

ONE VOICE

Enduring Followers
of *Christ* in Ethiopia



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VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

STORIES OF COURAGE. FAITH. AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

*Canadian Spotlight** is a new *One Voice* feature sharing hopeful, faith-filled stories of believers who endured persecution abroad and now make their lives here in Canada. Their journeys remind us that God is still at work – bringing healing, new beginnings, and unity to His church across every border.

Be encouraged by their resilience, their renewed hope, and the ways we can stand with them – and with those they love back home.

Read the first *Canadian Spotlight* feature on pages 12-15.

**Canadian Spotlight* will appear in *One Voice* whenever new stories come to light and God entrusts them to us.



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.

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ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

Followers of Christ in Ethiopia

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

“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2 Corinthians 12:10 ESV



In southern and eastern Ethiopia, Christians, particularly those who have converted from Islam, are subjected to severe persecution. These individuals must often endure intense backlash from their communities – resulting in social ostracism, threats, and even violence. In the northern parts of the country, followers of Christ encounter hostility, not only from members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church but also from militant Islamic rebel groups. The challenges these Christians face underscore the deep-rooted tensions and struggles within Ethiopia’s religious landscape.

Yet, despite ongoing attacks on Protestant and evangelical believers, the church continues to grow. Consider the following statistics.... In 1960, Protestants made up less than one percent of the country’s total population. However, over the past 60 years, Ethiopia’s religious landscape has changed considerably.



By 2025, the Protestant community was projected to constitute 20 to 22 percent of the total population. This growth demonstrates the remarkable ways in which God's protection and preservation sustain the life of His church. In times of persecution, believers consistently credit their resilience and spiritual vitality to His divine intervention and provision.

Even so, such church growth has come at a cost. For example, on February 9th, 2026, two Christian evangelists were attacked by Muslim militants while preaching at an open-air market in central Ethiopia. Both men sustained severe head injuries and had to be taken to a local hospital. In a separate attack on July 29th, 2025, a small congregation in Ethiopia was raided by hostile community members who opposed the church's presence in their village. Two months earlier, on May 15th, 2025, Brother Ibrahim, a convert from Islam and passionate Christian evangelist, was approached by an armed individual dressed in traditional Islamic clothing. The attacker declared it would be Ibrahim's final day of evangelizing before suddenly shooting him. Brother Ibrahim was rushed to the hospital but soon died from his wounds.

In this month's issue of *One Voice*, we invite you to connect with our Ethiopian brothers and sisters who bravely endure challenges for the sake of Christ. Their stories serve as powerful reminders of our commitment to support others belonging to the family of God. By joining in prayer and

offering tangible assistance, we can actively stand in solidarity. Moreover, through their experiences, we can learn to find joy in our trials and recognize that our weaknesses can be transformed into strengths that testify to God's goodness and grace. In this way, what the world may view as frailties can become mighty forces for dismantling the powers of darkness.

A former Ethiopian Christian, who spent time in prison for her faith, reflects on this beautifully in a small booklet called, *The Prisoner's Lantern*. She writes, "Even in prison, we can shine." The author then describes how fellow prisoners often fall into depression due to the physical and spiritual darkness they experience within their deplorable environments. And yet, she understands that Christians are called to shine for Christ in every situation. She goes on to note: "We can help these people just by loving them and doing what we can.... Both [loving and caring] are hard to give when met by rejection, and yet they produce positive results."

My prayer is that Christians in Canada will likewise learn to trust Him in every circumstance, and thus shine for God's glory. May we also be empowered by the Holy Spirit, knowing that as we strive to do our best, we can then leave the results to our trustworthy God.

Grace and peace,

F. Loyd

When Jail Becomes *a Bible School*



As a Communist in Ethiopia, Caala Ebo did not like people of faith. “I believed that [Christians] were the promoters of imperialism,” he recalls. “I didn’t like any kind of religion. I studied Marxism and Leninism, and was very involved with Communist ideology.”

In high school, Caala joined the Communist youth movement. He aggressively opposed Christians, once confronting a fellow student who had recently placed his faith in Christ: “I started telling him that his religion was false and he shouldn’t follow Christ.” Yet Caala’s arguments

weren’t as convincing as those of his Christian classmate, and he ultimately felt that he had lost the debate.

Frustrated, Caala reported his classmate to Communist leaders. “I told them that ‘unless you put him in jail, he won’t be converted [to communism],’” the former persecutor states. As a result, his classmate was jailed for three months, and Caala learned that his words had the power to send people to prison. “There were many Christians who I was able to have imprisoned,” he regrettably admits today. “I became a good informant for the Communist Party.”

The Communists came to power in Ethiopia during 1974, when a military junta overthrew the country’s longtime emperor, Haile Selassie. While Caala grew up under this Communist influence, he wasn’t always an atheist. His father had practised a blend of occult rituals and Ethiopian Christian traditions. And although Caala was very young when his father died, he followed in his father’s footsteps by participating in local spirit worship.

When Christian missionaries visited Caala’s town during his childhood, he heard the Gospel for the first time. “The Christian leader...used to share the Gospel with children,” Caala remembers. “As a child, I sat with other children and heard what [the missionary] said.” Though he would later become a committed atheist, the seeds planted in those early years never fully disappeared.

Years later, while working in a government office, Caala encountered a foreign missionary who asked him if he knew anything about the Bible. Surprised, Caala replied by quoting Psalm 92 and even singing a Christian song based on the passage.

In response, the missionary bowed his head and prayed. When he looked up, he told Caala: “You belong to God. You will come back to the Lord.” Upon hearing the missionary’s declaration, Caala was overcome with emotion and began to cry.

*“You belong to God.
You will come back to the Lord.”*

The missionary left, and Caala never saw him again. But afterwards, he found a Bible and spent hours reading it. Feeling compelled to learn more, he sought out a Christian childhood friend who explained the Gospel and prayed for Caala. “I started crying, repenting and confessing my sins,” he acknowledges. “That is how I came to the Lord.”

Caala’s newfound faith angered his Communist friends. “They beat me, rejected me and abandoned me,” he says. And when the Communist regime collapsed in 1991, his former comrades seized an opportunity for revenge. Knowing that he had once helped imprison Christians, they fabricated charges against the new believer to have him thrown into jail. “They said I [had killed people for] the Communist government,” he explains.

Caala was thrown into the same prison where he had once sent followers of Jesus. There, he encountered a strong Christian believer who became a spiritual father to him. “He helped me grow up in my faith,” Caala gratefully says. For

him, prison became a place of intense discipleship – a Bible school behind bars.

When Caala was eventually released, he sought out the first Christian he had betrayed – the classmate he sent to prison as a teenager. That student went on to become a pastor who served in a remote region of Ethiopia. Caala travelled to find him, determined to confess and seek forgiveness. When the reunion occurred, it was a meeting of brothers rather than enemies. “He was very happy,” Caala reports. “He prayed with me. He was kind, and...in tears.”

Today, Caala serves as a mentor to Ethiopian missionaries and pastors, many of whom minister in predominantly Muslim areas where persecution is severe. While his official role is to support church leaders, his passion is leading people to the Lord – the very faith he once tried to destroy. He requests prayer that more Ethiopians, including those who persecute Christians as he once did, will come to know the truth of Jesus Christ.

HEART CHECK

The same prison meant for punishment became Caala’s classroom of discipleship. How might God be using your own difficult season to shape your faith rather than break it?

Doubly Redeemed



Most girls in Genet and Jalene's Ethiopian village were married off shortly after completing the eighth grade. But the girls' parents, recognizing their academic potential, made a rare decision: they sent the two sisters away to high school in a different town. There, while staying in a boarding house far from home, the girls met a Christian student named Mariam – an encounter that would profoundly alter their lives.

Although Christians make up the majority of Ethiopia's population, Genet and Jalene, who grew up as Muslims, didn't know any in their village. And they did not understand what those practising Christianity believed. Like other

Muslim children in their village, they had been taught that Christians might try to trick Muslims into following Jesus and that anyone who converted would go to hell.

"We heard that the Christians worshipped three Gods: the Trinity," Genet recalls. "We also heard that Jesus was the 'Lord' and the 'Son of God'. We joked about how a person, a Man born of Mary, could be God." At their local mosque, Genet, Jalene and their fellow pupils were additionally required to memorize lengthy passages of the Quran in Arabic, a language they could recite but not understand.

Genet preferred to stay away from Mariam, but Jalene was intent on convincing the Christian girl that Islam was the way. "Initially, my position was just to find ways of convincing her," Jalene says. "And in order to do that, I listened to Islamic sermons and collected information that could help me to win [our debates]." Still, both sisters found themselves drawn to the Christian music Mariam listened to as they walked to school together. As Jalene researched ways to convert Mariam to Islam, she found webpages that explained the Christian Gospel persuasively: "I began to realize that Christianity is really very nice. It's very simple – and, if we believe in Jesus, we can get eternal life. I started sharing my understanding with my sister, but she said: 'This is really not good. Are you sick? Just stop what you are doing!'"

Though firm in her Islamic beliefs, Genet struggled with a physical illness for which the family could find no effective medical treatment. One day, when Genet was very sick,

Raised in a strict Muslim household, Genet and Jalene chose to follow Christ – even when it meant leaving the home and family.



ChildFund
Ethiopia

Jalene played Christian worship songs and read some Bible verses to her. “I shared with her, ‘*As the Father loved Me, I loved you* [John 15:9],’” Jalene recounts, “and also ‘*Those who are weary, come to Me and I will give you rest* [Matthew 11:28].’” For Genet, these words struck a chord she had never felt before. “It was a joy to...get such very inspiring messages,” she says. “I never heard Allah saying, ‘I love you.’”

Moved by these comforting Scripture verses, the sisters decided they wanted to meet Mariam’s pastor (pictured on page 8) in secret. When the gathering took place, the church leader prayed for Genet, rebuking demonic influences in her life. That very day, both girls repented of their sins and came to faith in Christ. Later, they were secretly baptized in a river.

Genet says that after placing her faith in Christ, her behaviour changed dramatically. “I was very happy,” she explains. “It [felt like] I was converted to a different person. I tell you that I am a new person!” The transformation was dramatic, for she stopped gossiping, lying and cursing, and her health improved significantly. The sisters also became regular attendees at a local church, although they wore face masks so no one could identify them beneath their hijabs.

“It [felt like] I was converted to a different person. I tell you that I am a new person!”

When their family, however, eventually discovered that the girls were attending church, they transferred them to a school in a different town. While there, the sisters found a new church to attend, and this time they didn’t have to wear masks. But, in 2022, when relatives learned that Genet and Jalene remained determined to grow in their relationship with Christ, they forced the sisters to return home and demanded that they abandon their newfound faith.

In further attempts to draw them back to Islam, family

members brought in mullahs and village elders to pressure them. Still, the sisters stood firm and did what they could to continue growing in their faith, including hiding a Bible inside a larger book so they could secretly study God’s Word. Then came an unexpected public exposure.

One day, a local boy believed to be possessed by a demonic spirit was brought before a group of Islamic leaders who gathered to pray and recite Quranic verses over him. With the whole village present to watch, including the two sisters, the boy suddenly screamed out: “Genet and Jalene are still Christians; they are practising Christianity! They are worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ, and they are going to the church now!”

The girls were shocked. “Previously, the information was only disclosed to the family members,” Jalene states. “Now everybody heard about it. They started looking at us angrily.” From that moment on, the sisters were closely monitored. But Jalene, who had grown tired of hiding her Christian faith, decided to tell her mother exactly what she believed: “I just wanted her to know the truth that I understood. The Bible says that if someone doesn’t speak to an unbeliever, who is going to speak?” As she shared about her faith in Jesus, however, the girls’ mother remained unmoved.

Soon, Genet and Jalene learned that their parents were planning to marry them off to older Muslim men. Having just completed high school, the sisters made the desperate decision to flee. With very little money, they snuck out of a relative’s home late one night and caught a bus to Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, which they had never visited before. When their family members learned that Genet and Jalene had run away, they tried to frighten the girls into returning by warning them of the city’s dangers. “We told them, ‘We trust in God and [He] will help us,’” Jalene adds.

A Christian woman who met the sisters at the bus stop helped them to find work as housecleaners. Genet and Jalene told the

woman that they didn't care about wages as long as they were free to attend church. But it soon became clear that Jalene's employer was not going to allow her that freedom, instead making her work every day from 5 a.m. until well past midnight.

Concerned about their spiritual growth, the sisters contacted the pastors they had met when they first became Christians. One church leader arranged for both girls to leave their jobs and receive training as hairdressers, with support from the global body of Christ.

Today, now young women, Genet (21) and Jalene (22) run a hair salon in a tiny one-room building. A hanging bedsheet divides the sisters' living quarters from the salon area. Despite their circumstances, the two sisters are happy, and they want others to know their source of joy. "God was very good to us,"

*"God is good, and He is a refuge
in times of trouble."*

Jalene acknowledges. "We are very grateful for His provision and protection." The Scripture verse, Nahum 1:7, has helped sustain the sisters through many challenges. "God is good, and He is a refuge in times of trouble," Jalene attests.

The sisters request prayer for their family members' salvation, and that God will use their small business to serve a greater purpose. "We want God to bless what we have started," Genet concludes. "Now that we have a skill, we want to share it...and help Christians who are persecuted because of their faith. We want the Gospel to be spread and preached."

Genet and Jalene's story reminds us that the God who calls us will also keep us. As Nahum 1:7 declares: *"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him"* (ESV). May the courage of these two sisters inspire you to cling to Christ today with the same steadfast trust!

PRAY FOR...

- **The sisters' small business:** Ask the Lord to bless their hair salon, using it as a place of provision, peace and Gospel witness. May it also provide open doors for them to help other persecuted believers.
- **Protection and perseverance:** Lift up Genet and Jalene as they continue to follow Christ despite the pressures, isolation and cost of discipleship.
- **The church in Ethiopia:** Pray for courage, unity and endurance to be experienced among new believers and those who are living out their faith in hostile communities.
- **The salvation of Genet and Jalene's Muslim relatives:** Ask God to soften hearts and open spiritual eyes, while drawing their family members to the truth of the Gospel.

Grace Across Borders

After fleeing persecution in Ethiopia, a Christian advocate finds freedom and is welcomed into a caring Canadian family.

By Julie Fitz-Gerald
Associate Editor for VOMC

As Ethiopian officials investigated each of Joshua's* staff members, the human rights leader knew that he was next on the list. In 2009, the government of Ethiopia introduced a directive that would result in the arrest of any NGO leaders engaged in advocacy, sentencing them to a prison term of up to 15 years. "I was waiting for the police to knock on my door; it was just a matter of time," he recounts.

Instead, Joshua made the difficult decision to flee the country, leaving behind his beloved wife, six-month-old daughter, parents, siblings, and the only life he had ever known. As he packed his belongings, the urgency was palpable. Every minute that ticked by was a minute closer to arrest – a knock could come at any moment.

Miraculously, Joshua arrived at the airport without incident. He scanned the crowds for the authorities who were seeking him, but at each security checkpoint he was ushered on. "When I passed through the last security check," Joshua recalls, "there was joy and my family began singing 'Hallelujah!' It was a big relief for my wife, as well as my brothers and sisters. I couldn't believe it."

As the boarding call for his flight rang out, Joshua rose

from the waiting area and, without hesitation, stepped onto a plane bound for Toronto, leaving behind everything he knew and loved. By God's grace, he was able to escape the Ethiopian government's imminent impressment by making his way to Canada, with his family joining him five years later. Joshua looks back on his escape with awe at how wonderfully God orchestrated a new life of freedom for them.

EARLY TRIALS, ENDURING FAITH

For 20 years, Joshua had suffered persecution from the Communist government after leaving the Ethiopian Orthodox church when he was just six years old. As a young boy, his family endured routine police checks at their home in the capital of Addis Ababa. He clearly remembers one neighbour – a policeman – showing up with a machine gun one day. Threatening to kill them, the officer hurled what was intended to be an insult: "Pentecostals!"

"That night, my parents decided, 'If we die, we die; but we have to send our children to our relatives,'" explains Joshua. His parents, full of courage yet wary of the dangers, took their children to a relative's home before returning

to their own house that night. “They wanted to save us,” he remembers tenderly. Thankfully, the neighbour did not make good on his threat of death. The next day the children returned home, and the family continued to hold a secret home church service each week, emboldened by the love of Jesus in their lives.

The steadfast faith demonstrated by Joshua’s parents kindled within him a passion for advocacy work on behalf of other Ethiopian Christians. At 35 years old, he married a woman who attended the same church as him. The newlyweds remained in Addis Ababa while he worked secretly as a project manager for VOM Canada. However, the ongoing persecution continued to threaten their lives, ultimately requiring an escape from the country.

When Joshua stepped off the plane at Toronto Pearson International Airport, he was filled with gratitude. However, after a few months, reality hit: “Where do I go from here?” he wondered. Still feeling the effects of the trauma he had endured, Joshua kept having a recurring dream that lasted for three years. “In my dream, I would see the police coming in and catching me,” remembers Joshua. “I’d jump in my sleep during the middle of the night! And then I’d say, ‘Oh...I’m in Canada now. Thank God!’”

However, his early days in Canada were not easy. For starters, the individualistic lifestyle here, which focusses on materialism and wealth, was a stark contrast to the communal culture he knew back home where the focus was on community and church life. During this time of transition, Joshua not only had to find housing and a job, but also begin the process of making a claim with the Canadian government.

With friends of his family living in Alberta, Joshua made his way west, staying with them for one month. While there, he was connected to a church in their area, which offered him community and connection. For two months, he was eligible to receive social assistance while looking high and low for a

job. Joshua further explains:

“There was pressure to establish myself by finding a job and trying to make new connections in a new culture – at the same time, missing my wife and daughter. The pain of wondering what was going to happen to them was hard. The police could [arrest] and charge [my wife]...putting her into prison. It was a very, very tough time.”

Fortunately, he was quickly hired by Mac’s Milk (now Circle K), a convenience store staple across Canada. Even there, God was at work. With his earnings, Joshua was able to support himself and send money home to his wife. On Sunday afternoons, he looked forward to the visits of a regular customer who would come in for her coffee. Darlene, a local Albertan woman in her senior years, befriended the new Canadian and enjoyed chatting with him on those quiet Sunday afternoons. “She’s a key person who made me Canadian,” Joshua says warmly.

“[Darlene’s] a key person who made me Canadian.”

One day, Darlene invited him to meet her for coffee at the nearby Tim Hortons. He was enthusiastic and showed up early, pulling out his Bible to read while he waited. When Darlene arrived, she exclaimed: “Are you a Christian? I just assumed you were Muslim!” It turns out, Darlene was also a Christian and, at this discovery, the two believers hugged and jumped around in excitement. The Lord had brought them together as friends.

“From that moment on, she adopted me,” Joshua gushes. “She taught me about Canadian culture, like hockey. I called her ‘Mom.’ She introduced me to her kids. I joined them for every holiday, Christmas and Easter.” At a time when Joshua was homesick and lonely, Darlene became his lifeline and a

mother-figure, loving him like her own and including him in all their activities.

When Joshua's family was finally able to join him in Alberta, Darlene's daughter, Kathy, jumped right in. "Kathy is an incredible woman," he exclaims. "For 10 years, non-stop, she took my kids to do different activities every Saturday, taking them out and showing them places – making them Canadian. Because of this family, we've become more Canadian than Ethiopian!" he says with a hearty laugh.

Although Darlene passed away four years ago, the two families continue to gather as one, even vacationing together in British Columbia. They regard each other as brothers and sisters, aunties and uncles. "We've been able to celebrate every Canadian tradition together. Hockey, skiing – all of it!" Everything changed because of the kindness extended to him by a Canadian senior citizen who enjoyed chatting with the new Mac's Milk employee over her Sunday afternoon coffee.

FLOURISHING IN FREEDOM

Today, 17 years after moving to Alberta, 55-year-old Joshua is successfully employed as a Family Support Worker. He and his wife, who are now the devoted parents of three beautiful daughters, appreciate the fact that they can freely worship the Lord together at their nearby church. For over a decade, he has led a Bible study group in their neighbourhood, while the children attend a thriving youth program at another local church. In addition to continuing his advocacy work for Ethiopian Christians – establishing connections, supports and aid for those who need it most – he is also a treasured board member of VOMC.

When reflecting on the challenges of raising his children in the Canadian context, while honouring the family's Ethiopian heritage, Joshua explains that he tries to let the good

aspects of both cultures inform his parenting – pointing out a common thread. "It's a challenge for every Christian parent," he admits. "God has shown me that, instead of trying to figure out cultural issues, I need to be a good example. That's how I was raised, and that's how my mom influenced my life. As for the way I interact with my wife, my relationship with God, reading my Bible, my lifestyle...I see things from the Biblical point of view – from God's perspective – and not from a cultural one. We don't depend on culture. God has given us a foundation that dictates our decisions."

"To be able to raise my kids without having governmental trauma and involvement in our lives – this freedom means a lot."

What are Joshua's two favourite aspects of living in Canada? *Freedom and security.* "To be able to raise my kids without having governmental trauma and involvement in our lives – this freedom means a lot," he says. "Nobody bothers us here; our neighbours don't bother us. We are fortunate to be Canadian and experience this freedom."

It's a freedom Joshua hopes will be extended to others as an increasing number of immigrants and refugees come to Canada seeking safety and new opportunities. "We need to show love to the immigrants – to be compassionate – because these people have left their cultures and livelihoods behind. Immigration is like an old tree being planted in a different place. It takes time for that person to root themselves. They go through a lot of trauma, confusion and unknowns, so be compassionate towards them."

Perhaps that compassion will lead to many more "Darlenes" making an impact in the lives of new Canadians across our great country!

**Note: Joshua's name has been changed due to the sensitive nature of his ongoing ministry activities.*



Darlene's simple act of friendship blossomed into a life-changing bond that helped Joshua and his family flourish in their new Canadian home. He is also grateful for the wonderful friendships that were established with members of VOMC's leadership team – including podcast host Greg Musselman – during those early years.

Micro-Loans... *Major Impact!*

Report by Pastor John, VOMC's Regional Ministry Partner



VOMC collaborates with a trusted ministry partner in the implementation of micro-loan initiatives that support Ethiopian believers who are serving on the front lines of ministry outreach. Through the provision of these small business loans, the Christian workers and their families are able to establish sustainable income sources and strengthen their evangelistic efforts.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

As Daniel* worships, he leads the people with genuine enthusiasm and great joy. Without any doubt, he has good reason to rejoice. Since arriving on his mission field back in 2014, he has led many hundreds of people to the feet of Jesus.

As word of Daniel's initial arrival spread throughout the Ethiopian community, and the newly planted church he began started to grow, his small home was set on fire while he and his family slept. Thankfully they all escaped unharmed, but they lost everything. In the midst of the tragedy, Daniel and his wife persisted in trusting God. Within 12 months, their congregation had grown to include over 300 believers.

I was able to reconnect with Daniel and his family while visiting Ethiopia in January 2025. While joining our travelling team for part of the trip, he introduced us to some of the other workers who are currently involved in our



micro-loan project. One of these loan recipients is Jacob.*

Five years ago, Jacob was considered an outcast in his community because of his reputation as a donkey thief. While others avoided him, believing he could not be trusted, Daniel made a beeline for him. Soon Jacob came to faith in Jesus, and his life dramatically turned around.

Yet Jacob paid a price for that decision. As I spoke with him while on the way to visit another new church plant, I asked if he feared being attacked for sharing the Gospel. The dedicated evangelist thought for a moment and replied: "I have been kicked. I have been beaten with sticks by my family. I have even been tied up and imprisoned for becoming a Christian. The worst is over, and I do not fear now."

Jacob's lack of fear was evident as we arrived to a small enclave of round huts where all the village residents have since embraced the Christian faith through his ministry. This village community is led by Boora, a man with a notorious reputation. Although I had been told a little about his history as a violent raider – who, at one time, thought nothing of attacking neighbouring communities to seek

vengeance, kill and steal – I was hoping to hear more from the man himself.

So I asked Boora how he came to follow Jesus. He bowed his head and testified: "I was a bad, bad man. When I met Jacob, I knew I needed to change. But I also knew that I could not change myself." Boora continued to explain that Jesus was clearly the answer and, without elaborating on his violent past, the new believer told me that he decided to follow the Lord.

The change in Boora's character was so remarkable that all of his neighbours renounced their former religion and embraced Jesus as their Saviour as well. Today, they worship the 'King of Heaven' in a small hut which they built together.

Daniel and Jacob are just two of a larger group of Christian workers who have benefitted from our micro-loan project. Praise God for these faithful believers who are making great inroads in the face of strong opposition.

**Names have been changed due to security concerns.*

VOM Global Reports

TOGO: Pastor Slain in Islamists' Attack



Churches in northern Togo face increasing pressures from Islamist groups.

On February 7th, 2025, a group of Islamic militants confronted Pastor Gbendja Felidha at his home in northern Togo. When the armed men ordered the pastor to step outside, he refused. Pastor Gbendja then called out for help, but the attackers stabbed him and then shot him four times – fatally wounding him.

This was not the first attack he had experienced. On April 28th, 2024, militants raided a village where he was serving, burning homes and killing five people. Although Pastor Gbendja was able to flee, he frequently returned to the community to minister to villagers who had come back to work on their farms.

Pastor Gbendja became a Christian in 1994; and, in 2000, he felt called to serve in ministry. After training to become a missionary pastor, he began to proclaim the Gospel among nomadic Fulani herders. The devoted church leader leaves behind seven adult children.

BANGLADESH: Youths Trained to Minister in Volatile Area

Young Christians from isolated people groups are being equipped to reach their communities with the Gospel message. In a volatile area of southern Bangladesh called the Hill Tracts, tribal groups that culturally identify as Christians have encountered triple threats, for governmental forces, anti-government paramilitary groups and Islamic militants all regard them as enemies. The threats have driven the isolated people groups out of their homes and deep into the jungle, making access to them nearly impossible.

As a result, Christian ministry workers have been discipling and training young people from these tribes, equipping them to return to their tribal people as Gospel ministers. Pray for the success of this outreach program, and that these young leaders – who are committed to serving the Lord and their people – will receive courage and wisdom.



Young local leaders are being equipped for ministry.

MAY 2026

“Judgement will again be founded on justice, and those with virtuous hearts will pursue it.” – Psalm 94:15 NLT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 INDIA Pray that Basavaraj's family will remain strong in the Lord and that many in their village will be saved.	2 MOROCCO Pray that new churches will be established despite governmental restrictions and obstacles.
3 VIETNAM Pray that provisions will be supplied to Christians who are harassed or imprisoned for their faith.	4 SRI LANKA Pray for Pastor Benedict's congregation as they gather for worship amid strong Buddhist opposition.	5 PHILIPPINES Using Acts 2:38, pray that Islamists on the island of Mindanao will repent and receive God's salvation.	6 LEBANON Praise God that many Muslim refugees have placed their faith in Christ and are growing spiritually.	7 KAZAKHSTAN Using Isaiah 41:10, pray that Kazakh Christians will be strengthened to serve the Lord without fear.	8 OMAN Pray that Muslims seeking truth will find it in the person of Jesus Christ.	9 IRAN Use Hebrews 12:1-2 to pray for the encouragement of persecuted Iranian Christians.
10 MADAGASCAR Pray for the protection and empowerment of Christians who are witnessing to those in need of Christ.	11 NICARAGUA Pray that church leaders who have been threatened or arrested will experience God's peace and help.	12 QATAR Pray for the protection of Qatari believers who must use extreme caution when gathering for worship.	13 TUNISIA Although Tunisia is 99 percent Sunni Muslim, may many acknowledge and honour its rich Christian history.	14 PAKISTAN Pray for Tabish, Kalu, Sonia, Samia and many other believers who are facing blasphemy charges.	15 NIGER Pray for Christians displaced by Islamists' attacks – both Nigeriens and those seeking refuge in Niger.	16 OMAN Although the government restricts the sale of Bibles, pray for increased access to God's Word.
17 CUBA Pray that Christians will wisely yet courageously proclaim the Gospel online, not fearing retaliation.	18 TANZANIA Pray for unreached tribal groups that are resistant to the message of Jesus.	19 MYANMAR (BURMA) Pray that churches, orphanages and other ministries will remain open despite restrictions.	20 NEPAL Pray that Christians facing opposition from Hindu nationalists will be empowered in their faith.	21 LAOS Pray for training designed to help tribal Christians persevere through persecution and share Christ.	22 BURKINA FASO Pray that Esther (whose husband was killed by Islamic militants) and her children will receive help.	23 YEMEN Pray that Christian media will be effective in reaching Yemenis with the "Good News" of the Gospel.
24 KAZAKHSTAN Pray for Pastor Zanzhar, who was fined for continuing to minister after his church was "de-registered."	25 PAKISTAN Pray for efforts to distribute Bibles and Christian literature in areas dominated by radicalized Muslims.	26 OMAN Pray that Christian expatriates in Oman will have opportunities to share the love of Jesus.	27 TANZANIA Pray for local churches that are diligently working to reach their communities for Christ.	28 SIERRA LEONE Pray that Christians will be strong witnesses, shining the light of Christ in areas of spiritual darkness.	29 IRAQ Pray for the comfort and healing of those wounded in Islamists' attacks.	30 INDONESIA Praise God that Muhammad's prison sentence for evangelizing was reduced. Pray as he awaits release.
31 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray that the faithful witness of Christians will help change the hearts of many in need of salvation.						



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