

Capturing the Wonders of Christmas

By Sharing the Truth of God's Amazing Story!

A message about this year's "Christmas Blessing" project from VOMC's International Ministry Team

The *Christmas Blessing Fund* is specially designed to be a means through which Canadian Christians can express love and encouragement to our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ during the Christmas season. As gifts are typically given to family members and loved ones at Christmastime, this special seasonal project provides us the unique opportunity to remind persecuted believers of the ultimate gift given by the Father: the gift of His one and only Son, Jesus Christ.

Every year, VOMC focusses on a specific persecuted nation for the Christmas distributions, working closely with in-country ministry partners to provide packages containing practical items such as Bibles and other helpful Christian resources, food, clothing, hygienic supplies, household necessities, toys, etc. This year, the Lord has graciously made it possible for VOMC to implement the *Christmas Blessing* project in various countries. The North African distributions will take place in partnership with local churches in Morocco and Mauritania.

Since the Moroccan government is committed to the preservation of Sunni Islam, mandating the religion for all Moroccans, Christian activity is carefully monitored by the government. Muslims who convert to Christianity are at risk of facing severe punishment. They may endure ostracism from their families,

loss of employment, and even imprisonment for their faith.

In Mauritania, freedom of religion is nonexistent, for Sunni Islam has been the dominant religion for more than a thousand years. The government prohibits the evangelism of Muslims, as well as the distribu-

tion of any non-Islamic religious materials. Additionally, it is illegal for citizens to enter non-Muslim households, and anyone who confesses to having faith in Christ faces the death penalty. Overall, there is tremendous social pressure against anyone who converts to Christianity.

Even though VOMC had initially planned to bless persecuted Christians in Morocco during the previous year as part of the 2021 *Christmas Blessing* project, distributions in that particular country could not proceed due to pandemic restrictions. However, we are thankful that the Lord has made a way for the distributions to go forward during this year's Christmas season. The distributed gift packages will bless 1,300 children and their families in Morocco, and 700 in Mauritania – providing added opportunities to reach out to non-Christian children and their families with gift packages as well.

Through VOMC's collaboration with The Voice of the Martyrs Korea and its in-country ministry partners, this year's *Christmas Blessing* project will also



The "Christmas Blessing" inset photos are from VOMC's International Ministry partners.



Altogether, this year's "Christmas Blessing" project will bless 5,190 children and their families who have experienced Christian persecution in various countries. In addition, it will be used as a tool for evangelism by blessing others who don't yet know Christ as Saviour.

bless Christians from North Korea, China, Russia, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Laos. Believers living in these countries experience varying degrees of persecution for their faith in Christ. Depending on the specific country, persecution can range anywhere from the denial of jobs, medical treatment, education, or other social services; to the subjection of physical violence, threat of arrest and/or imprisonment, in addition to other forms of familial or societal pressure and ostracization. Other cases involve the forcible closure of church buildings.

The *Christmas Blessing* distributions taking place in these countries will bless 3,190 more children (along with their families) who have been severely affected by persecution. Once again, provisions will also be extended to those who do not yet know Christ as an opportunity for evangelism.

Please join us in praying for our ministry partners as they diligently work to bless persecuted families and share the hope of the Gospel with those who have yet to discover the 'Christ of Christmas' through this year's *Christmas Blessing* distributions. Please also intercede for all who will receive the packages, praying that the hearts of our persecuted family in Christ will be greatly encouraged and that those who hear the Gospel message through this compassionate outreach will respond with openness and joy. 🙏



If you would like to contribute towards this year's "Christmas Blessing" distributions, please call 1-888-298-6423 or visit www.vomcanada.com/ChristmasBlessing.