

ONE VOICE

Unwavering Followers
of *Christ* in Benin



SEPTEMBER 2026
ISSUE 8

VOMC
Voice of the Martyrs Canada

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

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

Be informed.

Be inspired.

Stand with them – as one voice.

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

Romans 15:5-6 ESV



Voice^{of the} Martyrs

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

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with Pastor Richard Wurmbrand

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

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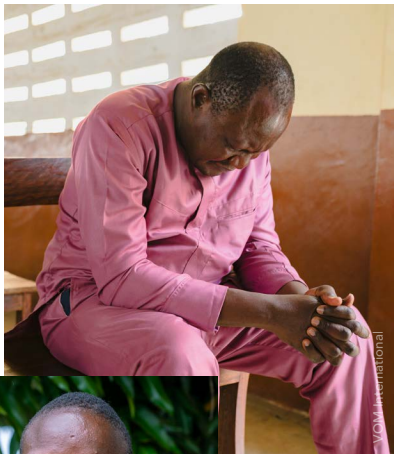
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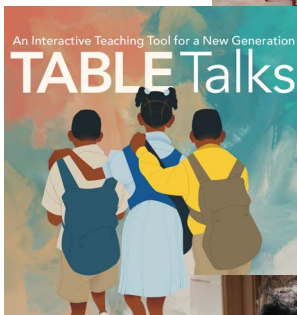
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ONE BODY. ONE VOICE.

Following *Christ* in Benin

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



*“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil,
who put darkness for light and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”*

Isaiah 5:20 ESV

While Christianity is the predominant religion in Benin, the country is also marked by its religious diversity. Alongside Christianity, Islam and traditional African religions thrive. Nearly 40 percent of the population practises the country’s ancestral belief systems, particularly *Vodún* (Voodoo), which has its roots in Benin and is officially recognized by the state. As a result, *Vodún* plays a crucial role in shaping the country’s cultural identity. It influences everyday life, social structures, art, as well as the nation’s heritage, permeating aspects of life far beyond spiritual practice. This has led to cultural syncretism where many Christians and Muslims blend their religious beliefs with *Vodún* practices.

The customs of *Vodún* are deeply woven into the fabric of community life and social identity. Regular festivals and national holidays take centre stage, showcasing this traditional perspective through vibrant arts, music



and performances. Beninese people who observe these customs believe that *Vodún* fosters a sense of unity among them, while also providing a means of connection to their deceased ancestors. Families and communities often gather around shrines dedicated to *Vodún* deities, spirits, or their forebears, reinforcing their shared beliefs and heritage.

In northern regions of the country, some community members are increasingly wary of Christianity's influence on their long-standing traditions and cultural practices. Many regard it as a foreign presence that may steer the younger generation away from local customs and beliefs handed down through the generations. This concern is especially heightened as youth are increasingly exposed to a variety of ideologies and lifestyles.

Dedicated Christians, who opt to distance themselves from Benin's traditional cultural practices, carefully adhere to God's guidance for the children of Israel, as recorded in Deuteronomy 18:9: *"When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there"* (NIVUK). This sentiment is echoed through the Apostle Paul's words in Galatians 4:8-9: *"Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?"* (ESV).

The commitment of churches to impart Christ's teachings to others in their communities has led to significant persecution in the northern regions. New converts to Christianity are often subjected to acts of violence – such as beatings – and may even be at risk of life-threatening attacks. In addition, their church buildings are frequently targeted for destruction. Moreover, many villages actively exclude evangelists and obstruct the establishment of new churches, further complicating the spread of Christianity in these areas. Still, committed believers in Benin hold faithfully onto Christ, demonstrating their persevering faith and hope in the midst of adversity.

As you read through the following pages, please take a moment to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Benin. During times of urgent need, the family of VOM's global missions has provided food, shelter and other essential items to those who have been forced from their homes. Additionally, there is a significant demand for Bibles in an area where many people practise *Vodún*. While praying for these mentioned needs, may you find inspiration in this issue's featured testimonies of resilient faith, and thus be further motivated to seek God's provision so you can shine His light while serving your own community – all for His glory!

Grace and peace,

FLOYD

Forsaking Ancestral Idols



Since the day Mattias Sossou was baptized two years ago, his life changed dramatically – but not in the ways he had imagined. As he walked home after the baptismal service, the new believer discovered that a group of angry village men had gathered outside his family home. “They were going to tie me up and beat me,” he recalls of the threatening situation.

The reason for the planned attack against Mattias was common knowledge in the community. As the eldest son, it was expected of him to inherit the responsibility of caring

for his father’s *Vodún* (Voodoo) idols. However, 19-year-old Mattias had chosen to follow Christ, forsaking the rituals and obligations of his family’s ancestral beliefs.

In his village, such a decision is considered unacceptable. Many of them fear that the idols’ spirits will take revenge on anyone who defies them, sometimes even attacking the person’s wider circle of family and friends. Knowing what his community members might do to him, Mattias chose to run away from the enraged mob.

During his childhood years, Mattias had grown up performing ritualistic animal slaughters – in keeping with his family’s efforts to appease *Vodún*’s demonic spirits. But everything began to change when a Christian classmate shared what it meant to follow Jesus. Intrigued, Mattias listened carefully. Yet, he also felt the need to explain the potential repercussions. Turning away from *Vodún*, he explained to his friend, would offend the spirits his father had spent years working to appease.

His classmate’s response surprised him. “Don’t be afraid of anyone,” Mattias’ friend stated, “because the One who is calling you is *greater* than them, and He can save you from anything. The person who is calling you, His name is Jesus.” Encouraged, Mattias agreed to visit their local church, and his Christian schoolmate arrived at his house so they could walk there together. When Mattias returned

home, however, his father threatened that if his classmate came to the house again, there would be trouble. Although his friend stayed away, he encouraged Mattias to keep attending the church services. “No matter what,” the friend advised, “don’t leave the church.”

Despite repeated warnings from local village elders, Mattias continued to visit the church – eventually giving his life to Christ. He considers the day of his baptism a major turning point in his life, both because of its spiritual significance and the realization that God had saved him from an awaiting trap. “I really sensed Jesus’ love for me,” he affirms.

When Mattias saw the group of men waiting outside his home that day, he ran to his classmate’s house and hid inside. Even though the villagers came to the house in search of him, his friend persuaded them to look elsewhere.

The next day, when Mattias returned home, his father ordered him to leave. “Pack your things and go where you want to go,” the father demanded. Rejected by his family, Mattias left home, eventually residing with an aunt who lived at a distant village. However, after discovering where Mattias was living, his father threatened the aunt who was helping him.

Fearing the consequences, she pleaded with Mattias to leave the church. “Your parents want to abandon you!” she reminded him. “Who is going to take care of you?” Mattias explained to his aunt that he would never forsake Christ nor his church family. “On the last day of my life,” he told her, “God will ask me, ‘Is it because of your parents that you left the church?’ What am I going to tell [Him]?” Realizing that Mattias could not be persuaded, his aunt kicked him out of her home too.

Forlorn, Mattias walked back to his village, carrying a bag that contained his only possessions. With nowhere else to go, he returned to his family’s home, expecting to again be pressured to recant. As he waited in a room, someone locked the door so he couldn’t leave. Thankfully, several

hours later, a younger sister secretly unlocked the door, allowing Mattias to escape. The teen ran until he was far from the village, and eventually was invited to move in with a pastor’s family. Mattias has safely lived there ever since.

Today, Mattias is an active member of his new spiritual family. He plays an instrument in the worship band, teaches a children’s Sunday school class, and participates in the church’s prayer group. This thriving Christian student hopes to support himself by becoming a barber, and dreams of the day he can return to his village and tell those who rejected him about Jesus Christ.

Knowing how deeply rooted his parents’ ancestral beliefs are at this time, he requests prayer that their hearts will become receptive to the truths in God’s Word. For now, he knows it’s too dangerous to approach them. Yet, regardless of what his parents presently think of him, Mattias is committed to growing in his relationship with the Lord and having fellowship with other believers – his new family in Christ. “What made me have courage,” he concludes, “is that in the Bible, Jesus Himself says, *‘I will not abandon you.’*”

REFLECT

- Are there areas in your life where the fear of others’ reactions may be holding you back from fully following Christ?
- What “costs” might the Lord be asking you to surrender in order to remain faithful to Him?
- How can you support or pray for believers like Mattias who are experiencing rejection for their faith?

Jailed for *Worshipping Jesus*

In the central Beninese town of Savalou, voodooists seeking to close local churches waged an eight-month spiritual battle against church leaders who were working to proclaim the Gospel. Some of the Christian leaders, including those pictured right and an evangelist, gathered recently to talk about their experiences. Each of them, at some point, had been arrested and jailed for conducting church services.

Pastor Victor Adamou explained that, without warning, local police officers began arresting pastors on Christmas Eve of the year 2023. Since Pastor Victor happened to be preaching elsewhere the evening that police showed up at the church he normally leads, the authorities arrested an assistant pastor instead – accusing the church of violating a noise ordinance. Although the assistant pastor and other church leaders provided proof that they hadn't broken any laws, the police rejected their evidence. The following day, Pastor Victor was summoned to the police station, where he was forced to pay a large fine in exchange for the release of the assistant pastor.

Across town, the police targeted another pastor for allegedly violating the same noise ordinance. This time, however, the authorities confiscated musical instruments in addition to

imposing a large fine. But fines and property seizures were not the only tactics that the town's authorities had used to intimidate the leaders of Savalou's local churches.

On February 12th, 2024, the police returned to Pastor Victor's church at a time when church members weren't using any musical instruments or amplification. "We just clapped our hands and worshipped the Lord," he clarifies. Surprised at the officers' return, Pastor Victor asked the police why they were there. "They said that when we were praising God," he continues to explain, "we clapped too much and sang too loud." That's when the officers ordered Pastor Victor and some of the church members to load the church's musical instruments, which weren't even being used, into the police vehicle. "No, I will not do it," the pastor responded. "We use the drums to glorify God. Since you policemen want to take away our drums, you should come and take them yourself. The Lord is our witness that you are the ones accusing us and...the ones who want to take away God's drums."

The policemen stared at Pastor Victor, apparently surprised at his refusal to remove the church's instruments. Finally, they forced a man who just happened to be walking by the church building to pack up the instruments and load them

Throughout 2024, many churches in Savalou, Benin, faced harsh restrictions on their worship services. Local authorities, who were active voodooists, confiscated their musical instruments and arrested pastors and other church leaders.



into their vehicle. Then they ordered the pastor to go to the police station.

When Pastor Victor arrived, he was immediately arrested and locked away in a cell, where he fasted and prayed for three days. "I knew in my heart that this was part of the sacrifice we were trying to make for the Lord," he affirms. "I was praying for the Lord to manifest His grace." Thankfully, Pastor Victor was released after his three-day detainment. But many of his church members, fearing their own possible arrests, stopped attending the worship services.

VOODOOISM BEHIND THE SCENES

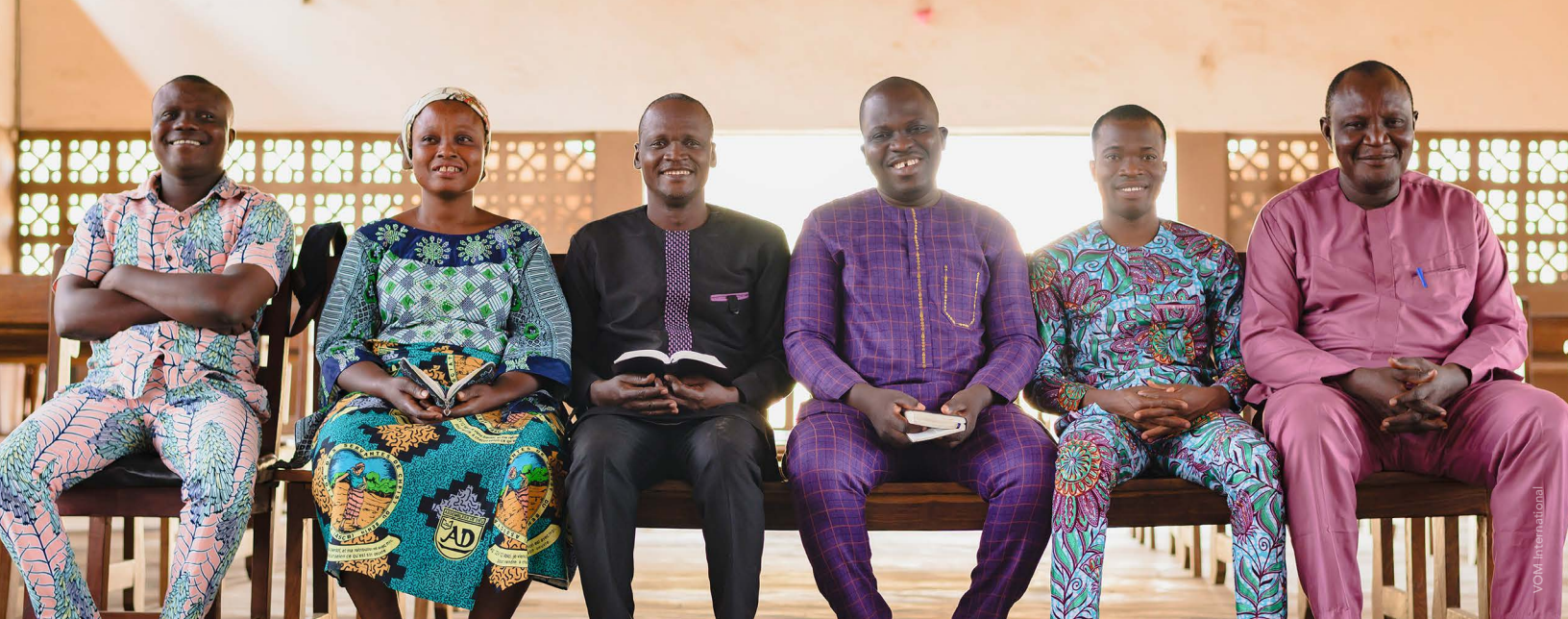
The *Vodún* (Voodoo) community is very active in Savalou. It is common to see parades of voodooists walking down the street adorned in special garb – often with someone wearing a devil costume – as they make their way to "curse" someone. And seen in front of many homes across town are small altars upon which the voodooists ritually

slaughter animals in hopes of appeasing demonic spirits.

Still, Pastor Victor and the other church leaders in Savalou couldn't understand why they were suddenly being targeted for persecution. After all, his church held worship services in the same location for 30 years without any trouble from the authorities, and the other large church in town that had recently been fined was also well established. The pastors then came to realize the reason for the increased opposition....

In 2023, a new church began conducting worship services next to a voodoo leader's home. A short time later, the man lost his ability to tell fortunes using witchcraft. So, in anger, he began throwing rocks at the church building during the services. The pastors believe that the voodoo leader, and other voodooists residing in homes located near churches, didn't like the fact that Christians were gathering in their neighbourhoods to worship God. The pastors believe the voodooists complained to city officials (who,





incidentally, also happened to be voodooists), prompting the crackdown on pastors and their churches.

By late February 2024, four pastors in town had been arrested and forced to pay fines up to a quarter of their annual salaries. The president of a church association in the area then suggested that the group write a letter to the town's chief prosecutor, protesting the unjust arrests and fines. In response, the police arrested the association president and detained him in jail for eight days.

A HEAVY PRICE

The arrests continued throughout the summer of '24. On August 21st, police showed up at a church where Assistant Pastor Marc Djosso had been preaching. That day, Thalia Yacoubou was translating his French sermon into the local Mahi language. Even though the church had already been fined, and was no longer using microphones or musical instruments, the police seized Pastor Marc and Thalia, enforcing the church workers' detainment in jail.

"I thought about my children," Thalia says as she reflects on the day of her arrest. "Who will take care of them? I didn't know what would happen next – if I were to be kept at the police [station] and sent to jail, or if they would beat me." In addition, Thalia was the main caregiver of her elderly mother who had been ill at the time.

The police locked Thalia in a cramped cell which she estimates measured only about one square metre. "You can't lie down or sit comfortably. There are only one or two positions you can have. And if you want to go to the toilet... sometimes they will refuse [to let you].... I cried in the cell, and said to myself, 'If it is because of Jesus Christ that I am here in this cell, may all the glory be given to [Him].'"

In the meantime, Pastor Marc was detained in another part of the jail. Whenever he needed to use the washroom, he would either have to urinate in a bottle or be shackled during a visit to the latrine. Perplexed over the ill-treatment he experienced while imprisoned, he thought to himself, "I didn't kill anybody to be suffering like that."

On his fourth day in jail, Pastor Marc was joined by his supervising pastor, whose arrest had taken place due to the responsibility sanctioned by his role as the church's leading ministerial authority. Soon the two church leaders were encouraging one another and sharing the Gospel with their cellmates. One prisoner who had become a follower of Christ was released the same day as Pastor Marc, his supervising pastor, and Thalia. By this point, Pastor Marc and Thalia had each spent a total of nine days in jail.

TURNING BACK THE DARKNESS

The church leaders acknowledge that the prayers of

Beninese Christians and other followers of Christ around the world have, by God's grace, brought about positive changes in Savalou. By late 2024, the voodooists behind the arrests had been removed from their governmental positions. The city's mayor was sent to prison for his involvement in a mysterious death, the chief prosecutor was demoted, and the chief of police was forced into early retirement.

After the police chief lost his position, he came to speak with Pastor Victor. "It was not time for me to retire," he told him, "yet they forced me to retire without having any plot of land and without constructing a house where I could spend my last days." He then asked Pastor Victor for spiritual help. "Please, can you pray for me and plead with God not to punish me too much?"

As Pastor Victor thinks back on their discussion, he recalls the struggle he experienced while in jail and his prayers, asking God to change the hearts of the voodooists. "When I got into the cell the first time," he explains, "I found myself not comfortable at all, and I was not happy.... I asked the Lord several questions: 'Lord, why have I been arrested? Why am I here? What do you want me to understand?'"

Pastor Victor says the Lord answered his questions in that small jail cell. "The Holy Spirit told me it is for the Gospel to spread," he relates, "[and] that there were some sacrifices we needed to make. I remembered the passages in the Word of God that say suffering for the sake of the Gospel is a blessing."

The town's new authorities have indicated a willingness to work with their local pastors and treat the congregations fairly. Even so, the churches' seized instruments and sound equipment have yet to be returned, and none of the fines have been reimbursed to date. Some churches, in fact, expect to pay additional legal fees when their cases go to trial.

While church attendance is still lower than it was before the arrests, local Christians are gradually returning to attend Sunday services. One church has purchased replacement microphones, which the new officials have allowed them to use. Still, as some church members are still concerned over the possibility of being arrested, the pastors request prayer for boldness and that their voodooist neighbours will come to know Christ.

"We don't want the persecutors to die in their sins," states Pastor Joseph Idrissou, another local church leader. "We know they didn't do these things by themselves; they were pushed by evil spirits." Pastor Joseph is currently teaching his congregation about the importance of forgiveness: "We have forgiven...those persecutors, and we would like to see them one day come back and tell us, 'We want you to help us know the Lord, that we may praise Him and worship together.'"

"We have forgiven...those persecutors, and we would like to see them one day come back and tell us, 'We want you to help us know the Lord, that we may praise Him and worship together.'"

In fact, that is the dream of every pastor and church worker in Savalou, that more people will turn away from the darkness of voodooism and walk in God's glorious light. And these faithful servants are determined to continue sharing the Gospel, no matter the cost. "If it is because of Jesus that they take us to jail, we are fine," Thalia summarizes. "The Lord who delivered Daniel in ancient days...is still the same, and He can deliver us!"

Some of the translated quotations included in this article have been slightly adjusted, according to English grammar usage and Canadian Press Style.

BENIN'S VODOO CULTURE – AND THE HOPE FOUND IN CHRIST!

Voodooism is a system of ancient tribal practices that are intended to placate, manipulate and even host in human form a number of ancestral and demonic spirits that voodooists believe control nature and human affairs. The practice of *Vodún* (Voodoo), which originated in the West African Kingdom of Dahomey (located today in the southern region of modern-day Benin), includes a combination of different tribal rituals, including:

- Rhythmic drumming, dancing and chanting to induce feverish trances through which spirits are believed to speak to people.
- Self-mutilation and scarring, usually performed while under possession by demonic spirits.
- The use of incantations, charms and items of power to curse others, ward off curses, or call for blessings from specific spirits.
- The use of family shrines and worship of idols believed to be inhabited by various spirits.
- The slaying of animals and even humans.

Ethnic religions like *Vodún* are practised by about 40 percent of Benin's population, which consists of approximately 14 million people. Christian leaders report that many nominal Christians and Muslims have introduced elements of voodooism into their traditional religious practices – creating various syncretic blends.

Although voodooism was suppressed in Benin under a Marxist regime that ruled the country from 1972 to 1991, this ancient ancestral belief system has regained its former status.

In 1997, the government of Benin declared January 10th as "Voodoo Day," an annual national holiday. In 2024, almost 100,000 people visited Ouidah, considered the "capital" of voodooism in Benin, to celebrate the event. And, in 2025, the event was expanded to a three-day celebration, with 430,000 attendees and a new stadium built for this occasion.

Even as voodooism gains public prominence, Christians throughout the nation continue to shine the light of Christ, praying faithfully and sharing the Gospel with those searching for true freedom and peace.

Small Moments, *Lasting Faith*

By Rick Tozer
VOMC's Vice President of Domestic Ministry

Think back to your childhood.... Chances are, someone – a teacher, pastor or family member – took time to invest in you. For many of us, our faith was shaped not just by *what* we learned, but by *who* showed up. Behind every growing believer is someone who cared enough to pour into their lives.

If we have been shaped by others, then we are called to do the same for the next generation. Discipling young people is not optional for the church; it is essential. Research consistently shows that most people come to faith at a young age. This is both sobering and clarifying. If we are not intentional about investing in today's children and youth, we risk leaving a generation without a clear understanding of God's reality. Scripture makes this calling clear. For example, Psalms 78 and 145 speak of one generation declaring God's works to another. Parents, grandparents and church members all play a vital role. Ministry to young people is not a side effort, it is central to the mission.

Today's youth face intense challenges. Social media is shaping how young people see themselves and measure

their worth. Many are navigating how to cope with their broken families, loneliness and rising anxiety. Cultural messages often conflict with Biblical truths. The next generation is searching for hope and a sense of belonging, often in places that fall short and may even lead to demise. The church cannot afford to be passive.

Like a farmer tending a field, each one of us must be intentional: planting, watering and nurturing over a duration of time. Deuteronomy 6 calls us to teach God's truth consistently through our everyday lives and not just during structured moments. It means showing up, even when the results are not immediate. Just like a garden, cultivating growth takes time.

As a ministry, Voice of the Martyrs Canada is committed to remembering and serving the persecuted church. We also have the unique opportunity to broaden and shape young perspectives. When children hear the stories of believers around the world who are standing firm in the face of suffering, their own faith is strengthened, deepened and made real. They begin to understand that following Jesus requires courage, conviction and hope.

This is where *Table Talks* comes in.

While our primary magazine, *One Voice*, is designed to engage adults with deeper insights and global awareness, children need something different – teaching tools that are accessible, engaging and applicable to their everyday world. *Table Talks* was created to meet those needs. In doing so, it translates big truths into meaningful, age-appropriate conversations that young people can understand and respond to.

Whether used around the dinner table, in a classroom setting or during family devotional times, *Table Talks* helps move faith from a Sunday moment to an everyday reality. Through simple questions, real stories and guided discussions, each issue equips parents, caregivers and ministry leaders to effectively disciple young people in natural and consistent ways.

Investing in the next generation requires intention. It is about recognizing that small, faithful moments over time can shape a person's lifetime of faith.



FAITH CONVERSATIONS MADE SIMPLE

Discipling children doesn't have to be complicated.

Table Talks is designed to help families and churches disciple the next generation one conversation at a time.

Inside each issue are:

- Stories that inspire courage and faith
- Faith-based discussions on challenges Christians face worldwide
- Global and cultural insights that deepen empathy

Whether around the table, in the classroom, or during family devotional times, *Table Talks* helps turn faith into something children can actively live – equipping them to understand today's culture and respond with compassion.

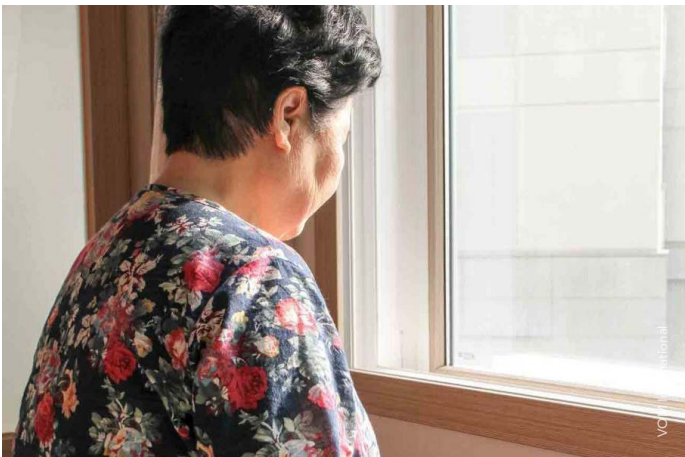
We'd Love Your Feedback!

We are building *Table Talks* for you – and with you! **Scan the QR code** to share your feedback and help shape our future issues. Your voice helps us grow.



VOM Global Reports

NORTH KOREA: Defectors Encounter Christian Love



North Korean defectors often feel lonely and overwhelmed after escaping their country to reach freedom.

Christian workers in South Korea have developed specific strategies to convey Christ's compassion and care by providing humanitarian aid to newly immigrated North Korean defectors. Please pray for Mrs. R., one of these new arrivals, who was so moved by the love expressed to her that she is already taking steps to visit other new North Korean defectors and minister into their lives.

Pray also for Mrs. G., a North Korean defector who struggles with serious health difficulties. As a result of experiencing God's goodness through the kindness of Christians, Mrs. G. is now reading the Bible. Ask the Lord to draw many more North Koreans who, like these two women, will be touched by His loving care and transformed by the Gospel.

YEMEN: Christian Mother and Daughters Forced from Home

Laila and her two daughters, Rasha and Asman, have been forced from their home for embracing Christianity. Soon after becoming a follower of Christ in early 2025, Rasha began sharing the Gospel with her mother and her younger teenage sister. They too came to faith in Christ, and all three women participated in a Bible reading plan. In August 2025, Rasha's father discovered her Bible. The enraged father harshly interrogated her and, when Rasha would not renounce her new faith, he proceeded to beat her. Then, when he learned that his wife and younger daughter had also become Christians, he kicked all three of them out of the family home. In addition to helping these displaced women find a safe place in which to live, VOM's in-country workers are providing them needed support and discipleship so they can grow in their faith.



In Yemen, choosing to follow Christ can mean risking death, losing family relationships and facing deep isolation.

DR CONGO: Emotional Healing for Survivors



Islamic militants have killed, wounded and displaced thousands of Congolese Christians, often looting and burning their homes.

Kemi, her husband and several others were abducted in 2017 by radical Islamists. The militants killed most of the Christians, including Kemi's husband, but decided to spare her life. Instead, they forcibly marched the abducted Christian woman into the forest and abused her. For nine months, she prayed that God would make a way of escape from the kidnappers.

One day, while fetching water, she was able to run away from the area. After living on wild fruit for three weeks, she wearily stumbled onto a road, describing her survival as miraculous. Later, after learning of her pregnancy, Kemi's community rejected her and the baby. The ostracized woman was so depressed, she began experiencing difficulties sleeping and taking care of herself and her child.

With the help of VOM and a local counselling ministry, Kemi has received spiritual, physical and emotional care. She is now able to sleep well, work and serve her local church. Ministry workers are requesting prayer for the

other persecuted Christians they are presently helping who, like Kemi, have suffered for their faith.

KAZAKHSTAN: Manipulated AI Videos Used Against Pastor

A Kazakh pastor reported that secret police showed his wife fabricated videos generated by AI to convince her to spy on him. "The methods they used were extremely surprising to me, as they were low and dirty," explained the pastor, who denied that the manipulated videos are real. "I ask you to pray for me, my wife, our children and ministry. We are going through one of the most difficult times, but we believe that Jesus is Lord."

An in-country worker acknowledged that the ability for government officials, and anyone else who creates these kinds of videos, is extremely problematic. "AI is making things challenging," he adds. "I'm sure he won't be the first pastor targeted with situations like this." The worker has asked us to pray that despite this new threat, unity and truth will flourish among the churches of Central Asia.



Central Asian church leaders worry that AI-generated videos are being used against Christians.



Dear Heavenly Father,

We pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Benin as they stand firm in faith against the enemy's schemes. Equip them, Lord, with Your full armour as they struggle against the opposing rulers, authorities and powers of this world, and against the spiritual forces of evil.

We praise You that Your people – including Mattias and the church leaders in Savalou – have remained faithful to You amid overwhelming pressure and suffering. Thank You for their inspiring examples of perseverance.

Lord, we pray that these persevering believers, and the many other dedicated Christians in Benin, will continue to stand firm in Your truth, with a readiness to proclaim the Gospel at every divinely orchestrated opportunity.

May their testimonies encourage us to also be alert and prayerful, so that we may likewise be ready to make known the Good News of Your salvation.

In Jesus' all-powerful name we pray, amen.

SEPTEMBER 2026

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” – Galatians 5:1 ESV

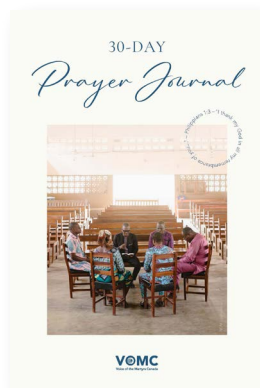
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 NORTH KOREA Pray that untraceable Bibles and portions of Scripture will be distributed to every North Korean.	2 ISRAEL Pray for the protection of Christians who share the Gospel in regions of conflict.	3 PAKISTAN Use Romans 15:13 to pray for the joy, peace and hope of Pakistani Christians.	4 AFGHANISTAN Pray for Fazal, who was persecuted for sharing his faith with other displaced Afghans in Central Asia.	5 DJIBOUTI Pray that Djibouti will be protected from Islamists who've sought sanctuary in surrounding areas.
6 MOROCCO Ask the Lord to remove governmental barriers that are preventing churches from worshipping openly.	7 MEXICO Pray for church planters like Aaron who are ministering in central Mexico.	8 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray that displaced Christians will be a shining light to other dislocated victims of the country's civil war.	9 KAZAKHSTAN Pray that officially "de-registered" churches will still be able to gather for worship and fellowship.	10 LIBYA Pray for the families of missionaries and indigenous believers who lost their lives for sharing the Gospel.	11 NICARAGUA Pray that churches closed by authoritarian governing officials will be permitted to reopen.	12 PAKISTAN Ask the Lord to heal a courageous evangelist who was arrested and tortured for his ministry work.
13 CAMEROON Pray for the healing of children who have been attacked and abducted by Boko Haram terrorists.	14 SRI LANKA Pray that Buddhist monks who stir up strife against believers will repent and turn to Christ.	15 ERITREA Pray for the provision of formerly imprisoned Christians who have been blacklisted by the government.	16 CHINA Pray for the perseverance of believers facing continual government surveillance and oppression.	17 ALGERIA Pray Isaiah 55:11, thanking God that His Word is being proclaimed online and through broadcast media.	18 BENIN Pray for all who have lost family members or homes because of their Christian faith.	19 QATAR Praise God that Qataris can easily access the Bible through the Internet.
20 COLOMBIA Pray for the protection of young believers who are vulnerable to forced recruitment by guerrilla groups.	21 IRAQ Pray for pastors and other church leaders who receive death threats for their evangelistic work.	22 DR CONGO Pray for the provisions and comfort of the country's Christians who have been displaced by Islamists.	23 MALAYSIA Pray for the family of Pastor Raymond Koh as they continue to seek the truth behind his 2017 abduction.	24 BAHRAIN Pray that amid Bahrain's religious, political and economic tensions, Muslims will experience Jesus' love.	25 UGANDA Pray for young followers of Christ who were injured by their parents or community members.	26 TURKMENISTAN Ask the Lord to provide opportunities for Turkmen to access Christian broadcasts and hear the Gospel.
27 TUNISIA Pray that believers persecuted by their families will have the courage to continue following Christ.	28 MALDIVES Pray that Christian converts who are imprisoned for their faith will remain strong in the Lord.	29 BANGLADESH Pray that those who persecute Christians will repent and likewise accept God's gift of salvation.	30 TAJIKISTAN Pray for the needed provisions of church leaders, many of whom must seek employment in Russia.			



Resources

Shop online at store.vomcanada.org

30-Day Prayer Journal | \$8



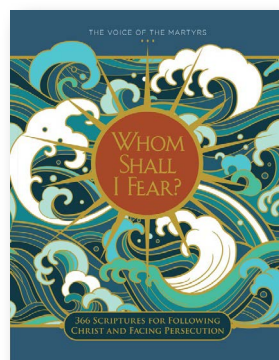
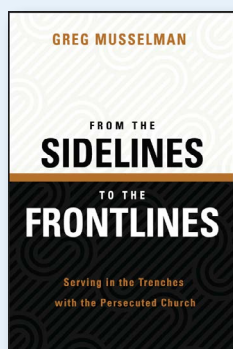
Through Scripture-based reflections and real-life testimonies, VOMC's *30-Day Prayer Journal* will encourage you to pursue unity with your global family in Christ, deepen your faith, and persevere through trials with hope and joy. You'll also have opportunities to intercede on behalf of Christians everywhere, so they can be further empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit to run the race that is set before them with endurance (Hebrews 12:1).

As you intentionally spend time in prayer, you will not only sense a closer connection with your global Christian family, but also find your heart being shaped in such a profound way that it increasingly reflects the compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paperback, 43 pages

From the Sidelines to the Frontlines: Serving in the Trenches with the Persecuted Church | \$15

When we hear about the thousands of Christians who are being martyred every year for their faith, or the remaining tens of millions living under extreme persecution, the numbers seem impersonal and overwhelming. Yet, they represent far more than just statistics, but real members of our persecuted family in Christ. *From the Sidelines to the Frontlines* brings readers up close to those who have paid an enormous price to follow Christ.

Paperback, 128 pages



Whom Shall I Fear? | \$25

Just days before Pastor Richard Wurmbrand was arrested by Romanian secret police, he discovered that there were 366 references in Scripture that would specifically help

Christians to overcome fear – one for each day of the year, including the leap year. This concept further enhanced his own prayerful study of God's Word and gave him the strength to stand strong for Christ in the face of opposition, imprisonment and torture.

Featuring testimonies from the Wurmbrands and other persecuted Christians throughout history, *Whom Shall I Fear?* invites you to encounter 366 Scriptural passages that will take you beyond anxiety, doubt and fear, grounding your faith in God's unchanging character as you live obediently for Him amid life's challenges.

Hardcover, 493 pages