

ONE VOICE

The Faith of Fathers



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VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

THIS SUMMER, STAY CONNECTED TO WHAT MATTERS MOST

Our July and August issues of *One Voice* will be combined into one special summer issue that's designed to help you remember and serve the persecuted church.

Wherever the summer takes you, know you can continue the journey:

- Be encouraged by powerful stories of faith under pressure.
- Engage your family through *Table Talks* online resources.
- Stay rooted in prayer for believers around the world.

This summer rhythm also allows our ministry team a short time of rest and renewal, so we can return ready to serve Christ and His church with even greater focus and care.

**Stand with your persecuted family.
Stay engaged. Be part of the story.**

Thank you to those who shared feedback with us as "One Voice" marked its first year. Your input has helped shape what comes next, and we're grateful to have you with 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.

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with Pastor Richard Wurmbrand

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

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Features

04



06



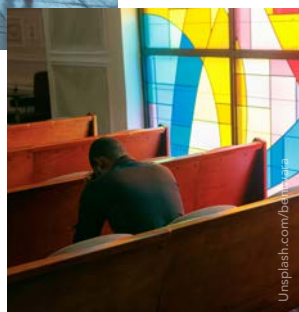
11



14



16



04 A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Floyd Brobbel reflects on the vital roles of fathers – highlighting the spiritual impact of faithful fatherhood, the pain of persecution-driven absence, and the church's call to care for those left behind.

06 FEATURE STORY

After the mysterious disappearance of her father (Pastor Raymond Koh), Esther reflects on his enduring legacy in Malaysia – while trusting in the Father who knows all!

11 PERSECUTION RESPONSE

Left fatherless by persecution, a young believer in Vietnam clings to the 'principles of faith' she was taught by her father.

14 LIFE LESSONS FROM THE PERSECUTED

VOMC's Director of Global Education and Discipleship explores *fatherhood in action* – how exhorting, encouraging and imploring others all reflect the heart of our Heavenly Father.

16 IMPACT REPORT

Through VOMC's ministry project in the Middle East and North Africa, fathers are rediscovering faith, restoring their families, and becoming strong spiritual leaders.

18 AROUND THE WORLD

Read global prayer alerts highlighting ongoing persecution in China and Cuba.

ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

The Faith of Fathers

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



*"I have no greater joy than to hear that
my children are walking in the truth."*

3 John 1:4 ESV

When I searched online for a definition of "a father's primary role," I came across an extensive list of responsibilities attributed to fathers. However, upon closer examination, it became clear that these responsibilities could be distilled into a list highlighting "the top five." A good dad typically fills the duties of *provider, role model, teacher, disciplinarian* and *protector*. I firmly believe that if a father excels in these areas, his wife and children will consider themselves fortunate. As both a father, and now a grandfather, I hope that through the Holy Spirit's guidance, I can fulfill these roles effectively for my family.

I remember having a conversation with a pastor who ended up in prison due to his church and community outreach activities. He had received threats from local authorities multiple times, warning him that he would be arrested if he didn't cease his religious work. Despite the warnings, this courageous man of God stood firm, convincing himself that he was ready to endure imprisonment, torture, and even



the threat of death, for the sake of Christ. However, after being imprisoned, the pastor came to realize that he wasn't truly prepared to witness the suffering of his family. While he may have been seen as a fine role model for his willingness to endure persecution, the reality of being absent from his loved ones made him feel utterly helpless and useless.

Research into the pressure points of persecution reveals that one of the greatest vulnerabilities of Christian men lies in their inability to provide for the *practical* needs of their families during enforced separation. Another relates to their crucial role as *spiritual* provider. A child thrives when both their mother and father are actively involved in their upbringing. However, when one parent is absent, the task becomes markedly more challenging. A father's responsibility is to guide each of his children along the right path, equipping them with the tools they need to walk confidently in the direction that God has intended for them. For a God-honouring father, there is no greater joy than witnessing his descendants grow and follow in the ways of the Lord.

Unfortunately, countless children around the world are raised without the basic advantages that many of us tend to take for granted, largely because their fathers have either been imprisoned or caused to sacrifice their lives as martyrs for the faith. This heartbreaking reality highlights a deep-rooted issue, as many of these children are left to navigate life without the guidance, protection and support that a

father typically provides. In recognizing this plight, we are reminded that our Heavenly Father is well aware of these challenges. With tremendous compassion for the fatherless, He desires to meet their unique needs. The God who sees their struggles and hears their cries also promises to comfort their broken hearts. However, it's essential to acknowledge that the Lord has called each of us to actively remember and care for these vulnerable individuals as well, ensuring they do not fall into neglect or despair.

The church, therefore, has an imperative responsibility to fulfill which involves stepping in when fathers are removed from their pivotal positions within the family unit. It is crucial for congregations and communities to come together during such times to offer loving support and guidance.

As you read through this month's issue of *One Voice*, I hope your hearts are stirred by the vital roles a father plays in the lives of his family. Please take a moment to pray for men who are facing challenges in providing for and protecting their loved ones amidst opposition. Remember, too, the mothers who are bearing the weight of parenting. Let us also pray that our faithful brothers in Christ will step in to help guide and support the fatherless, becoming a tremendous source of God's compassion and strength in these young lives.

Grace and peace,

The Goodness of Her Father

The daughter of a missing pastor in Malaysia was taught by her father that she can always trust in the God “who knows.”

As Pastor Raymond Koh drove to work on February 13th, 2017, in a suburb of Kuala Lumpur, several vehicles suddenly surrounded his car and forced him off the road. More than a dozen masked men jumped out of the vehicles, rushed towards the pastor's car and busted one of the windows open. Within 40 seconds, the men had shoved the pastor into one of their vehicles and disappeared. When a Christian coworker showed Pastor Raymond's 31-year-old daughter a social media post about the abduction, Esther Koh nearly collapsed. “They took him! They took him!” she repeatedly cried as the friend tried to comfort her. By “they,” she was referring to whoever had recently sent her father a death threat – an unmistakable message conveyed by two bullets inside a cigarette box.

The threat followed a raid on his office by authorities who were accusing him of trying to convert Malay Muslims to Christianity. While ethnic minorities in Malaysia may identify as Christians, all other Malay citizens are prohibited from converting to Christianity. It is even illegal for anyone to share the Gospel with them.

“I rushed out of the office,” Esther says of her reaction after receiving the distressing news. “I just wanted to find him...

but didn't know where to start.” Over the next days and weeks, Esther, her sister and brother, as well as their mother, discovered what took place on the roadway that day – thanks to the recorded footage of a surveillance camera located nearby. However, they could not get clarification on the perpetrators of the abduction nor why the incident had occurred.

Since that February day, which was more than nine years ago, Pastor Raymond's family has received limited information about the situation. The fact that his car was never located, and no one has been held responsible for his kidnapping, only adds to the perplexities of his mysterious case.

EXEMPLARY LOVE AND FAITH

Esther reminisces over the many meaningful moments she shared with her father; memories that make her smile today. She reflects on the Saturdays they would go swimming together, and then enjoy eating hamburgers afterwards. Then there were the times she would sing improvised Scripture-memory songs with him as he accompanied her on his guitar. When she was a young child, listening to his imaginative bedtime stories about silly animals also brought her much joy.



In the nine years since her father's disappearance, Esther returned to school to get a psychology degree. She hopes to help others who suffer from depression, anxiety and grief.



FEATURE STORY

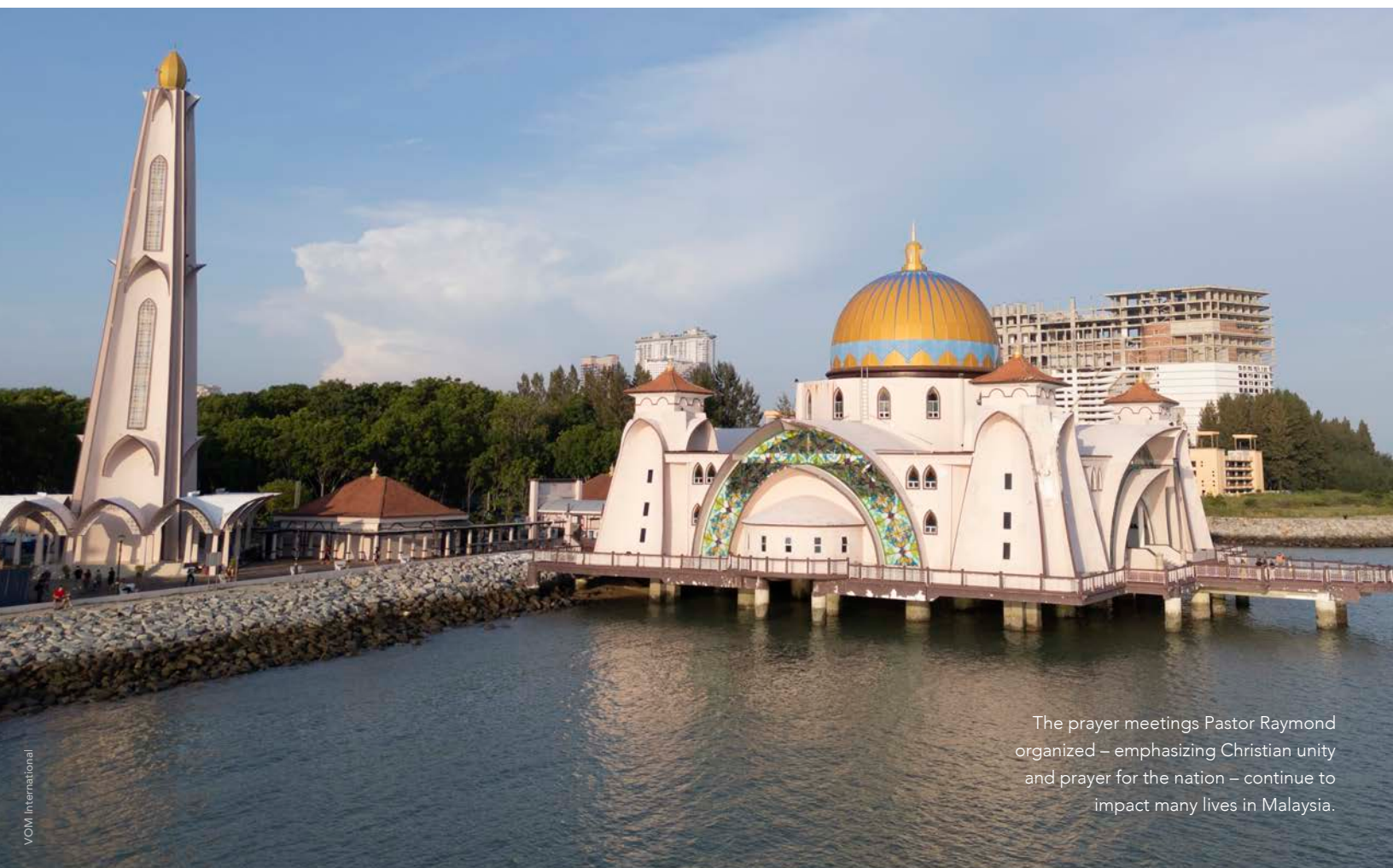
Considering that life in a restrictive majority-Muslim country such as Malaysia could be isolating and dangerous for Christians, her father's prayers for their family had an impact on Esther. So did the many times she saw him diligently studying and memorizing God's Word. Thanks to Pastor Raymond's goodness and faith, Esther and her siblings had a very secure and happy childhood. "My father was a great example of the faith, and a role model to me," she continues. "He would often lead worship with his guitar. Even at home, he would worship and rejoice; and, every once in a while, he would break out in a smile when he was singing. Those are good memories. That is how I came to have faith."

As busy as her father was, Esther always knew that she could count on him to listen to her. "Once, I was facing a problem with friends," she explains. "As I was telling him the whole story, he quietly listened.... After pouring out all my

troubles, he said, '*God knows.*' With just those two words, I felt very understood. He reminded me that God knows what's happening in my life – a reminder for me today that God knows what's happening to him as well."

Esther shares how her father's spirit of generosity was demonstrated through his many acts of service, especially to those in need: "He did not have much when he was young. That's what motivated him to start a nonprofit community organization." The organization Pastor Raymond founded helped single mothers and impoverished families, primarily by providing them with food. He also opened a reading room so students from noisy housing developments could have a quiet place to study.

Even though the nonprofit organization had to close after Pastor Raymond's abduction, the prayer meetings he organized – emphasizing Christian unity and prayer for the nation – continue to impact many lives in Malaysia. And



The prayer meetings Pastor Raymond organized – emphasizing Christian unity and prayer for the nation – continue to impact many lives in Malaysia.

thanks to the ongoing ministry of Esther's mother, Susanna Koh, some of those who had benefitted from the pastor's mission work are still receiving help today.

THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

During the first weeks after Pastor Raymond's abduction, Esther and her family experienced shifting and exhausting emotions: from shock to fear, occasional hope to despair, and finally grief. When a reward was offered for information about his whereabouts, only two people responded – and both of them didn't have any real answers.

In the midst of this devastating time, Esther had a vivid dream. In it, she saw her father near a sea that was glittering like gold. "His face was very bright, and he had the biggest smile on his face," she recounts. "As I was watching him swimming, I thought in my heart, 'He is so happy!' After that, I was calmer and more peaceful." The dream served as a reminder that "God knows," just as her father had taught, confirming that he was indeed in the Lord's hands.

Fragments of newly received information are helping to fill in some of the missing pieces to his puzzling disappearance. An eyewitness of the abduction provided firsthand details, and the family – after going door-to-door questioning people – located a closed-circuit camera that had captured the entire vehicle incident on video.

In 2019, the Malaysian Human Rights Commission formed a committee to follow up on the police investigation. It discovered that the "Special Branch" (an intelligence unit affiliated with the Malaysian police force) was involved in the disappearance, and that Pastor Raymond was targeted because of his religious activities. However, it took years before the commission's report was finally released; and even then, the information was heavily redacted.

Esther admits that she struggled with anxiety and depression during those long years of waiting for answers

and fighting for justice: "At first, I was hopeful. But when the police were not forthcoming with what happened, and they were not investigating properly, I did not have much hope anymore. I felt the truth would not be uncovered."

Still, the worldwide prayers of God's people and public vigils advocating on behalf of her missing father have brought new hope and clarity for Esther and her family. "Through the experience of people...who have come alongside to help us push forward, I realized that...[our Lord] is a God of justice," she gratefully acknowledges. "Thinking of who He is in this situation gives me a lot of comfort."

PERSPECTIVES ON HOPE

Esther has found comfort in a variety of ways. About two years after her father's abduction, she attended a retreat that focussed on meeting God in His Word. "I was learning to discern what He wanted me to do," she says. This focus has helped Esther gain a fresh perspective on what it means to trust in the Lord's goodness, even when His plan is unclear. "Before the incident," she explains, "my faith was based on what I saw from my dad. But when this happened, it was like being thrown into the deep end of a pool...with no life jacket. Like learning how to swim, I had to learn to trust God by taking it one step at a time." While taking those baby steps of faith, the Lord provided Esther hope in the midst of suffering.

Even though her mother, Susanna, has always been very vocal about their family's painful situation – and their ongoing search for answers – Esther only began speaking publicly in recent years. For Father's Day in 2024, she not only had the courage to speak at a large church about her father's disappearance, but also to be interviewed by a Malaysian newspaper reporter.

Reflecting on these opportunities, Esther states: "I agreed to speak because I want more people to know about [my father] and what he was like; and to share what God has been

teaching me. I think that...my experience, through my dad's story, can encourage people to see how God...is involved in our lives every day – even when we face difficult times."

Esther cited her father's favourite Bible verse, Jeremiah 33:3, as a major motivation in her life: *"Call to Me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known"* (ESV). Sensing that she should return to her studies, Esther is now pursuing a degree in counselling that will enable her to help people struggling with depression and anxiety, such as she had after her father's abduction.

While the family continues to seek answers about what had happened to Pastor Raymond, Esther realizes that the Lord has a way of turning suffering into something precious – *hope*: "God's role in our suffering is to give us hope. In this world, we will all face suffering. We live in a sinful world, so life is not always going to be what we want it to be. But through the pain – through the hardship and persecution – we can find hope."

Esther then references the following words of the Apostle Peter as a reminder of God's work in the life of every Christian: *"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith – more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ"* (1 Peter 1:6-7). "We have eternal life in Christ, which is more precious than the suffering we face in this world," Esther affirms. "Because suffering is temporary, in the end we'll have a spiritual inheritance: our relationship with God."

Having received her father's gentle guidance during her turbulent teen years, Esther now sees the same trustworthy gentleness in her Heavenly Father. "When we need wisdom," she concludes, "we can fully depend on God and trust Him." After all, as she well remembers being taught throughout her childhood years: *"God knows"*!

The translated quotations in this testimonial article have been adjusted – in keeping with Canadian grammar, spelling and punctuation.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, You are the God who sees, the God who knows, and the God who never forgets. Thank You for the gift of fathers who reflect Your heart of compassion and choose to honour You by diligently caring for their families. We place before You all those we serve who have lost their fathers, long for them, or live with unanswered questions because of life's perplexing situations. Draw near to each hurting heart with Your comfort, peace and hope.

Remind us, as You reminded Esther, to trust You when the way forward is unclear, and to take each step forward in faith – resting in Your providential care as our faithful and loving Father. May these momentary trials in life refine us, lead us to depend more fully on Your overcoming power, and strengthen our resolve to live wholeheartedly for You! In Jesus' precious name, amen.

Fatherless but *Faithful*

Tien received a shocking phone call in the late summer of 2022, announcing that her father, Truong, had been attacked in their home by a group of men led by his own brother. Tien was then told that her father would most likely succumb to his injuries before she could get home.

The last time Tien had seen her dad, she was leaving home to work at a job in another town. Truong – whose life had been dramatically changed by the love of Christ – made sure Tien and her three younger brothers felt loved. He also encouraged them to place their faith in Jesus Christ, even when it was costly. Looking at her father's lifeless body following the attack, Tien had to face the grim reality that she would never see him again in this life.

Even several years later, traces of the shock and sadness can still be seen in Tien's eyes. Now, at 19 years old, she shares her story in the company of several other Vietnamese women whose families have also suffered persecution for embracing Christianity. The caring presence of the other Christian women give Tien the comfort and courage to openly reflect on her own situation. At an age when she should be looking ahead to a carefree future, she instead carries the burden of supporting her younger brothers in a culture where being a Christian can be a lonely and painful experience.

Most Vietnamese practise a blend of ancestor worship and Buddhism, while the repressive Communist government actively

restricts Christian worship and promotes atheism. Minority tribal groups, such as the one to which Tien's family belongs, generally encounter the most violent forms of persecution. New Christians in tribal areas are often evicted from their homes and ostracized by opposing family members and neighbours.

Tien doesn't know how her parents came to faith in Jesus Christ, but she does remember one of the major changes that occurred as a result. Prior to surrendering his life to Christ, Truong would drink and then become physically abusive to Tien's mom. "When he became a believer, he stopped drinking," Tien shares. "He then wanted to help his wife with the housework and take good care of his children."

As Tien got older, she began to understand the source of the major changes in her father's life. He not only taught his children about God, explaining that eternal salvation can only be obtained through Christ, but he also encouraged them to learn more about the Bible. During the summer of her seventh-grade year, Tien's parents sent her to attend a Bible program for children at a nearby church. "At that time, I opened my heart to accept Jesus as my Saviour," Tien states.

Truong later encouraged his two older children (Tien and her brother Thanh) to join the youth group at their church so they could learn more about Christ and His ways. Tien enjoyed the sense of inclusion and purpose that she felt while preparing for the worship services with the pastor and fellow youth. She

*“[Those of the world] may hate us,
but we love them and pray for them.”*



loved to sing, and her favourite song was a hymn titled, *"He Came Because He Loved."* The idea of Christ's eternal loving presence in her life warmed her heart.

As Tien's father continued to nurture her young faith, he made a point of addressing the isolation and other forms of persecution that she could face as a follower of Christ. "The way people treat believers in our area is that they isolate [them]," Tien explains. "Even at school, the other students were told that I am a believer and...not to talk to me." Tien knew that he himself had been excluded by the other villagers and derided by his family for following Christ. "The thing that I will always remember being taught by my father," she explains, "is that we are children of God.... [Those of the world] hate us because they don't know who God is, but we don't hate them."

Truong's transformation in Christ made him an eager evangelist, and he routinely shared the Gospel with his neighbours despite opposition. In fact, that's what he had been doing the day he was killed. When he returned home that day, the house was quiet; no one was there except Tien's younger brother, Thanh. But that peace didn't last. Soon, a group of men – led by Truong's brother – approached the house. The men proceeded to beat Truong mercilessly because he wouldn't give up his faith in Christ. Then they left him to die. By the time Tien made it home, the mourning had begun. "People were standing around my father," she recalls. "I was so shocked.... I just cried because he had already passed away."

Truong's death was not the only grief Tien would have to bear. Her brother Thanh, traumatized by witnessing their father's murder, stopped talking and struggled psychologically. And their mother, who had a previously undiagnosed heart condition, never recovered from the shock. She died just two months after her husband's murder. At age 16, Tien became the head of a shattered household. Although she wanted to stay in her parents' home to care for all three of her younger

brothers, her uncle had other plans. His first move was to take Thanh to live with him. (Tien believes he is trying to prevent Thanh from testifying about the attack.) The uncle also laid claim to her parents' house and motorbike, leaving Tien and her other two younger brothers with no home or transportation. With few options, the three siblings moved in with their maternal grandparents.

"I remember what my father taught me," Tien adds. "So I forgive my uncle and also pray for him. I pray that someday he will come to know Jesus." While she realizes that her uncle may not let Thanh live with her, she prays that all her siblings will one day be reunited in the same home. With help from the global body of Christ through VOM, Tien is studying cosmetology so she can help support her siblings.

In the meantime, she continues to pray for Thanh's healing and restoration, all three brothers' education, the salvation of her uncle, and for her grandparents who have given them a place to live. Recalling her father's teaching, Tien concludes, "[Those of the world] may hate us, but we love them and pray for them."

HEART CHECK

- Who has shaped your faith through their example? How are you now helping to point others – especially those of the next generation – towards Christ?
- Is there someone in your life who you are struggling to forgive? If so, in what ways is God leading you to respond with the same love and grace Tien learned from her father?

Fatherhood *in Action*

By Stephen Wesley
VOMC's Director of Global Education and Discipleship

This month, we celebrate fatherhood. Yet fatherhood is more than a title – it's a calling that is lived out in daily actions, particularly during moments of challenge and adversity.

Here at VOMC, we have the privilege of ministering to numerous members of the persecuted church. In doing so, we witness the suffering of Christians facing some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. Yet, in those very moments, we also see something remarkable.... While many others might be crushed by despair and suffering, each of these believers demonstrates a resilience that flows through every member of their household. Their unity, faith and spiritual maturity become visible as they stand together amidst trials that would overwhelm many of us.

In this context, the Apostle Paul's words to the church in Thessalonica take on profound meaning. Reflecting on his ministry among them, Paul writes: *"For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own Kingdom and glory"* (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 ESV).

Earlier in the same passage, Paul compared his ministry to that of a mother caring for her nursing child (v. 7). By drawing

on these universal family images, he reveals something essential about spiritual leadership: true ministry reflects the character of both a nurturing mother and a faithful father.

Within the fatherly model, the apostle highlights three key actions: **exhorting**, **encouraging** and **imploring**. These words describe not only integral aspects of apostolic ministry but also the kind of fatherhood that shapes the lives of others and strengthens their faith.

The first action word, **exhorting**, carries deep meaning, for it involves more than simply speaking advice. The original Greek term used for this text references "one who comes alongside another." It reflects the same root word that is used when Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit as our Comforter – "the One who is called alongside to help." This image does not portray a distant authority just giving instructions, but rather that of a caring father who attentively sits beside his beloved child, listening carefully and entering into their world.

This posture also reflects the wisdom conveyed in James 1:19, through which we are exhorted to be *"quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger."* True fatherhood begins not only with speaking, but with *presence* – walking alongside, listening and guiding with humility.



The second word, **encouraging**, involves comforting those who are facing hardships. It echoes the Lord's prophetic call in Isaiah 40:1, *"Comfort, comfort My people"*; and the testimony of Paul in 2 Corinthians 1:4, who encourages us to *"comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."* This kind of encouragement is not superficial optimism. Instead, it is the willingness to stand with others in their suffering and help carry their burdens.

I have personally experienced this comfort and seen its fruit in the lives of believers around the world. Through our work at VOMC, we partner with men and women who embody this same spirit – people who are faithfully walking alongside the persecuted church by strengthening and supporting those enduring trials for the sake of Christ.

Finally, Paul speaks of **imploring**. This takes place when a father implores his children to rise to the calling God has placed upon their lives. It is the quiet yet firm voice that says: *"You were made for this. You are more than a conqueror in Christ. Do not shrink back."* In the same way, imploring challenges each of us to courageously testify of our faith by speaking openly of Christ and living out our commitment to Him before others. It is not merely believing the truth, but stepping forward to live it out on a daily basis.

Therefore, this is **spiritual fatherhood in action: exhorting,**

encouraging and imploring others to stand firm in the faith.

The questions, then, that each of us must ask ourselves are deeply personal: *What is God, the Father, calling of me in these three areas? Who in my life needs someone to walk alongside them, either by providing needed comfort or challenging them to live boldly for Christ?*

Whether you are guiding your children, mentoring younger believers, or supporting our brothers and sisters in the global church, you have been entrusted with a sacred responsibility. The good news is that you are not called to fulfill this task alone. The same Father, who calls us to reflect His heart, also equips us by His Spirit.

So step forward with confidence. Someone is waiting for the kind of presence that exhorts, encourages, and implores them to walk in a manner worthy of our Heavenly Father.

PAUSE & REFLECT

Who is God calling you to come alongside today – whether it's by listening, encouraging or gently challenging them to walk more boldly in the faith?

When Fathers *Return to Faith*



In partnership with the Take Heart mission, VOMC is equipping Christian men across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) with the practical tools and spiritual support they need to embrace their God-given roles as husbands, father and leaders. This shared ministry is built on the belief that when men in persecuted regions are spiritually, emotionally and relationally strong, their families and communities will be better equipped to grow and persevere in the face of adversity.

Many Christian men throughout the MENA region carry heavy burdens. In communities marked by poverty, limited job opportunities, as well as social pressures, fathers often bear the weight of providing for their families without the support systems they need.

Amid these daily challenges, numerous men also struggle spiritually. Lacking strong role models – and often overlooked by church outreach programs – some find themselves drifting away from the Christian faith and fellowship with other believers. The effects ripple outwards, resulting in family relationship struggles, weakened spiritual health and deep isolation.

Yet, even in the midst of these difficulties, the church remains a place of belonging, restoration and hope. As part of the *Men's Ministry* project, Take Heart and VOMC are working together to strengthen this vital foundation.

Through discipleship programs, Bible studies, spiritual retreats, and times of genuine fellowship, more than 2,000 men have already been impacted by this ministry initiative. These gatherings create powerful moments of renewal – opportunities for men to rediscover the love of Christ, return to the church, and learn to lead their families with humility, faith and compassion. The results are often life-changing!

MAGDY'S STORY

Magdy, a 45-year-old tuk-tuk* driver, had long been distant from the church. As drug addiction had taken a heavy toll on his life and home, Magdy's family relationships were also strained.

During a visit to his house, church servants invited Magdy to attend a men's conference. After receiving some encouragement, he agreed. The theme of the gathering was simple but powerful: *God loves us despite our sins*.

During the conference, Magdy experienced something he had not felt in years: *hope*. After worshipping with other believers and receiving Holy Communion, he opened up about his struggles and made the courageous decision to leave the recreational drugs behind.

From that day forward, Magdy's life began to change. He returned to regular church attendance, reconnected with his family, and began participating in Bible study activities. His wife and son noticed the difference immediately. This man, who had once been distant and discouraged, soon became a loving husband, father and neighbour.

*Note: A tuk-tuk is a small three-wheeled motorized vehicle that's often used in overseas countries as a means of economically transporting passengers.

YOUSSEF'S STORY

Youssef had been heavily influenced by friends who spoke against the church and mocked Christians. Over time, the 57-year-old father of six not only withdrew from church involvement himself, but he also forbade his wife and children from attending.

When ministry workers invited him to a men's meeting, he accepted – but only with the intent of causing trouble. Instead, something unexpected happened. The message, which focussed on forgiveness and acceptance, touched Youssef's heart in a way he could not ignore. After the meeting, he spoke with a church leader, confessed his sins,

and later participated in a worship service.

The moment he acknowledged his need for God's forgiveness and salvation marked a turning point in his life. Youssef began attending church faithfully, and he eventually separated himself from harmful influences. His transformation soon overflowed into his home. Today, he and his family attend church together, and his story stands as a powerful testimony to God's life-changing grace.

SPIRITUALLY INVESTING IN MEN STRENGTHENS FAMILIES

When a father grows in the Christian faith and becomes a spiritual guide to his children, an entire household is affected. As a husband learns to love sacrificially, peace and stability take precedence in his home. And a man who rediscovers his value in God also becomes a source of strength to his community. Since these men have returned to the faith, their families, churches and communities have all witnessed God's power mightily at work – renewing lives from the inside out!

DONATE

This partnership in ministry is helping men understand that they are loved, called and equipped by God to lead their families with faith, courage and love. As a result, hearts are being transformed in communities across the MENA region. If you would like to donate to this project, you may do so through VOMC's *Equipping the Saints Fund* or *Relief & Development Fund*: www.vomcanada.com/donate.

VOM Global Reports

CHINA: Pastor Arrested, Wife Harassed in Ongoing Persecution



Also pray for the children of persecuted Christians in China.

One year ago, Pastor Chang Shun of the Maizhong Reformed Church was detained for allegedly “organizing illegal gatherings.” His wife, Li Yunyan, reports that this was only the latest chapter in an ongoing pattern of persecution. Since 2021, Chinese authorities have repeatedly targeted her husband with detentions, fines and intimidation.

On June 29th, 2025, officials forcibly entered the family’s home to arrest Pastor Chang, also detaining several of their house guests. Since her husband’s arrest, Li Yunyan has been subjected to harassment and surveillance. Her two young children, distressed by the ongoing threats, fear for their father’s safety. In the midst of the uncertainty, Li Yunyan holds to Scripture, quoting Psalm 34:17: *“When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles”* (ESV).

Please pray that Pastor Chang Shun, his wife Li Yunyan, and their children will receive God’s comfort and protection as they endure this season of hardship.

CUBA: Church Leader Pleads for Imprisoned Son

Cuban pastor Luis Guillermo Borjas is urgently pleading for prayer as his son remains imprisoned on fabricated charges. In June 2025, the pastor’s disabled son, Kevin, was conscripted into the army, an act that the family believes was done in retribution for their ongoing Christian ministry.

Kevin, who was court-martialled when he could not complete his service, is now reportedly being held under deplorable conditions in a military prison where there is an inadequate supply of food. Also, Kevin’s mother, Roxana, who had to be hospitalized at the time of the court-martial, continues to suffer health issues. Compounding the family’s hardships, the electricity of their home has been cut off, limiting communication. Additionally, economic conditions on the island have made transportation nearly impossible.

Pray that this persecuted family will be delivered from the unjust conditions presently plaguing them. Throughout the process, may they experience the Lord’s sustaining peace, strength, provision and protection.



Pastor Luis and his wife Roxana, along with their imprisoned son Kevin, are undergoing heavy persecution for proclaiming Christ.

JUNE 2026

“As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.” – Psalm 103:13 ESV

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 MALAWI Praise God that His Holy Spirit has drawn many traditionally Muslim “Yao” people to faith in Christ.	2 BURUNDI Using Acts 4:29 as a guide, pray that Burundian evangelists will remain bold in the face of persecution.	3 NORTH KOREA Pray for North Korean Christians living in South Korea who remain separated from their loved ones.	4 BRUNEI Pray that Bruneian Christians will seize opportunities to share the Gospel in their daily relationships.	5 TURKMENISTAN Bibles in this Central Asian country are illegal. Pray that Christians will find ways to access God’s Word.	6 ETHIOPIA Pray that congregants whose churches have been burned by militants will find new places to worship.
7 CUBA Pray for Pastor Dizzis Ramos and others who are harassed or imprisoned on false criminal charges.	8 CAMEROON Pray that attacks by Boko Haram terrorists and members of other extremist groups will cease.	9 BAHRAIN Pray that Bahrainis will remain receptive to the truth of the Gospel.	10 AZERBAIJAN Pray that churches will withstand the government’s efforts to monitor, restrict or forcibly close them.	11 INDIA Praise the Lord for continued church growth and baptisms despite pressure and threats from opposing local groups.	12 KUWAIT Thankfully churches are ministering to expatriate Christians. Pray for increased ministry opportunities.	13 LAOS Pray the blessings of Psalm 103 over Laotian believers who are enduring persecution.
14 KENYA Using John 14:27, pray that Christians in Muslim-majority areas will receive God’s peace and protection.	15 TOGO Pray for Christians who are threatened by cross-border raids carried out by militant Fulanis.	16 EGYPT Pray for the healing of believers who have been kidnapped and tortured because of their faith.	17 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Praise God for believers who share the Gospel with Emiratis and foreigners from restricted nations.	18 PHILIPPINES Pray for the peace and protection of Christians on the island of Mindanao where Islamists are active.	19 PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES Pray for Jews and Muslims who are turning to Christ despite strong opposition from their communities.	20 NIGERIA Using Isaiah 2:4, pray that Islamic militants will lay down their weapons and come to faith in Christ.
21 TUNISIA Pray for evangelists who boldly proclaim the Gospel message, despite its prohibition.	22 YEMEN Praise God for the many Yemenis who acknowledge Christ as their Saviour.	23 PAKISTAN Pray for Christian communities that have been attacked as a result of false blasphemy claims.	24 UZBEKISTAN Pray that the government will continue passing reforms to increase religious freedom.	25 TÜRKIYE Pray for Mustafa and Basak, two teenagers who were rejected by their families for following Christ.	26 MALDIVES Pray that the Bible will be fully translated into Dhivehi, the primary language of citizens in the Maldives.	27 DR CONGO Using Psalm 23, pray that Congolese Christians will receive care and comfort from the “Good Shepherd.”
28 INDONESIA Pray that Kila will experience emotional and spiritual restoration after a terrorist attack on his village.	29 JORDAN Pray that followers of Jesus will make the most of every opportunity to witness and plant churches.	30 OMAN Pray that Omani Christians will be able to gather for worship without governing officials’ detection.				



Resources

Shop online at store.vomcanada.org

The Moon is Always Round | \$15

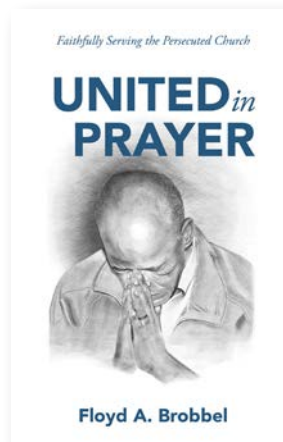
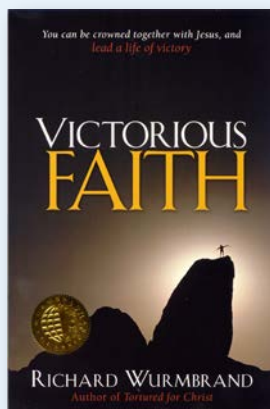


In this beautifully illustrated storybook, seminary professor and author Jonathan Gibson uses the vivid imagery of the moon to explain to children how God's goodness is always present, even when it might appear to be obscured by upsetting or difficult circumstances. Through the conversations that a young boy has with his father, following the loss of his baby sister, *The Moon is Always Round* teaches children a vitally important lesson. Just as the moon is always round despite its different phases, the steadfast love of God remains constant throughout the various phases of life. Hardcover, 32 pages

Victorious Faith | \$7

We are victorious because the Gospel always triumphs! As VOM's international founder, Pastor Richard Wurmbrand, writes of the faith that sustained him in Romania's Communist prison, he shares inspiring stories, anecdotes and insights. *Victorious Faith* sails from the stormy seas of tribulation into the peace-giving waters of the Christian faith and testimony – a voyage that's certain to refresh and inspire every person who is confronted with the pain of suffering.

Paperback,
128 pages



United in Prayer | \$15

United in Prayer is an insightful guide that encourages readers to enter into compelling and impactful prayers that will fortify and enrich the suffering body of Christ. It's often said that the smallest action can have the greatest impact – and

prayer is a testament to this reality. Together, let's pray that all believers will:

- Stand firm and trust in the Lord.
- Shine like stars in a fallen world.
- Live as 'salt and light' in our communities.
- Forgive and love others – even their persecutors.
- Thrive, not just survive, amid the soil of persecution.

Remember, prayer is not a passive gesture but a mighty instrument that can usher in substantial, life-changing transformation. Paperback, 110 pages