

ONE VOICE

Following *Christ* in
Sudan and South Sudan



SUMMER 2026
ISSUE 7

VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

A SUMMER BLESSING FOR YOU!

This year, our July and August issues of *One Voice* have been combined into one special resource designed to help you remember and serve the persecuted church during the summer months.

Wherever this season 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.

As you are an integral part of our *One Voice* family, we pray the following blessing over your life for the months ahead:

*May the Lord bless and keep you this summer,
refreshing your soul with His peace
and drawing your heart ever closer
to those who faithfully suffer for His name.*

Thank you for standing with
the persecuted church.



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



10



14



19



04 A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Floyd Brobbel explores the enduring hope, resilience and faithfulness of the church in Sudan and South Sudan amid ongoing persecution and conflict.

06 PERSECUTION RESPONSE

Drawing from the times he ministered in South Sudan, VOMC's Director of Global Education and Discipleship conveys how theological training and discipleship are empowering believers to persevere amid political instability and suffering.

10 FEATURE STORY

Read a moving story of 'faith in action' as displaced Sudanese families find hope, humanitarian aid and the message of the Gospel through a pastor's steadfast ministry service.

14 LIFE LESSONS FROM THE PERSECUTED

VOMC's Gender and Religious Freedom Advisor reflects on her personal journey to South Sudan, revealing how God is restoring hearts and strengthening the faith of His people in this sun-scorched land.

19 AROUND THE WORLD

Discover the realities of persecution in Mexico and India, where courageous believers continue to follow Jesus despite opposition, violence and significant personal risk.

ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

Following *Christ* in Sudan and South Sudan

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



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Romans 15:13 ESV

Our Lord Jesus Christ provides unwavering hope to all who willingly embrace His Lordship over their lives and publicly acknowledge Him as their Saviour. This profound hope is not fleeting nor disappointing; rather, it imbues each believer with a deep sense of spiritual confidence. Such assurance stems from faith in the One Eternal God who remains steadfast in honouring His promises and exhibits boundless compassion towards those who earnestly strive to fulfill His will. During times of uncertainty and trial, believers can find solace and strength in the knowledge that God’s faithfulness is unchanging, and His love graciously extends towards all who seek to align their lives with His greater purposes.

The church in Sudan and South Sudan has shown remarkable resilience in the face of numerous trials and persecutions. For decades, it has endured harsh oppression from Islamic and threatening influences aiming to extinguish its vital witness and stifle the proclamation of



the Gospel. Yet, despite the relentless attacks and hostile actions, the “Bride of Christ” remains unwavering in the faithful worship of our Sovereign Lord.

Even today, Christians in Sudan are encountering a wide range of complex challenges – including ongoing in-country conflicts, the emergence of extremist ideologies, political instability and long-standing discrimination. They often encounter targeted actions that restrict the expression of their beliefs and attempt to diminish their presence within society. Due to the violent nature of the opposition, they have witnessed the bombing of their villages – resulting in the destruction of homes, crops, hospitals and churches.

Although officials in South Sudan may not carry out the same systematic, state-mandated persecution as those in the neighbouring northern nation, adherents to Christianity (particularly members of clergy and church communities) are frequently subjected to acts of violence, forms of intimidation and violations of their rights. This is largely due to factors such as prolonged civil conflict, an inadequate rule of law, the presence of armed groups from both governmental and oppositional factions, ethnic militias and localized power struggles. Furthermore, church leaders who bravely speak out against corruption or violence find themselves in politically sensitive situations, increasing their risks of danger.

Despite the fact that each of these two African nations exhibit different forms of persecution, the motivations behind the oppressive tactics are notably similar. After all, the objectives of those who persecute God’s people frequently go beyond the mere cause of suffering; their ultimate goals are to stifle the witness of Christians and hinder all evangelistic outreach efforts. These deliberate strategies of intimidation and repression target not only the physical presence of believers, but also their ability to share the Christian faith and engage on a spiritual level with others. Even so, according to Jesus’ promising words in Matthew 16:18, His followers can take heart. No power in hades will ever be able to undermine the essence of God’s mission.

As you journey through the pages of this month's issue of *One Voice*, I hope you'll look past the challenges encountered by our Sudanese brothers and sisters in Christ, focussing instead on God’s great faithfulness in their lives. Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the persevering members of His church are not only enduring persecution with joy, but also flourishing in the hope of His eternal glory. Consequently, the name of our Almighty Lord Jesus is powerfully being proclaimed among all the nations of the world.

Grace and peace,

F. Loyd

Equipped to *Endure*

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

South Sudan became an independent nation on July 9th, 2011. As the world's youngest country, it was established on the African continent with high hopes of becoming a success story. Free at last from northern Islamic control, the south emerged with great anticipations of peace and prosperity, accompanied by the proclamation that it's primarily a Christian country. Only two years later, civil war broke out in 2013, plunging the fledgling nation into a massive humanitarian crisis. Today, after 13 years of continual conflict, South Sudan remains deeply troubled due to ethnic tensions, political maneuvering, and the long fallout of failed promises. The international community classifies the region as a "fallen state."

During the civil war, an estimated 382,000 to 400,000 people lost their lives. Half of these deaths were caused by direct violence, while the remainder resulted from indirect causes like starvation, disease, and other conditions exacerbated by the fighting.

AN UNDENIABLE TENSION

Before I left for my trip, I received a news article about a violent event that had taken place inside a church located within the capital city of Juba. As a result of the attack, 15 believers were transported to hospital, four of them

with critical injuries. The article, titled *Moru Congregation Accuses Juba Diocese of Violent Attacks on Churches in Juba*, described how one congregation had hired thugs and police officers to attack members of another congregation – all because of unsettled disagreements between the two churches. This incident reveals how the country's ongoing instability has even strained its Christian communities.

While ministering in Juba, I met with other local church leaders who addressed the recent incident. One after another, they affirmed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ and violence cannot go hand in hand, stating plainly that "we cannot call ourselves Christians, and then resort to such brutality." Each affirming statement was met with a heartfelt "amen."

I can happily report that their desire for Christian unity was evident the Sunday morning I attended one of their church services. Arriving just after one service had ended and another was beginning, the vibrant worship resumed with great enthusiasm and fervour. I was stupefied. People were singing, dancing, clapping, smiling, joyfully shouting, and raising their hands above their heads in exuberant praise. I remember thinking: "Where is this joy coming from? Why are these people so happy?" Transfixed with joy, I could not help but join in.



Amid many challenges,
the body of Christ
remains hopeful and
active in South Sudan.

PERSECUTION RESPONSE

These Christians were not merely religious observers nor casual churchgoers. Rather, they were followers of Jesus who earnestly sought God as their ultimate source of help and hope. Their profound love for Him was being expressed through the worship of an invisible God who compassionately ministered healing to their tangible experiences of pain and suffering.

EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

What was my purpose for travelling to South Sudan? Part of VOMC's mandate involves equipping the church with the tools needed to endure persecution faithfully. This is consistently the number-one prayer request of our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ. Instead of requesting prayer for the persecution to end, these dedicated believers want to be empowered by God to persevere and overcome it well.

VOMC has been blessed to conduct a *Theology of Persecution and Discipleship* course, also referred to as TOPAD. The framework of this course was developed by the ministry's former CEO, Glenn Penner, as outlined in his book, *In the Shadow of the Cross*. TOPAD has since been condensed into a specialized leadership training course that's designed to equip Christians to effectively disciple others and, therefore, enable persecuted communities to stand strong through times of trial and tribulation. Testimonies of the participants, emerging from regions of the globe where this training has been offered, confirm its deep and lasting impact – and the feedback from those who attended this year's course in South Sudan was no exception.

Accompanied by two exceptional women's ministry leaders who addressed the topic of *Gender and Religious Freedom*, both of our mission teams collaborated together to facilitate an intensive four-day conference. On day two of the conference, Pastor Abraham – the lead pastor of the hosting church – asked if he could speak to me privately. With humility and spiritual discernment, he announced, "We need

to give the people time to repent before God for not living like Christ has called us to live."

What followed was a powerful time of confession and repentance among the attendees who candidly acknowledged the ways in which they had fallen short in 'Godliness of character' due to their mistreatment of one another. It was evident through their contrite responses that the Lord was working mightily within each of their hearts and lives. The following day, the depth of their soul-searching petitions continued as we gathered to pray for the nations of East Africa, and then specifically intercede on behalf of Sudan and South Sudan. There was no need to encourage their participation. These believers fervently prayed and prayed... to the point of forming a strong torrent of earnest intercession that cascaded up towards God's heavenly Throne.

GRACE IN ACTION

In the weeks that followed the training event, several testimonies began to emerge. After my journey home, I also received news that the church leader of a congregation in Juba, much like the one that hosted the mentioned TOPAD training conference, had been killed while returning from a fishing trip. I learned that the pastor initially came to salvation in Christ at the very church that hosted this year's conference. In fact, he himself happened to be disciplined there, and then sent out to plant his own congregation.

Providentially, the wife of the slain pastor had attended all the sessions of this year's training program prior to his attack. During this time, she had seen our video presentations featuring the testimonies of other women who lost their husbands to martyrdom; widows who testified of God's sustaining grace and provision. Some of these widowed women were called to continue their husbands' ministries. This was God's grace in action – providing truth, help and strength, even before such life-sustaining ministry was needed.

Our Lord Jesus promised that He would build His church, and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). The church in South Sudan bears witness to this promise. It has not gone underground, nor has it become silent. And it surely is not being ruled by fear. Instead, the church in South Sudan continues to shine brightly amid a war-torn nation threatened by ongoing political unrest. Churches are being planted without any external funding, and spiritual leaders are witnessing the fulfillment of their visions for continued evangelistic growth. These steadfast believers know where their help comes from. Therefore, they fully trust that God's riches in glory will assuredly reach their troubled country.

"...The Lord said to Me, 'You are My Son.... Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.'"

– Psalm 2:7-8 ESV

There is no question that the above passage is a prophetic Messianic psalm. In it, the Father turns to His Son and encourages Him to ask for the nations as an inheritance. This promise is grounded in the finished work of the cross, when Jesus declared that the price of salvation was paid in full. The Father beheld His Son's great sacrifice, and the reward of that atoning work is nothing less than the redemption of the nations...a broken earth redeemed and made whole through Christ.

HEEDING GOD'S CALL TO PRAYER

I came away from my overseas visit feeling blessed to have been an emissary of fellow Christians here in the West, communicating to our South Sudanese brothers and sisters in Christ that we love them, see them, and pray for them.

They received this message with deep gratitude and, in turn, responded by sending us their love and prayers.

The same faith that sustains these believers in South Sudan also sustains us. Their testimonies have made it clear that even in the midst of lack, hardship, rejection and persecution, they are spiritually thriving and advancing. Among our own pluralistic, post-Christian and increasingly secular society, we are called to live with that same resilient faith, trusting in the same Lord who is actively building His church around the world.

PARTNER WITH US

"Through this teaching, I learned how to forgive those who killed my son. Today, I have peace of mind."

– Samira, training course participant in Juba

"This training taught me how to love people, and how to live and walk by faith. I witnessed families being restored and people who had unforgiving hearts choosing to forgive their enemies."

– TOPAD participant

VOMC's *Theology of Persecution and Discipleship* training course equips Christian leaders to better understand what it means to suffer Biblically, endure it faithfully, and thereby disciple others with great courage and hope. Through our *Equipping the Saints Fund*, you can help make this life-changing training available to believers who are on the front lines of persecution – strengthening the church where it is most vulnerable. Give today at www.vomcanada.com/donate.

Welcoming Strangers & Serving Enemies



Despite the hardships of their work, Pastor Morris (front and centre) and his wife Cabina continue to minister among their displaced neighbours.

Walking through a camp crowded with more than 24,000 displaced Sudanese civilians, Pastor Morris is affectionally welcomed like a beloved uncle who hasn't been seen in years. As women and children emerge from their tiny makeshift homes, constructed of mere straw and sticks, the compassionate pastor greets them warmly. He then tells them about the upcoming humanitarian aid distributions. Suddenly, in an explosion of chatty excitement, a woman appears before the pastor as though they are renewing an old friendship.

"Ah, she remembers me from before!" Morris says laughing. "Before" refers to the time when the woman visited him and his wife, Cabina, in their nearby house to seek help. The pastoring couple have been assisting people in Sudan's Nuba Mountain region for three decades. Located mostly in South Kordofan state, along the border with South Sudan, the Nuba Mountains are home to several Christian tribal groups.

Among the country's 90-percent Sunni Muslim population, many Nuba Christians came to know Christ through the legacy of missionaries who arrived to the area during the early 1900s. Today, the region is predominantly Christian and mostly autonomous, consisting of its own government and defence forces. In fact, its forces have been fighting against the oppressive Sudanese government as of the 1980s – ever since the militant Islamic regime began its schemes to eradicate Christians from the region.

Intensifying this dire situation, two Islamist generals vying for control of the country started a vicious civil war in the capital of Khartoum on April 15th, 2023. As battles raged within the city, followers of Christ were again specifically targeted. "There has been an increase in the opportunistic killing of Christians," a church leader explains.

As a result, hundreds of thousands of Sudanese civilians (including many Christians) have fled Khartoum and other parts of Sudan, seeking refuge from the fighting in the Nuba Mountains. Local officials state that more than 700,000 victims have flooded into the camps for internally displaced people (IDP) within a region about the size of the U.S. state of Georgia. Thousands of these relocated victims have erected flimsy huts in the field behind Pastor Morris' home, with more arriving on a daily basis.

A Christian woman named Halima fled Khartoum with her three children after her brother was killed by one of the warring factions. Left struggling to survive, starvation is a real threat for Halima's family – a situation further compounded by drought. "We don't have anything," she laments. "We're eating these leaves."

When displaced people arrive at the camp, they often seek the pastoring couple's assistance. "There are many, many more people coming to our house," Cabina reports. "We don't have much, but the little that we have we share with them." More importantly, the couple point them towards the eternal hope that was made available through Christ. "I tell them that...God is what they [ultimately] need. He is faithful.... As He says in the Bible, even food is given to the birds of the sky."

"I tell them that...God is what they [ultimately] need. He is faithful...."

Pastor Morris and Cabina have been helping people in need throughout their 33-year marriage. As a result of their compassionate ministry, greatly needed comfort is being provided to those who lost family members in the bombing

attacks instigated by officials of the Sudanese government. Over the decades, the ministering couple has also opened their home and hearts to numerous orphans whose parents were killed during the bombing incidents. As Pastor Morris himself experienced the loss of several friends as a child when his school was bombed, he well understands the painful emotions that many in Sudan are experiencing.

Despite the suffering and death caused by the bombings, which still occasionally target the Nuba villages, Pastor Morris reaches out to Muslim Sudanese soldiers who have been captured by the region's defence forces. However, his ministry work among the enemy fighters is controversial. Even one of his own sons disapproves. In response to the questions he receives, Pastor Morris explains his reasoning: "[It's] because of the love of Jesus. He has commanded us to help the people who are persecuting us – to love them."

Additionally, Pastor Morris serves the community as lead chaplain of a nearby Christian hospital that often cares for those wounded in the fighting. But the most urgent need he and Cabina see is in the sprawling IDP camp that stretches for many kilometres beyond their own backyard. The camp has only one water well, and people wait for hours – sometimes all night long – just to fill their plastic jugs.

Acknowledging the trauma experienced by so many people in the camp, Pastor Morris admits that the ministry work can be overwhelming and fraught with heartache. He reports that just days earlier, several shacks in the camp caught on fire, killing two young children. "There are people who have been crying, sometimes even asking, 'What is happening here, God?'"

While the couple's ministry work is emotionally and physically draining, the Lord has been faithful to restore their compassion and provide them with the strength they need to continue meeting the practical and spiritual needs

of the camp's displaced people, offering comfort at every opportunity.

With VOM's help, Pastor Morris has been distributing tarps and audio Bibles – along with other necessary supplies – for the people's survival. Sokkari, a 50-year-old Christian woman with two children in her care, fled Khartoum just after the war broke out. Not only has Sokkari been grieving the loss of a relative who was killed in the civil war, it broke her heart to learn of the oppressors' ill-treatment of innocent children – the raping of girls and forceful recruitment of boy soldiers.

Sokkari, who can't stop thinking about the horrors she witnessed in Khartoum, is grateful for the audio Bible that Pastor Morris gave her. "I used to pray," she explains. "I know that God protected [me and the two children in my care].... But up to now, my mind was not settled. The Bible helps me to leave the bad thoughts [behind] and put the Word of God in my heart."

"The Bible helps me to leave the bad thoughts [behind] and put the Word of God in my heart."

Please prayerfully uphold the following requests that were received from Pastor Morris and Cabina, who are faithfully distributing Bibles and proclaiming the "Good News" of God's salvation throughout the region. Ask the Lord to: 1) provide healing and restoration to Sudan's many traumatized victims of war, 2) renew the pastoring couple's strength, 3) work in the hearts of those belonging to the country's warring factions so peace will ultimately prevail, and 4) ensure that needed provisions will be supplied in order to meet the various needs of the displaced people whom this couple so compassionately serve.



HEART CHECK

Pastor Morris embodies Christ's call to love not only the suffering, but also those who *cause* suffering. In a place marked by loss, fear and injustice, this church leader's life reflects a compassion that goes beyond human instinct – a love that's rooted in the example of our Lord Jesus, who taught us to welcome "the stranger" and forgive our "enemies."

- In your life, who are the "strangers" or "enemies" you are being called by God to compassionately serve?
- How can you express Christ's compassion in difficult situations where such unconditional love seems undeserved?

Faith in a Sun-Scorched Land

By Kate Ward
Gender and Religious Freedom Advisor for VOMC

“Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and He will say: Here am I...”

Isaiah 58:9a NIVUK

My involvement with the church in South Sudan began long before I ever set foot there. In 1999, my husband and I had travelled to Kenya with our baby daughter to work for a ministry that also served in the southern part of Sudan – years before this African region became an independent nation in 2011.

Throughout the term of our ministry involvement in Kenya, we heard countless stories about the persevering church in South Sudan which was determinedly growing and enduring despite decades of tumultuous war and violence – conflict that often most deeply affects women and children. Now, 27 years later, I found myself standing on South Sudanese soil for the first time. As I did, the words of Isaiah 58 began to echo in my mind, just as they had all those years before: *“The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame”* (v.11a).

Upon landing at the airport in the nation’s capital of Juba, a number of humanitarian workers streamed off the plane ahead of us. Several Land Cruisers then pulled up, ready to whisk them away to air-conditioned offices. To be honest, I was disheartened. The scene felt all too familiar, reminding me of many other places in the world that were officially described as “fragile states.”

I agonizingly stood in line under the burning sun, shielded only by the torn fabric of an overhead awning which marked the entrance of an intimidating bureaucratic border-control process. While waiting my turn, I wondered whether I would witness any evidence of hope or fruitfulness in such a harsh and neglected land. Within hours, when pondering on Isaiah 58:11-12 (NIVUK), both my heart and perspective began to change.

*“...You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.”*

– Isaiah 58:11-12 NIVUK



My ministry colleague and I had come to South Sudan to offer Biblical training, only to discover that the people residing there would become our greatest teachers. Their passion to know God and wholeheartedly serve Him – even in the midst of their immense hardships – was unmistakable. Although much of the current conflict affecting Christians is concentrated near the country's northern border with Sudan, the devastating effects of war were evident everywhere.

One believer I met during this visit left a particularly deep impression on my heart. Joanna (whose name has been changed in this article for security purposes) was a young, bright, diligent and gifted translator. As we carried out each of the training sessions, she learned to carefully mirror our tones and actions, absorbing every aspect of communication in order to effectively convey the teaching messages. Through her personal witness, I began to understand the weight – and beauty – of a Christian's daily dependence on God.

Each day, Joanna trusts the Lord for every detail and provision in her life as she pursues her calling to share the Gospel message among South Sudan's most remote tribes. "I am an evangelist," she told me. "My husband and I partner together in ministry. But he is too sick to join us today."

In South Sudan, sickness can bring real fear. With limited access to healthcare – and the fact that quality treatment is only available outside the country – the risk of death is heightened whenever illness strikes. I could tell that Joanna was deeply impacted by concern for her husband. What initially seemed like a routine case of appendicitis had become much more serious due to ongoing infections.

Yet, day after day, Joanna stood faithfully by my side, translating with energy, laughter, and sometimes tears, as others shared their own stories of suffering and resilience. The cost for this devoted Christian woman and her husband is immense. Still, they remain focussed on sharing the Good News of Jesus while raising their very young children in a such a dangerous and remote region of the world. In some ways, Joanna's story reminds me of the years my own family served in Kenya – except we had access to resources and support. Unfortunately, such helpful provisions are not readily available in South Sudan. Yet, despite the many challenges this young Christian woman faced, she consistently exuded joy, energy and an unwavering commitment to the Lord – all of which continue to humble me deeply.

As the days of our ministry endeavours in Juba continued, more and more people gathered for the training course.

This enabled me to have many conversations with the participants about everyday life in South Sudan. Some of them had lost their jobs; others were forced into employment with no salary. Then there were those who couldn't leave the country out of fear of imprisonment or worse....

Several of the attending women spoke of the deep shame and trauma they had experienced due to failed marriages or abusive relationships. And yet, what struck me the most was how their worship and praise of our Lord permeated their everyday lives. After lunch, for example, when the conference participants entered back into the main gathering space, everyone immediately joined a procession of dancing. During this celebratory worship time, these believers moved about joyfully while balancing items on their heads, which they held up in praise and thanksgiving to God for His wonderful provisions. The joy of the Lord was truly their strength!

As I reflected again on the words of Isaiah 58, which speaks of being *"repairers of broken walls"* and *"restorers of streets with dwellings,"* I began to recognize what God was doing through His prevailing church in South Sudan. It was not merely taking place in a physical sense, for it also encompassed the restoration of hearts. As a result, He was raising up a people who would choose joy, praise and thanksgiving over sorrow in a region shaped by tremendous devastation and loss.

Our South Sudanese Christian brothers and sisters are learning daily to trust the One who satisfies their needs and guides them through a sun-scorched land. Twenty-seven years was a long time for me to wait in order to witness their inspiring faith, but what an honour to finally do so at last! And, God willing, I hope to return to South Sudan so I can meet with these dear persevering believers again during future ministry events.



PAUSE & PRAY

- In what areas of your own life were you tempted to lose hope because the changes you had long waited for seemed to be progressing too slowly?
- In which circumstances have you felt spiritually barren?
- How might God be inviting you to trust Him more deeply as the *"Restorer"* of your life, family and/or community?

"Lord, You are faithful to Your people, even in sun-scorched places like South Sudan. Strengthen all those around the world who are faithfully following You amid tremendous hardships. Teach us how to serve as living witnesses of Your love, joy and sustaining grace so we can be 'repairers of broken walls' in their lives. Amen."

JULY 2026

“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.” – 1 Peter 1:8 ESV

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 LAOS Pray that needed Christian resources will be provided, despite governmental restrictions.	2 WESTERN SAHARA Pray that Muslims will be receptive to the truth about Christ and His great love for them.	3 CAMEROON Pray for the protection of Christian converts who are persecuted by opposing family members.	4 NICARAGUA Pray that young Christians will mature in their faith through effective discipleship training.
5 KAZAKHSTAN Pray for Kazakh Christians who have been disowned by their families since turning to Christ.	6 BURUNDI Pray that VOM's in-country workers will serve as loving witnesses among Muslims in their communities.	7 SRI LANKA Pray that Anura, Ayesha and their church will be steadfast amid harassment and persecution.	8 KENYA Pray that ministry workers will be able to deliver more print and audio Bibles to remote parts of Kenya.	9 VENEZUELA Pray that churches will remain open despite pressure from their authoritarian government officials.	10 LEBANON Pray that Christian converts from Islam will inspire their family members to follow Christ too.	11 SUDAN Pray that believers who have lost everything in the war will experience God's presence and provision.
12 OMAN Pray that online and broadcast ministries will reach Omanis who have never heard the Gospel.	13 MOROCCO Pray that Christian converts from Islam will persevere despite rejection from angered family members.	14 TAJIKISTAN Pray that believers who are beaten and questioned by the secret police will remain strong in Christ.	15 BURKINA FASO Pray for Christians in northern and southwestern regions who are at risk of danger for following Christ.	16 NIGERIA Pray that God will protect, rescue and minister to those who are persecuted by Boko Haram terrorists.	17 MAURITANIA Pray that those who transport Bibles will be able to distribute God's Word without detection.	18 INDIA Pray that followers of Christ who can't read will have access to audio Bibles in their own languages.
19 AZERBAIJAN Pray that Bibles will be readily available for all Azeri people who want to learn God's Word.	20 LIBYA Pray for the enduring testimony of Libyan Christians, using 1 Thess 3:12-13 as a guide.	21 YEMEN Pray that Yemenis caught in the middle of civil war will find peace and restoration in Christ.	22 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray that indigenous believers will experience the loving support of others in the global body of Christ.	23 NORTH KOREA Pray that the estimated 30,000 detained Christians will be sustained by the Lord's peace and presence.	24 TANZANIA Praise God for the distribution of hundreds of study Bibles and training materials to pastors.	25 BURKINA FASO Pray for those who were wounded or widowed due to a recent Islamist attack that killed 28 Christians.
26 BHUTAN Pray that believers will courageously share the Gospel with Buddhist monks in the country.	27 RUSSIA Pray for the strength and unity of Russian Christians whose governing officials want to divide them.	28 UZBEKISTAN Pray that believers who are rejected by loved ones will be encouraged to stand strong in their faith.	29 KUWAIT May many become curious about Christ, seeking truth through His followers and online resources.	30 BURUNDI Pray that the testimonies of believers will lead their persecutors to repentance and salvation in Christ.	31 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Praise God that Emiratis now have access to the Bible via the Internet and other various means.	



AUGUST 2026

“...the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love...” – Psalm 147:11 ESV

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 COMOROS Pray that Christian immigrants now living in Comoros will faithfully share the “Good News” of Christ.
2 IRAN Khodayar was transformed by God’s Word. May more Bibles be available to those hungry for the truth.	3 TAJIKISTAN Pray for unregistered churches that are experiencing harassment from governing officials.	4 BENIN Pray for Christian converts who face persecution due to opposition from their community members.	5 GUINEA Pray that faithful Christians will proclaim the Gospel in areas torn by tribal division.	6 NIGERIA Pray for Christian widows like Lydia and Asabe whose husbands have been killed by Islamic militants.	7 COLOMBIA Pray for the protection of pastors in the country’s “red zones” who take great risks to share the Gospel.	8 EGYPT Pray for Christian converts from Islam who are severely persecuted by their opposing families.
9 INDONESIA Pray that Indonesians who witnessed violent Islamist attacks will be receptive to God’s healing love.	10 MADAGASCAR Pray that many will place their faith in Christ as a result of local Christians’ powerful testimonies.	11 SYRIA Pray that churches and their congregants will be beacons of hope and sources of peace in the country.	12 CUBA Pray for Christians who are typically denied jobs and other opportunities merely for following Christ.	13 NORTH KOREA Pray for the efforts of ministry workers who are broadcasting the Gospel via shortwave radio.	14 MALAYSIA Pray for creative ways to share the love of Jesus in a country that legally prohibits Christianity.	15 MEXICO Pray for evangelists who are enduring persecution from hostile villagers who practise paganism.
16 TÜRKIYE Pray that the thousands of refugees in Türkiye will have opportunities to hear the Gospel.	17 MALI Pray for the strength and courage of believers encountering persecution from the country’s Islamists.	18 DJIBOUTI Praise God that Bibles are available in Djibouti. May every follower of Christ be given access to one.	19 BAHRAIN Pray for the strong witness of Bahrain’s indigenous believers, as well as its immigrant Christian workers.	20 INDONESIA Pray that Setiabab, Joyo and Wira will be vibrant witnesses for Christ among the Sudanese refugees.	21 WESTERN SAHARA Pray that the hearts of governing officials will be more open to the truth of the Gospel.	22 SRI LANKA Pray that our brothers and sisters in Christ will sense God’s peace, even in the midst of opposition.
23 DJIBOUTI Pray that through evangelism and discipleship, many Djiboutians will develop a vibrant faith in Christ.	24 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES As turning from Islam to Christianity is considered a crime, pray for the courage of new converts.	25 CAMEROON Pray for the ongoing efforts of ministry workers who are persevering in areas targeted by Boko Haram.	26 BURKINA FASO Pray that Sadou, a Fulani and former Muslim, will grow spiritually so he can share his faith with others.	27 MOZAMBIQUE Pray for those suffering from loss/displacement due to an Islamist insurgency in the Cabo Delgado region.	28 SAUDI ARABIA Pray for the protection of new believers who are being threatened by their family members.	29 MALAWI Pray for those who have lost jobs, homes, and even physical health, for accepting Christ as their Saviour.
30 BANGLADESH Pray for the protection and peace of Christians threatened by the Islamist group, Hefazat-e-Islam.	31 PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES Pray that members of violent anti-missionary groups will be powerfully transformed by Christ.					



VOM Global Reports

MEXICO: Local Church Embraces "the Forgotten"



Christian workers continue sharing the Gospel in areas of Mexico controlled by drug traffickers.

Scattered among the agave crops and cornfields of Central Mexico, where drug cartels seek to evade government surveillance, poor farm workers live with their families in towns called *rancherías*. These communities rarely have schools or health clinics, and basic utilities like electricity and sewers are rudimentary or nonexistent. Despite the fact that alcoholism, drug abuse and prostitution are rampant in these areas, occasionally a pious landowner will erect a small chapel for prayer.

One in-country ministry worker describes the *rancheros*, or inhabitants of these towns, as "the forgotten." Yet his church, which is itself experiencing persecution, remains committed to ensuring that the *rancheros* know they are not forgotten by God.

"There are five people who have been already baptized," he reports, "and we have four we are working with. Watching the transformation of these people is making a huge impact. [They] have been transformed from drug addiction, from

alcoholism, and from other kinds of things. Now they are surrendering their lives to Jesus."

Rancheros who follow Christ are often at risk of persecution from drug traffickers because they refuse to buy the dealers' products or work as couriers for them. And believers who conduct worship services, or provide necessities such as food and clothing, are also targeted. Even so, these Christian workers accept the risks for the sake of the Gospel. "God showed us...that [He] has people who need to know Him there," the ministry worker concludes. "So for us, it is worth it."

INDIA: Christian Couples Beaten by Mob Members

Two Christian couples in northern India were assaulted during a Hindu mob attack while visiting another believing family to pray for their newborn baby. Pastor Jehovah Das, 65, and Vinod Masih, 42 – along with their wives – had gathered peacefully in the family's home.

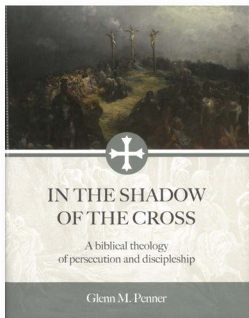
When a group of Hindu militants learned of the visit, they assembled a mob of about 50 people. The mob members stormed the house, dragging the Christians outside where they beat their victims for several hours. The attackers then searched the visitors' car. After seizing Bibles and other Christian literature from the vehicle, the assailants forced the believers to burn the confiscated materials.

The mob members then locked the two couples in the vehicle for several more hours, threatening to set it on fire. A Christian attorney who came to their defence was also assaulted and required medical attention. In the aftermath of this violent ordeal, please pray for the victims' physical healing and emotional restoration.

Resources

Shop online at store.vomcanada.org

In the Shadow of the Cross | \$18

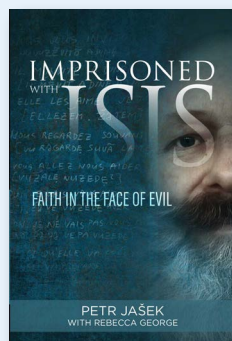


In the Shadow of the Cross is a thought-provoking book that explores suffering and persecution throughout the entire Bible from a theological perspective. Included in this comprehensive compilation are observations and studies from nearly 200 Christian scholars, both ancient and modern. Never before has such an intensive study of persecution been assembled. Recommended for all who are pursuing a greater understanding of the theology of persecution, this book will also be an informative resource to include in your church or seminary library.

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"Do you know what waterboarding is?" they asked. "Yes," I said, "I know what waterboarding is." "Well, you don't know how it feels. We will show you...." These words are part of the remarkable story that reveals the inhumane ordeal endured by VOM's Petr Jasek, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in Sudan and locked in a cell with ISIS fighters. Petr remained behind bars for 445 days among these notorious criminals before being released. Now you can read how the Lord's incredible sustaining power helped Petr to survive against the odds! Hardcover, 224 pages



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Based on John Bunyan's epic masterpiece, this expanded and improved second edition of *The*

Pilgrim's Progress Illustrated Storybook (published by RevelationMedia) abridges the story of Christian's journey.

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With its unique blend of whimsical characters, stunning imagery and important spiritual truths, this book is sure to encourage young readers to follow the right path which ultimately leads to eternity with our King!

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