

ONE VOICE

*Vibrant Followers
of Christ in Iraq*



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VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

ONE VOICE. ONE CHURCH. ONE STORY AT A TIME.

Every month, *One Voice* brings you real stories of Christians around the world who are standing firm under persecution – bold, faithful and unshaken. Their courage calls us to a deeper faith. Their suffering calls us to unity.

Be informed.

Be inspired.

Stand with them – as one voice.

—

*“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with **one voice** glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Romans 15:5-6 ESV



Voice^{of the} Martyrs

ONE VOICE is one of the primary tools used by Voice of the Martyrs Canada to engage the Canadian Christian community and bring awareness of believers who suffer because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

FOUNDERS

Klaas and Nellie Brobbel
with Pastor Richard Wurmbrand

Scripture quotations are from the English
Standard Version, unless otherwise indicated.

CONTACT

P.O. Box 608, Streetsville, ON L5M 2C1
Tel: 905-670-9721 | Toll Free: 1-888-298-6423
Email: onevoice@vomcanada.org
Website: www.vomcanada.com

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ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

Followers of Christ in Iraq

By Floyd A. Brobbel
CEO for Voice of the Martyrs Canada

*“I love those who love Me, and those
who seek Me diligently find Me.”*

Proverbs 8:17 ESV



Iraq is a predominantly Muslim nation where Islamic law is enforced in the courts. As converts from Islam to Christianity are regarded as infidels, they encounter numerous challenges – including social rejection, which poses a significant threat to the believers’ security, well-being and safety. While there is a substantial Christian population in northern Iraq that can worship freely, followers of Christ in other parts of the country face the risk of violence whenever they gather to worship.

Many Iraqi Christians adhere to ancient faith traditions that date back to the first century. In recent years, however, the presence of ISIS has forced tens of thousands of the country’s citizens to flee the region, leaving behind a small but resilient community of Christ-followers. For those who remain, their daily lives often revolve around survival and the constant challenge of navigating an uncertain future. On the other hand, the brutality displayed by ISIS fighters has also prompted numerous Iraqi people to question their beliefs and thus embrace faith in Christ. This has created powerful opportunities to share the Gospel with individuals



who, like Abdul, are earnestly seeking hope and truth amidst the country's turmoil. During ISIS's oppressive rule in Mosul, Abdul served as a soldier and regimental officer. However, the devastation he witnessed in the aftermath of the violent battles – including the horrific loss of lives – led him to question the Islamic doctrines he had long followed and begin his search for the true God.

After contacting a local church in Erbil, a welcoming pastor invited Abdul to meet with him. They discussed the nature of God as understood through the teachings of both Islam and Christianity. The pastor then encouraged Abdul to join a discipleship group. Eager to learn more, Abdul accepted the invitation and began to explore the Bible with the help of accompanying study materials. Ultimately, the former Muslim soldier left behind his affiliation with ISIS and instead embraced the way of Christ, becoming a dedicated believer committed to his newfound faith and church community.

Many other Iraqis likewise feel disillusioned with Islam and its strict teachings. This presents the church with unique opportunities to welcome these spiritual seekers into a caring community that is familiar and yet distinct. While both Muslims and Christians strive to reject ungodly systems and endeavour to pursue what they believe to be holy living, the

crucial difference lies in the God whom Christians worship – a compassionate Father who lovingly draws near to those who seek Him, contrasting sharply with the violence and hatred displayed by ISIS.

American preacher A.W. Tozer wrote, "Nothing in or of this world measures up to the simple pleasure of experiencing the presence of God." As followers of Jesus, we recognize this statement to be true, for we experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the abiding presence of Jesus, and the incredible love of God the Father. Therefore, we rejoice with those who have come to discover the presence of God and find in Him not only peace and purpose, but also the gift of abundant life.

As you read this month's *One Voice* issue, please pray for the protection of Christian believers in Iraq, especially those who have broken free from the bonds of Islam and embraced God's salvation. Pray also that churches and Christian relief organizations will seize divinely appointed opportunities to provide both assistance and spiritual support to the numerous individuals who are suffering in this war-torn nation, thereby demonstrating the glory of "the Great I Am."

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Loyd". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping horizontal stroke that extends to the right and then loops back down to the left, framing the name.

Irrepressible Faith

As a young girl growing up in a Sunni Muslim household in Mosul, northern Iraq, Zainab* was quietly captivated by the stories she heard about Jesus. In secret, her Christian neighbours often told her about His teachings and miracles. These early seeds of faith took root in her heart and, as she grew older, so did her love for Christ.

One day, as a teenager, Zainab asked her neighbours to show her a picture of Jesus. The moment she saw the illustration, something stirred deep within her. "I was shocked because I felt I knew Him a long time ago," she recalls. "I was surprised and filled with curiosity." Though Zainab still considered herself a Muslim, she began secretly reading the Bible through an app on her cell phone.

When Zainab eventually gave her life to Christ, the new believer's transformation did not go unnoticed. Her parents, unable to accept their daughter's decision, were deeply ashamed of Zainab's departure from Islam. And so, they subsequently confined her to the family home. While her mother attempted to conceal Zainab's faith from her siblings, her brother soon discovered the truth and responded with outrage. "He started to beat me, fight with me every day, force me to wear a hijab, prevent me from seeing any of my relatives, oblige me to fast during Ramadan, and destroy my life in all domains," Zainab says.

Yet, the struggles this young woman would face for her newfound faith were only just beginning. In 1999, Zainab's



After being freed from years of abuse, Zainab now runs a small decoration business to support herself.



mother forced her to marry one of her cousins, who later joined the police force. During this period, her brother's threats continued to loom constantly – to the point that he threatened to kill her on numerous occasions. In 2007, after her husband was killed during the war with ISIS, Zainab and her three daughters were forced to return to her parent's home. There, life was filled with daily challenges due to her brother's extreme hatred towards Zainab and her daughters.

In 2009, the Christian widow was proposed to by a relative of her mother. Zainab had never met this man before and, after having many doubts, she decided to refuse the marriage proposal. Despite this, Zainab's family secretly arranged the wedding and thus forced her to marry for a second time. Her new husband turned out to be not only an Islamic extremist, but a dangerous member of an ISIS sleeper cell in Mosul.

The next nine years were marked by unimaginable suffering. Zainab lived with rejection and humiliation, enduring constant episodes of confinement and physical abuse. In addition to being beaten with a stick, the abusive man forbid her from praying to the Lord and reading the Bible. Eventually, Zainab gave birth to a son and later another daughter. However, due to severe anemia and malnutrition, she suffered several miscarriages.

This hard life continued until, one day, Zainab had a chance to travel out of Mosul and flee to Türkiye. "I was praying earnestly... I asked Jesus to release my burdens and set me free from [my husband's] bondage." While in Türkiye, she suddenly received word that her husband had agreed to divorce her. Following the divorce in 2018, Zainab sensed God's divine leading to return to Iraq. So, in 2020, she moved back to Mosul and remained there for a year before resettling in another city.

In April 2021, Zainab visited a local church for the first time and began attending regular services. Then, in May of 2022, she enrolled in a trauma healing course for widows and

divorced women who, like her, had suffered persecution and abuse because of their faith and gender. One month later, Zainab was baptized – publicly declaring the faith that her opposing family had forced her to keep a secret for so long.

Today, at 45 years old, Zainab still bears the physical and emotional wounds of her past. Years of abuse, malnutrition and untreated illness have left her unable to work at a regular job. After being diagnosed with a uterine condition, her church community came together to cover the cost of her surgery at a private hospital. She is now able to support herself by running a small decoration business through which she crafts handmade flower bouquets and baskets.

Despite all she has been through, Zainab steadfastly clings to her faith in Jesus, considering herself a new creature set free from the chains of bondage. "I believe that the challenges, sicknesses, tribulations and temptations...were part of my growth in the Christian faith," Zainab proclaims. "I prayed and trusted Jesus in those difficult moments.... God's Holy Spirit will [continue to] help me endure by giving me the power to overcome my difficulties during these challenging days."

**Note: Zainab's real name has been withheld for security purposes.*

PERSECUTION RESPONSE

VOMC is providing financial assistance to Zainab for her rental residence, medical fees and daily living expenses, as well as materials for her decoration business. If you would like to help support this recovering sister in Christ, please consider giving to our *Relief & Development Fund* or *Medical Fund*: www.vomcanada.com/donate

Loving His Enemies

Haytham's marriage proposal to his wife, Mary, was the last and least romantic of the three that she had received years ago. "I think I love you, and I want you to be my wife," he began. "But I also want to tell you my life's plan..." Haytham shared about God's call on his life, explaining that he planned to leave his ministry work in Lebanon so he could return to his homeland of Iraq to preach the Gospel. "Most likely, I will be living a harder life than the average person," he warned his prospective bride.

Haytham was prepared for Mary's rejection of his proposal. He understood that living with a ministry worker in a war-torn, predominantly Muslim country was not every Christian woman's dream. Ironically, though, his devotion to God's calling was precisely what Mary wanted in a husband.

"Lord, I want You to send somebody who is dedicated to You," she earnestly prayed, "and that is the one whom I want to marry." So, when Haytham spoke of his plans for ministry, she recognized that he was the answer to her prayer. In 1999, a year after their wedding, the couple moved to an area of Lebanon that was heavily populated by Iraqi refugees. There, they established a ministry in the community.

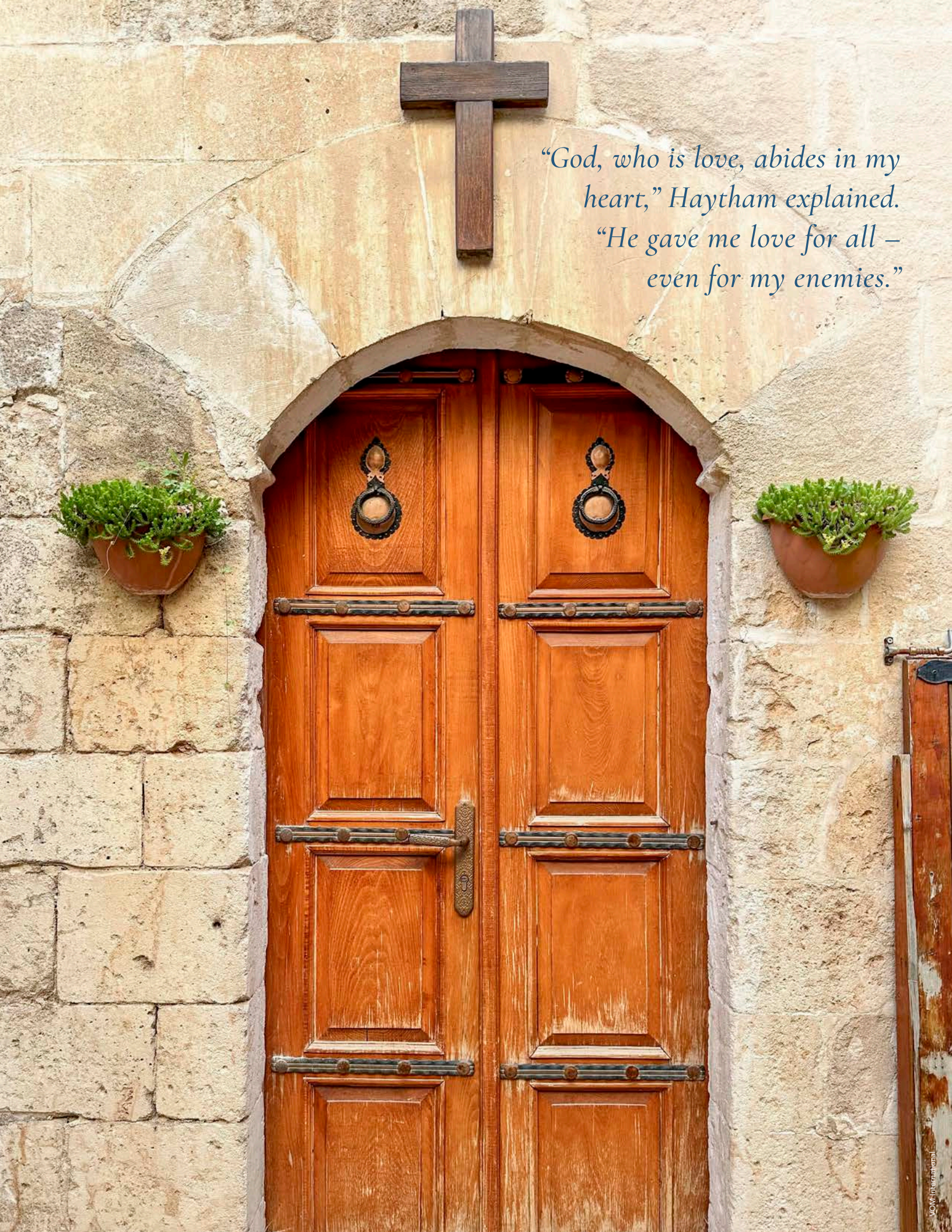
By the time Haytham and Mary had committed to proclaiming the Gospel in neighbouring Iraq, the country was engulfed in a state of war and economic instability for two decades. Taking this into consideration, the young

couple waited for a sign from the Lord indicating when it was the right time for them to go. Soon after they began ministering among the Iraqi refugees, two events made it possible for them to start their work in Iraq. "In 2003, I finished my theological studies," Haytham explains. "It was the same year that the regime of Saddam Hussein fell. I considered that a sign from the Lord that we could now enter Iraq."

That year, the ministering couple moved to the bustling city of Mosul in northern Iraq, and Mary was immediately confronted with the challenges Haytham had warned her about when he proposed marriage. They were shunned by their neighbours, spied on while in their home, and denounced at the local mosque. "Of course, [the situation] was hard on me," Mary recalls. "But because I had the service of the Lord as my goal, it was also a great encouragement."

In addition, their work was bearing much fruit. "People were so [spiritually] hungry," Haytham states. "Within the first two months, the ground floor was packed with people, and I had ministries in every village." The first group of new believers were baptized soon after the establishment of the church.

Pressure from the community, however, was mounting. With the mosque only about 100 yards from their front door, Haytham and Mary could hear Muslim leaders instructing

A photograph of a rustic wooden double door set within a stone archway. Above the door is a simple wooden cross. On either side of the door, a small terracotta pot with green plants is mounted on the wall. The door has ornate metal knockers and hinges. The stone wall is made of large, light-colored blocks.

*“God, who is love, abides in my heart,” Haytham explained.
“He gave me love for all –
even for my enemies.”*



local community members to shun them. Haytham also knew he was being followed, and soon their landlord delivered some bad news. The mosque's sheikh had issued a *fatwa* against them. The ruling, based on Islamic law, demanded that the Christians be expelled from the community. That meant the couple's family, and their thriving church, would have to move away from the area.

Once Haytham found a new location in Mosul, he began working to renovate it. But violence had not only been on the rise within the city, it was spreading across the country. In the preceding months, church bombings, drive-by shootings and kidnappings had put Iraqi communities on edge.

As the Islamic holy month of Ramadan was coming to a close in November 2004, Haytham and his church members were ready to start using their new building. The night before the opening service, Haytham sat down with Mary so they could have a serious discussion. "If I were to be martyred, how would you face this reality?" he openly asked her. Of course, Mary didn't want to consider the grim prospect. Even so, Haytham pressed the question, reminding her that martyrdom is the price some followers of Christ pay for their

faithfulness. He encouraged her to be heroic in the face of such a challenge, should it ever occur.

The next day, Haytham and his mother were driving to a nearby town to pick up some church members. In his rearview mirror, he noticed a car speeding up behind them. While driving along the edge of the road to let the vehicle pass, a series of gunshots were suddenly fired. Haytham felt the air leave his lungs – then everything went white before his eyes – as the car he was driving stalled beside the road and eventually rolled to a stop.

"I felt I was dying," Haytham recalls, explaining how he envisioned scenes from his life in those passing moments. "Lord, please accept my spirit," he prayed. "And please take care of my family." Then he sensed a voice within stating: "Just move. I don't want you to die. I want to use you." Haytham opened his eyes and tried to move, but his wounded body wouldn't cooperate.

"Mom, what happened?" he later asked his injured mother. "They shot you," she answered. In fact, Haytham had been hit by bullets several times. The most serious damage resulted from one that passed through his body from shoulder to shoulder, partially severing his spinal cord and leaving him paralyzed.

The first doctor who treated Haytham kept asking questions to keep him conscious. When he heard Haytham praying, the medical practitioner wondered if he was calling down curses on the men who had shot him. Haytham's answer surprised the attending doctor: "I wish I could meet them and tell them about the salvation of the Lord." The doctor paused from his work. "I don't understand you," he told Haytham. "Don't you want revenge?" When Haytham answered, "No," the doctor asked for an explanation. "God, who is love, abides in my heart," Haytham explained. "He gave me love for all – even for my enemies."

Meanwhile, Mary and others at the church had become

worried when Haytham and his mother did not return. They anxiously listened to news reports informing of other violent attacks in town, but they heard nothing of Haytham's dire situation. It was only when Haytham's father and brother began their search that the roadside attack had been discovered.

When Mary arrived at the hospital, she was shocked to see her husband lying on the floor unable to move, and the hospital staff running around him in chaos. Church members took turns caring for Haytham by feeding him, assisting with his medical care, and vigilantly standing guard.

Later, word reached some of Haytham's friends that the attackers were going to try again to kill him. It became clear that the local hospital was not a safe place for the targeted believer to stay. So some Christians smuggled him to the Syrian border, and from there he was taken back to Lebanon for eight long months of medical treatment. "People from all over the world were donating money to treat me in the hospital," Haytham gratefully recalls. "The number of pastors and ministers who came to the hospital to visit me was just beyond imagination. We really felt how much brethren in the Lord love each other."

Although Haytham's recovery was long and difficult, he and Mary witnessed God using even this time of suffering to bless others. "I didn't collapse emotionally," Haytham says in retrospect, "but I had hard moments." Six months into his recovery, a doctor told him he would likely never walk again. "This was the hardest word I heard," he admits. "It was like somebody shooting me in the heart."

Haytham prayerfully lifted his heartache to God: "Lord, You promised, 'My peace I leave to you.' I want this peace. And you said to [the Apostle] Paul, 'My grace will be sufficient for you.' I want this grace." As Haytham prayed, he became increasingly confident that his experience and perseverance were going to result not only in his own peace of mind but also that of the many to whom he would provide ministry

during his recovery. Throughout his lengthy hospital stay, he offered comfort and encouragement to both patients and hospital staff.

Today, Haytham and Mary are back in Lebanon serving in ministry. Along with the challenges he presently faces are even greater blessings. "I was such a self-confident person," he says of his life before the shooting incident, "I depended on myself. But the Lord has since taught me to depend on Him more."

Haytham's increased dependence on God has led to even more opportunities to share the Gospel. "One of the things that comforts my heart is serving in ministry," he concludes. Despite the difficulties Haytham and Mary have faced, this faithful couple now lead a growing congregation in hopes of continuing the calling they received from the Lord many years ago.

HEAVENLY FATHER:

We thank You for faithful servants like Haytham and Mary who have answered Your call to proclaim the Gospel message in the places you have sent them.

We prayerfully lift up this ministering couple to You as they now continue to minister in Lebanon, asking that You would abundantly bless their work and grant them daily strength, guidance and encouragement.

We also ask You to divinely protect the Christians remaining in Iraq, filling their hearts with greatly needed peace as they withstand intense pressures from their opposing families and communities.

May the faithful witness of believers like Haytham and Mary inspire us to likewise live in obedience to You.

In Jesus' all-powerful name, amen.

Perfect Peace: A Divine Design

Presenting the 2025 *Art Gallery Showing*

By Vanessa Brobbel
VOMC's Manager of Special Projects

In John 16:33, Jesus offers a profound promise: *"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world"* (ESV). This verse speaks directly to the theme of this year's *Art Gallery Showing*, "Perfect Peace," a concept that resonates deeply in both faith and art. This verse of promise not only provided participating artists a source of inspiration, but also a lens through which they could explore the contrast between *chaos* and *calm*, *struggle* and *serenity*.

Art has always been a powerful medium for expressing the human experience – its trials, hopes, and triumphs. In this verse, Jesus acknowledges the reality of tribulation. Since life is not without pain, conflict, or uncertainty, He offers a peace that transcends all circumstances; a peace that's found in Him alone! This divine peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of assurance, strength and hope in the midst of it.

Artists participating in this year's event were invited to reflect on what "Perfect Peace" means to them, while taking into consideration the challenges facing persecuted Christians around the world. Some of the artists chose to depict the storms of life (grief, anxiety and injustice), juxtaposed with symbols of divine calm: light breaking through clouds, a still

heart in the midst of noise, or hands lifted in surrender towards the heavens. Others focussed on the internal transformation that comes from trusting in Christ, illustrating peace as a quiet confidence, a gentle strength, or a radiant joy.

This theme also encouraged artists to explore the concept of *overcoming*. After all, Jesus' victory over the world is not just a theological truth – it's a source of empowerment. Through Him, we are not defined by our struggles, but by the peace that He provides in the midst of them. Artists portrayed this victory through various metaphors, colours and contrasts, showing how peace can bloom even in the harshest environments.

Ultimately, the theme of "Perfect Peace" was an invitation to create visual art from a place of faith. It challenged participating artists to go beyond surface-level beauty and tap into the spiritual depths of what it means to live in a world of tribulation while holding onto the peace that *"surpasses all understanding"* (Philippians 4:7). In this year's showing, each piece becomes a testimony that even in life's darkest moments, experiencing the Lord's promised peace is possible – for He has overcome the world!

ADULT CATEGORY WINNER:



Artist's Name: Jim Collins

Title of Entry: "Peace Be Still"

Medium: Oil painting on canvas

Dimensions: 96" x 180"

"Peace Be Still" depicts the Biblical account of Jesus calming the tempest storm, representing the peace that only He can provide as trials and tribulations swarm about us. Only the Lord can calm our hearts and souls, as long as we are in the boat with Him while the world's persecution rages. Our faith can be built on the sure foundation of knowing that Jesus' power has overcome this world, even unto death, since it leads to the resurrection of eternal life for those who believe in Him.



YOUTH CATEGORY WINNER:

Artist's Name: Emily Kelly

Title of Entry: "At the Cottage"

Medium: Watercolour painting

Dimensions: 8.5" x 11"

The place depicted in this painting represents "Perfect Peace" to me because everything is quiet and still. I can enjoy God's wonderful creation in the water, in the woods, or even while watching sunsets on the dock.

2ND PLACE ADULT WINNER

Artist's Name: Anne Laviolette

Title of Entry: "Peace Like a River"

Medium: Oil on canvas

"Peace Like a River" for me represents trusting one's whole self to God's care. It captures the experience of the Holy Spirit's powerful presence and peace moving through one's being, leading to a deep understanding that whatever happens, "It is well with my soul." I believe the peace of God takes on a whole new level of meaning in the face of danger, persecution, or even death. This is being depicted in my submitted artwork, where someone who is suffering incarceration has found peace through their faith in Him – echoing the imagery of that great hymn.



2ND PLACE YOUTH WINNER

Artist's Name: Rosalyn Canada

Title of Entry: "Roots of True Peace"

Medium: Oil painting



My painting is a scene of a koi fishpond, with elements hidden under the water. In keeping with the theme, "Perfect Peace," the first thing that came to my mind was calm waters with koi fish gliding through them. Nature has always brought me a sense of peace, enabling me to focus my mindset on God (Isaiah 26:3). It also brings me a sense of wonder when I think about all of the intricate details that He has created to make everything beautiful.

This painting evokes peacefulness because I imagine being in the scene...on a nice sunny day, sitting in the green grass, smelling the fresh air, hearing the soft sounds of water and the ecosystem – while watching the fish and water gently move – and feeling connected to God by being close to nature. Additionally, there are some objects in the water that aren't usually found in a pond. These 'symbols of faith' represent the 'roots of true peace.' There are hearts, a cross, a Bible, and a crown of thorns, all of which symbolize Christ – the Source of our true peace.



ADULT HONOURABLE MENTION:

Artist's Name: Karen Earls

Title of Entry: "Confidently Confined in His Light"

Medium: Photography, mixed media (wood, paper, wax, Scripture pages, fabric)

Through this piece, I envision many of the Godly Bible characters and personal Christian mentors of one's life who have gone on ahead in a cloud above the earth (Hebrews 12:1-2). There, these witnesses are cheering on the "runner" from their heavenly stands. The Christian runner wears light clothing and carries only a Bible; ready to run the race with the cross ever before him – wherever it leads on this planet – to do the works that God has prepared for him to do.

Thank You, Artists!

On behalf of the VOMC ministry team, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many talented artists from across Canada who have participated in our annual "Art Gallery Showing" over the years. While this event will not be held in 2026, we invite you to stay connected and discover other meaningful ways to continue engaging with our ministry. Visit www.vomcanada.com/events to explore upcoming VOMC events and opportunities to get involved.



February 6th - 8th, 2026 | Brantford, ON

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Women's Ministry Retreat

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Hidden Blessings

By Sarah Gabrielle
VOMC's Communications Coordinator

As Corrie ten Boom and her sister Betsie huddled together in their dark, foul-aired cell at Ravensbrück, a Nazi concentration camp in northern Germany, they began to list all the things they could be thankful for despite their grim circumstances. When Betsie suddenly suggested, however, that they ought to give thanks for the fleas that had infested their barracks, Corrie was baffled by her sister's request. "Betsie, there's no way even God can make me grateful for a flea," she exclaimed.¹

Quoting 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Betsie responded, "Give thanks in *all* circumstances." She then further explained: "It doesn't say, 'in pleasant circumstances.' Fleas are part of this place where God has put us." And so, although Corrie was certain her sister was wrong, they stood in their cramped cell and gave thanks for the fleas.

Later, Corrie discovered that the fleas had kept the cruel prison supervisors from entering their barracks, enabling the two sisters to conduct daily Bible studies and prayer meetings without interference. As it turned out, through those awful insects, God had also protected Corrie, Betsie and their cellmates from situations of abuse being inflicted upon them by the brutal guards. And, as a result, numerous women who had been imprisoned with the two sisters were able to receive greatly needed encouragement, hope and strength through God's Word.

At some point in each of our lives, we must deal with our own "fleas" – things that are unpleasant, distressing, or even

painful. Our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters, for example, endure suffering and challenging circumstances on a daily basis because of their faith in Jesus. Yet, just as God used the fleas for Corrie's protection, He will likewise use the difficult and painful things in our lives to bring about unexpected blessings.

Romans 8:28 reminds us that the Lord will manifest His goodness even in the midst of our suffering and tears: "*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good...*" (ESV). This doesn't mean that He causes the pain, but rather that He is far greater than whatever challenges we are going through. Assuredly, they will always work together for good, even when we don't see any evidence of it at the time. That's the reason why Corrie and Betsie were able to praise God while imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp, and why our ability to give thanks does not have to depend on external circumstances.

In fact, the Bible is filled with passages like 1 Thessalonians 5:18 that remind us of this powerful truth. King David, for example, faced countless perils throughout his life, and yet he was still able to proclaim: "*I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth*" (Psalm 34:1 ESV). And the Apostle Paul, while being detained in Rome for preaching the Gospel of Jesus, wrote: "*What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice*" (Philippians 1:18 ESV).



Perhaps you can identify with how Corrie initially felt. Due to your present circumstances, you may not feel like rejoicing over the “fleas” in your life. But the good news is that the Lord doesn’t necessarily ask us to be thankful *for* our “fleas.” Rather, I believe that gratitude is best viewed as an ‘attitude of the heart.’ In other words, what I’ve learned from our persecuted Christian family is that even though we’re not necessarily thankful for the difficult *circumstances*, we can still express thanksgiving and praise to our *Sovereign God* while in the midst of them.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can hurt, and yet still be thankful. We can experience hardships, and still be thankful. We can suffer the weight of heartbreak and loss, and still be thankful. That is what the Bible calls “*a sacrifice of praise*” (Hebrews 13:5). In fact, I believe that our persecuted brothers and sisters – many of whom have known the deepest

sorrows – are often some of the greatest examples of what it means to live with hearts of true gratitude and praise.

When we remind ourselves that all we are, and all that we have, are gifts from our gracious and loving God, He provides us the joy, comfort and strength that’s needed to praise Him continuously. As we take time this month to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, let’s express our gratitude to the Lord for His never-failing love, goodness, care and provision amid life’s hardships, and also for the many hidden blessings that come in ways we may easily overlook. So, be encouraged by the reminder that, no matter what you might be going through at this present moment, every day presents opportunities for you to live an overcoming life filled with thanksgiving!

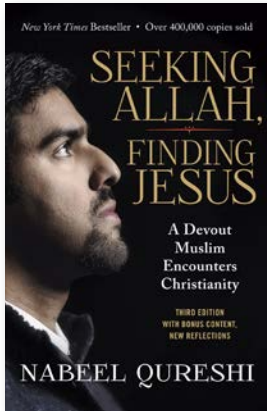
Endnote: ¹ Corrie Ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*, Chosen Books, Washington Depot, CT, 1971, p.181.

PAUSE & REFLECT

During times of hardship, have you ever found it difficult to find reasons to say, “Thank You, Lord”? In such moments, remember that God never changes; His love remains ever-present, and His comfort is like no other. We can be encouraged knowing that the suffering encountered during our earthly lives is temporary, and that He will give us the strength and peace we need to endure these seasons (Isaiah 43:2; Psalm 23:4).

Resources

Shop online at store.vomcanada.org



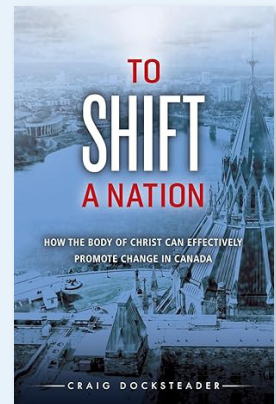
***Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* | \$18**

In this newly expanded edition of *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, Nabeel Qureshi describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity, complete with accounts of divinely orchestrated friendships, investigations and supernatural dreams along the way. Providing an intimate window into his loving Muslim home, Nabeel shares how he developed a passion for Islam before discovering – almost against his will – irrefutable evidence that Jesus rose from the dead and affirmed His identity as the “Son of God.” Unable to deny the arguments, but not wanting to dishonour his family, Nabeel struggled with an inner turmoil that will challenge Christians, Muslims, and all those who are interested in learning about the world’s greatest religions.

In his engaging and thought-provoking book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, this well-known Christian apologetic candidly acknowledges the clash between Islam and Christianity that took place within his heart during the investigative journey. As a result of God’s undeniable presence and peace throughout this challenging time, Nabeel was able to solidly affirm his faith in Jesus. Paperback, 373 pages

***To Shift a Nation* | \$15**

It’s difficult to capture in words the increasing concerns that Canadian Christians are feeling these days. Canada has become a nation today that many citizens had never envisioned before – and its future seems very uncertain. The traditional Christian values of our country are now either openly under attack or they have already been trampled underfoot. How we respond to today’s critical issues will ultimately determine the future that we leave to our children and the generations that follow. The book, *To Shift a Nation*, examines where we are, what went wrong, and what we need to do to alter the trajectory of a nation in peril. Paperback, 158 pages



"One Voice" November 2025: A Special Focus on PRAYER.

Rooted in Hebrews 12:1-2 and inspired by the persecuted church, this guided journey will invite you to draw near to Jesus, pray with purpose, and reflect on the perseverance of believers who run the race with unshakable faith. Let their witness encourage your own.

OCT 2025

"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

— John 16:33 ESV

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 MALDIVES Pray for the spiritual growth of Maldivians who have come to faith in Christ through the Internet.	2 JORDAN Pray that refugees in Jordan will be introduced to Jesus through the witness of the country's Christians.	3 BURUNDI Pray that churches will provide ongoing support and discipleship to Christian converts from Islam.	4 CHAD Pray for an end to Boko Haram attacks on Christians in the Lake Chad Basin.
5 UGANDA Pray that God would bless the ministry efforts of those equipping believers to share the Gospel.	6 IRAN Ask the Lord to use Christian media ministries that are reaching into Iran to draw unbelievers to Himself.	7 INDIA Pray for the protection, encouragement and faith of Herma and her family who were rejected by fellow villagers.	8 SIERRA LEONE Thank the Lord for small churches that are standing firm despite pressures from Islamic militants.	9 ERITREA Pray that imprisoned believers will encourage one another and share the Gospel with fellow prisoners.	10 MYANMAR (BURMA) Pray that Buddhist monks who seek to suppress Christianity will discover the reality of the Living Christ.	11 TÜRKIYE Although many missionaries have been deported, pray that Christian residents will proclaim the Gospel.
12 KUWAIT Pray that indigenous Kuwaiti believers will develop spiritual maturity and wisely share their faith.	13 KAZAKHSTAN Pray that Bible distributions will reach beyond the large cities to the most remote areas of the country.	14 LEBANON Pray for persecuted Christians in Druze communities, also interceding for more Druze people to receive Christ.	15 TOGO Pray for Togolese missionaries who are working to reach people in remote areas with the Gospel message.	16 CUBA Pray that believers who have been summoned for questioning will speak with courage and wisdom.	17 DJIBOUTI Pray that Christians will live according to God's Word and boldly proclaim the "Good News" of the Gospel.	18 MOROCCO Pray that believers will have "a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7).
19 GUINEA Pray for those who persecute their Christian family members, asking God to transform their hearts.	20 NIGERIA Pray that Christians will be able to forgive their persecutors, some of whom are their neighbours.	21 BHUTAN Pray for effective discipleship efforts that would prepare new Godly leaders to shepherd local churches.	22 PHILIPPINES Pray for the families of pastors and other believers who have been killed for their Christian activities.	23 COLOMBIA Pray that Marxist guerillas will come to faith in Christ through the testimonies of believers in "red zones."	24 AZERBAIJAN Pray that all Azeris will receive their own copy of God's Word, despite heavy governmental restrictions.	25 MEXICO Prayerfully uphold Pastor Filadelfo, who was repeatedly jailed for his witness and kicked out of his village.
26 CAMEROON Pray that Christians living along the Nigerian border will stand firm in the wake of attacks by Boko Haram.	27 UZBEKISTAN Pray that Uzbek church leaders will receive the necessary tools to expand their Gospel outreach ministries.	28 SRI LANKA Praise God for churches engaged in church-planting and missionary work despite threats of attack.	29 MAURITANIA Ask the Lord to remove obstacles that may prevent Christians from reaching others with the Gospel.	30 SOMALIA Pray that Somalis arrested in Somaliland will stand firm and persevere amid trials – for God's glory.	31 AFGHANISTAN Pray that imprisoned Christians will seize divinely appointed opportunities to share their faith.	



International Day of Prayer for the *Persecuted Church*



UNITE IN PRAYER
Sunday, November 2nd

VISIT **WWW.IDOP.CA** FOR FREE PRAYER RESOURCES