings by her Muslim husband, an Egyptian woman now rejoices in God's love and the cross of Christ.*

Emaan was passionately devoted to Islam.

"I used to love the person of Muhammad," she said. "I wished in my heart that I was living in antiquity and that maybe I would be chosen to be one of his wives."

She took six pilgrimages in the early 2000s, travelling from her home in Egypt to visit Islam's most holy sites. "At the mosque in Medina, the 'Mosque of the Prophet,' I would never turn my back," she recalled of one hajj, a religious journey to Saudi Arabia that Muslims are required to make at least once.

As a fervent follower of the faith, Emaan went far beyond what was required by Islam. "When I went to walk away," she said, "I would look at the mosque in reverse and walk backward to show respect."

But eventually, Emaan chose to walk away from Islam. When she learned that Aisha, Muhammad's last wife, was 9 years old at the time of their marriage, it shook her faith. As her own daughter approached that age, Emaan was struck by the inappropriateness of Islam's founder taking a child bride.

"It triggered a deep desire in my heart to question his personality, his character, and to search for who he really was," she said. "I could not accept that from a regular person, let alone a prophet, a teacher. It was unacceptable to me."

When Emaan shared her concerns with her husband, he was shocked by her scepticism and warned her against blasphemy. Still, Emaan kept searching for answers, hoping to resolve the tension in her heart.

► After suffering years of physical abuse from her former husband, Emaan covered her scars with cross tattoos, commonly used as marks of Christian identity in Egypt.



**“I wanted my kids to live the Christian life and to grow in the church. Even though they were in danger, I wanted them to attend every Sunday.”**

### **A Transformed Life**

Early one morning, Emaan had a dream in which a woman led her to a man whose face radiated light. The shining figure was holding a book in a language she did not recognize, but she could somehow understand it. Titled “The Names of God,” the book listed many of God’s attributes. And as she looked at the words, all the names melded into just one — I AM.

Emaan shared the dream with her husband, but he told her it was satanic.

Then, one day Emaan and her husband got a new satellite TV dish installed. While Muslim technicians usually filter out Christian channels, this one didn’t.

Emaan started watching Arabic Christian programmes and began to get the answers she had been seeking. After getting a Bible of her own, she spent the next four years comparing Christianity with Islam. Over time, she rejected Islam and placed her faith in Christ.

When Emaan’s husband learned of her Christian faith, he exploded in anger. “He became like a beast, really, a wild beast,” she said. “He used to do harm to me and beat me, and when he would get tired, he would request his parents send people to come and do me harm.”

Emaan’s husband sometimes locked her in a room for days, separating her from their young, crying children. And he hit her with household items, including a large video player that he smashed on her head. The beatings, which continued for years, came close to killing her on several occasions.

Emaan endured the barbaric abuse, but it caused deep physical and emotional wounds. When she finally filed for a divorce, government officials initially ruled against her because she was considered an apostate for abandoning Islam. But the divorce was eventually approved, and she got custody of their

children even though her own parents had testified against her because of her Christian faith.

After the divorce, Emaan began attending a Bible study, where she met a man named Abasi who was also a Christian convert from Islam. His family had tried to kill him with a large knife, used to slaughter animals.

Emaan and Abasi later married and moved to a city near the Red Sea, where they began to rebuild their lives. Emaan worked as a hairstylist, while Abasi ran a clothing shop.

### **Danger by the Sea**

Though Emaan and Abasi had been baptized as Christians, their official identification cards still classified them as Muslims. In Egypt, Christian converts from Islam are unable to obtain new government ID cards, so Emaan, her husband and their children were viewed with deep suspicion by some in the traditional Christian community who doubted the sincerity of their conversions.

To avoid being accused of proselytising

Muslims, many traditional Christians won’t allow people in their churches unless they have a Christian ID card or an Orthodox-cross tattoo. The tattoos are commonly seen on the hands and wrists of Coptic Christians in Egypt.

Emaan and Abasi were committed to attending church even though they were harassed and sometimes physically assaulted by local Muslims and some in the traditional Christian community.

“I wanted my kids to live the Christian life and to grow in the church,” Emaan said. “Even though they were in danger, I wanted them to attend every Sunday.”

As word spread that these “Muslims” who claimed to be Christians were attending church, someone secretly recorded a video of them receiving Communion and posted it online. After that, Muslims stopped coming to Emaan for her hairstyling services and warned others away from her husband’s clothing shop. They were forced to move their businesses repeatedly as one landlord after another revoked their leases, and Abasi’s business soon failed.

Police arrested Emaan and Abasi at

► As Emaan struggled with questions about both Islam and Christianity, Arabic Christian broadcasts helped point her to the truth.





one point, after Muslims complained about their Christian conversions. And the authorities detained Abasi for three days, even threatening to kill him.

Their children also faced persecution. Nermeen, their teenage daughter, was forced to wear a hijab while attending school. She and her brother were taunted, bullied and sometimes beaten at school and in their neighbourhood.

Emaan finally removed her son from the school and sent him to a monastery for a year. But when their daughter was kidnapped, they reached their breaking point.

Several Muslim students abducted Nermeen and took her to a remote area. They beat her and tried to get her to recant her Christian faith, but she refused. "She said she was a Christian," Emaan recalled. "Then she lost consciousness, so they thought she had died."

When Nermeen regained consciousness, she was alone in the desert. Fortunately, a passing tourist bus picked her up.

After Nermeen's abduction, Emaan and Abasi decided to leave the country. They went to the airport trusting that

the Lord would provide a way for them to leave.

## Exodus from Egypt

The Coptic Orthodox Church had provided them with a letter stating that they had been persecuted and needed to leave Egypt for their safety, but they received no help from authorities and had no travel visas. As an immigration official at the airport questioned them about why they were leaving the country, their youngest child began screaming uncontrollably. The child's tantrum was apparently so irritating that the official finally let them pass. "That never happens," Emaan said. "It was a miracle."

The family settled in Lebanon, where they arrived with little money and no friends or contacts. But they soon found a vibrant church that helped provide for them and connect them to the global body of Christ for additional support.

Emaan grew as a Christian at the new church, and she gradually forgave those who had mistreated her, especially those trapped in Islam. "I learned to love those Muslims who used to really insult, torture and hurt us," she said.


Emaan and her family have few earthly possessions, but she remains joyful despite their difficult financial situation. "We have satisfaction in Christ," she said. "We are content to have nothing. Our life with Christ is so beautiful."

Emaan and Abasi lead several small groups, ministering to Muslims whom she now views with compassion. "It was a very hard life, very dry, like death," she said of her former Islamic beliefs. "If you have everything but you don't have the blessing of Christ, you cannot be a blessing for those in darkness."

Having escaped from the darkness herself, today Emaan is determined to point her Muslim neighbours toward the light of Christ. ■



◀ **Top:** Emaan's children have been taunted, bullied and sometimes beaten for their Christian witness at school and in their neighbourhood. **Bottom:** Emaan and Abasi remain joyful despite the difficult circumstances they've faced. They continue to lead several small groups and minister to Muslims.



**“I learned to love those Muslims who used to really insult, torture and hurt us.”**

[www.persecutionsa.org](http://www.persecutionsa.org)



*sejun*  
*nepal*

JOIN A  
PRAYER  
GLOBAL  
MOVEMENT

As a child, Sejun was sent to a Buddhist monastery, where he spent six days a week memorizing Buddhist teachings so he could one day become a monk. At age 13, he ran away from the monastery, but he was not welcome at home. Since Sejun's only education had been the study of Buddhist scriptures, his father enrolled him in first grade. That's where Sejun met a godly teacher who told him about the truth of Christ. Go to: [www.persecutionsa.org/idop](http://www.persecutionsa.org/idop) to download free resources.



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**  
FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

**Sunday, 5 November, 2023 and *throughout* the month of November.**



# RECONCILIATION

## *Replaces Revenge*

*The love of Christ breaks cycles of vengeance in the lives of two Druze men in the Middle East.*

In the early 1990s, when Hany was 12, a Dutch missionary named Anna arrived in his Lebanese village and started teaching children about Jesus in a local park. Although Hany was a member of the Druze community, the missionary's teaching piqued his interest. "I was raised in a Druze family," he said, "but a non-religious one."

The Druze are a secretive ethno-religious group whose syncretistic beliefs are based on the Abrahamic faiths, Greek philosophy and even Hinduism. The majority of the more than 1 million Druze are scattered across the eastern Mediterranean, with the largest communities in Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

Anna faced a significant challenge proclaiming the Gospel in Lebanon, as the country was still recovering from a civil war between Christians and Muslims that lasted from 1975 to 1990. Roughly 120,000 people from multiple religious communities died in the war.

"This village ... was an epicenter of fighting," Hany said. "My mother's father was the first one to be killed by the Christians. The very word *Christian* in this village made people nervous. For them, a cross, Christ, a Christian is the enemy."

Though the Druze had considered Christians their enemies, Hany was intrigued by Anna's Gospel message. Soon, he began attending church in a neighbouring village, and some young men from the church started visiting his home to teach him more about Christ.

Some in the Druze community, however, did not approve of Anna's teaching. Five women violently attacked her, causing injuries that forced her to leave Lebanon. And the next time Hany's friends from church came to his house,

Hany's father ordered them to leave and never return.

"How dare you do this!" Hany yelled angrily at his father after the young men left. As he grabbed a pillow to shield himself from his father's slaps, he felt a Bible that one of the Christians had intentionally left under the pillow. Hany quickly put the pillow down so his father wouldn't see the Bible. "I took the Bible and hid it," Hany recalled. "It was the first Bible I ever had in my life."

Though he was only 12, Hany started studying the Bible on his own. "I started every day reading one, two, three hours in the Bible," Hany said. "For me, it was just like a challenge. I wanted to read ... just to defy them."

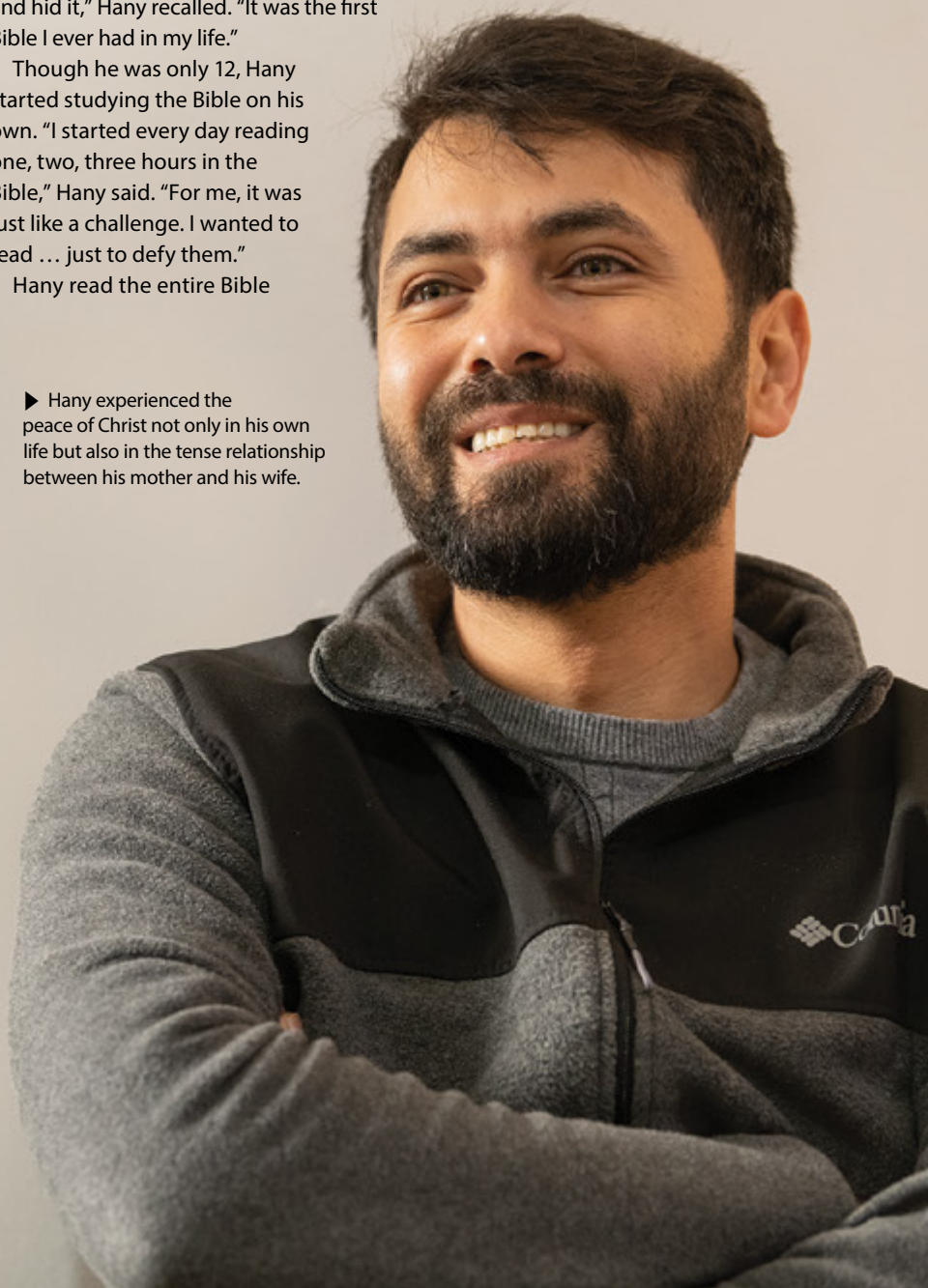
Hany read the entire Bible

twice and read halfway through a third time. But without other Christians to encourage his studies, he gradually lost interest ... until many years later during a time of need.

### **The Mouldy Bible**

In the early 2010s, Hany began to experience some difficulties in his

► Hany experienced the peace of Christ not only in his own life but also in the tense relationship between his mother and his wife.



personal life. He and his wife lived in his parents' home, and when Hany's father died he feared that his marriage would collapse as a result of the poor relationship between his wife and mother. As Hany cried out to God for a solution, he felt led to pray to Jesus.

Hany prayed for an entire month, gradually remembering some of the verses the missionary had taught him. He also recalled the missionary telling him and the other children that God could speak through the Bible.

Hany searched his house for the Bible he had received as a child and eventually found it, though its condition had deteriorated with age. "I found the Bible in the attic," he said, "and it was literally moldy. It was all green mold on the edges, but you could read it."

Holding the moldy Bible, Hany asked the Lord to speak to him through whatever he read first. When he opened the Bible, he began to read the story of Hannah, in 1 Samuel. At first he didn't understand how it applied to his situation, but as he continued to pray during the next three weeks he saw that he needed to follow Hannah's example of fervent prayer.

"Lord, come and take care of my life, which I cannot really handle properly," he prayed. That night, Hany slept peacefully and deeply for the first time in months.

The next day, when he answered a knock at the door, he was surprised to see one of the Christian men that his father had dismissed from the house years earlier. The man said he had sensed the Lord compelling him to return to Hany's house that day.

Hany shared his problems with his old Christian friend, and through the man's witness, Hany placed his faith in Christ. Several weeks later, his wife, who had listened to Hany's conversation with the man, also placed her faith in Christ. And soon, even Hany's mother came to know the Lord. "She forgave the Christians who killed her father," Hany said.

As further evidence of God's work in the family, the long-standing tensions between Hany's mother and wife were suddenly resolved. "I still, to this day,



don't understand how it disappeared," Hany said laughing.

Hany learned to proclaim the Gospel as his faith matured, and eventually he started a house-church. But being known as a Christian in a Druze community was not without its challenges. First, someone slashed his tyres, and then one day his brakes suddenly failed. A mechanic said the brake line had been intentionally cut.

When Hany installed a hidden security camera outside his house, he discovered that a neighbour was sabotaging his car. Instead of directly accusing his neighbour, he decided to visit him and hint that he knew what the man had done. His non-confrontational approach worked; the surprised neighbour stopped harassing him and has spoken positively about him ever since. Hany's refusal to seek vengeance soon had a positive effect on other Druze as well.

## Reorienting Lives

An old family friend of Hany, a man named Samer, was part of a Druze community in Syria and was just as confused about the Druze religion as Hany had been as a youth. "We were living our lives blind and just trying to find our way through the darkness," Samer said.

Samer wanted to know more about the Druze religion, but was told he would have to wait years to be allowed to study

▲ The largest Druze communities are in Syria, Lebanon and Israel. The Druze sometimes persecute Christians in these areas.

it. One thing he did understand, however, was the Druze tradition of blood feuds and vengeance. "For the Druze, honour and dignity are so important," he said. "For someone to insult you, to threaten your dignity, to disdain you, ... if you don't go and take revenge and take your rights back, it means you are a coward and you are a very weak person."

One morning in 2017, when a neighbour yelled up to his apartment that Samer's car was on fire, he was overcome by thoughts of vengeance. As he ran to his car and tried to extinguish the fire, he could think only about who might have done it. But no one came to mind.

Firefighters soon arrived to help prevent the fire from completely engulfing Samer's vehicle, but then his uncle encouraged the vengeful thoughts already in his mind: "What if someone is attacking you because you went to a church?" his uncle yelled.

Samer had attended a Christian worship service while working abroad, and it had made a lasting impression. "When I would go to a church, I would feel very happy when I listened to the songs," he said. Those experiences of Christian worship made him want to





know more about the Christian faith, so he began to attend church regularly when he returned to Syria.

Samer didn't know if the car fire had been started by someone angry about his church attendance, envious of his successful barber shop or for some other reason. But he believed it was an attack, not an accident. And he was mad.

Hany, who was visiting Syria at the time, arrived at Samer's apartment shortly after the fire was extinguished. "Samer was saying, 'If I know who he is, I will smash him, kill him!'" Hany recalled.

Hany urged Samer not to retaliate. "No, no, no, we should not take revenge," Hany told him. "We should be loving and forgiving."

Hany's suggestion shocked Samer. "This was the first time for me to see a Druze person who does not have the desire for revenge," Samer said.

The suggestion to show love and forgiveness rather than vengeance opened the door for Hany to tell Samer about God's grace. "I told him the story of the servant who was heavily indebted

to his master," Hany said. "His master forgave him of everything, but he was unwilling to forgive his friend."

Hany used Christ's parable to challenge Samer. "God forgave us for immense debts, and we cannot forgive others?" he asked pointedly.

The message touched Samer deeply as his heart was softened by the Gospel. "We moved from talking about the burning car, and we kept talking about Christianity, about Christ," Samer said. He placed his faith in Christ that day and later told his Druze family about the God of reconciliation.

But they rejected him. "When I tried to visit some of my relatives or acquaintances, they looked at me as ... someone who denies his religion," Samer said. "They said, 'This is a traitor; here he comes.'"

In addition, his regular customers stopped visiting his barber shop, causing the collapse of his business. And his family offered no assistance.

But others could see the dramatic change in Samer's personality. "I used

▲ Samer's friends and family noticed a dramatic change in his personality after he became a Christian. His attitude changed so much that his wife also placed her faith in Christ.

to be so intolerant," Samer said. "I didn't tolerate people even walking by without scowling at them." Samer's personality changed so much that his wife also placed her faith in Christ. Her parents, angered that she had abandoned her ethnic religion, tried to force her to divorce Samer. But she remained committed to Christ and her marriage.

Samer's problems continued to mount, with his funds eventually decreasing to the point that he decided to leave Syria and move to Lebanon. He hoped he would face less persecution in the country where Hany lived. When he and his family reached Lebanon, he was so short of money and desperate to feed his family that he visited one of his brothers who lived there. He had hoped his brother would offer help, but his brother wouldn't



**“This was the first time for me to see a Druze person who does not have the desire for revenge.”**

even allow Samer into his house. “Those in whom you believe, go to them,” his brother taunted. “I can’t help you.”

With help from the global body of Christ, Samer set up a new, temporary barber shop and found a place for his

family to live in Lebanon. He and his family continue to struggle financially, however, because of ongoing economic instability in the country. They also continue to face rejection from members of the Druze community because of their

Christian faith, something to which his friend Hany can easily relate.

“I love the Druze very much,” Hany said. “I have a real zeal to help them and defend them. But my heart is for Jesus.”■



▲ Samer’s regular customers stopped visiting his barber shop in Syria because of his faith in Christ. With help from the global body of Christ, Samer set up a new barber shop in Lebanon.



Hear the testimony of a Christian from a Druze background, and learn how he is reaching Druze for Christ, at **VOMRadio.net/Druze**.



# Prayer Diary®

November/December 2023

## NOVEMBER

S	19	LIBYA	<b>Pray for the boldness of a fellowship of Believers who attend an online church.</b>
M	20	INDIA	Pray for Christians, using Romans 5:3–5 as a guide.
T	21	UGANDA	Pray for Sister Ruth, the widow of a martyred evangelist.
W	22	AZERBAIJAN	Pray for the continued faithfulness of those under spiritual attack.
T	23	SOMALIA	Pray for greater unity and trust among leaders of the Somali church.
F	24	SRI LANKA	Pray for those facing governmental discrimination because of their Christian witness.
S	25	KAZAKHSTAN	<b>Pray that Kazakh Christians will heed God's call to serve as church leaders.</b>
S	26	ALGERIA	<b>Pray for Believers whose churches have been closed by the government.</b>
M	27	CAR*	Pray for a bold witness among Muslims.
T	28	TURKMENISTAN	Pray for those seeking creative ways to get copies of the Bible into the country.
W	29	IRAQ	Praise God that far more Bibles have been distributed than have been destroyed by extremists.
T	30	PHILIPPINES	Pray that Muslim extremists and Communist rebels will reject violence for the peace of Christ.

## DECEMBER

F	1	KENYA	Pray for the growth and witness of Christians who have received audio Bibles.
S	2	BAHRAIN	<b>Pray for continued access to God's Word through the internet, bookstores and churches.</b>
S	3	AFGHANISTAN	<b>Pray that the needs of all Afghan Christians will be met.</b>
M	4	INDIA	Pray for Christian families that were attacked by villagers while pumping water.
T	5	UAE**	Pray that those who relocate from more restricted nations will have opportunities to hear the Gospel.
W	6	UGANDA	Pray that God will hinder the spread of Islam in the country.
T	7	CAMEROON	Pray that God will raise up Christian leaders who are rooted in biblical knowledge and wisdom.
F	8	LIBYA	Pray that those using digital Bible formats will remain undiscovered by authorities.
S	9	NORTH KOREA	<b>Pray for a Christian in China who runs a discipleship centre for trafficked North Korean women.</b>
S	10	TUNISIA	<b>Pray that Bibles will become widely available and accessible to Christians and seekers.</b>
M	11	PAKISTAN	Pray for Christian ministries reaching out to Afghans who have taken refuge in Pakistan.
T	12	MAURITANIA	Pray that Christian leaders will remain above reproach for the sake of the Gospel.
W	13	INDONESIA	Pray for Front-Line Workers like Mina and Mehfri as they proclaim Christ to Muslims.
T	14	SRI LANKA	Pray for pastors who are planting house-churches in unreached villages.
F	15	TANZANIA	Pray for the encouragement of pastors and evangelists who receive Village Outreach Kits.
S	16	IRAN	<b>Pray that those following false ideologies will be open to the Gospel.</b>

\*CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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