



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain."

~ 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

UGANDA: Church Closes After Repeated Attacks

Source: Morning Star News

A church outside of Kampala, the capital of Uganda, closed in early August after months of harassment by local Muslims. The final blow came on August 4th when a stone was thrown through a window, striking Pastor Moreen Sanyu of the Greater Love Church in the forehead and knocking her unconscious. After regaining consciousness, she found that most of the church members had fled for their lives. Following treatment in hospital, and the confirmation of no serious injuries, she was released.

The next Sunday, when the pastor arrived at the church, she found the building empty. No one came to the service in fear for their safety. The church, located in a predominantly Muslim area, began in May 2017 and had grown quickly to 400 in attendance. In response to the attacks from militant Islamists, however, the attendance had begun to dwindle. After months of enduring the pelting of rocks, together with the hurling of abusive threats, leaders of the church have decided not to continue meeting in such a dangerous area; instead, they are looking to relocate elsewhere.

Despite claims to the contrary by local Muslims, Pastor Sanyu insists that she did not target children in her ministry: "I just shared the Gospel of Christ and His love for humanity with my Muslim neighbours, and they freely accepted the Christian faith -- especially when many sick people (whom) I prayed for got healed. I did not persuade them nor steal them to join my church."

As the pastor and other members of the church consider how to proceed ministering in the future, pray that opportunities to share the love of Christ will continue to abound. Ask the Lord to grant them the strength required to endure despite opposition, and that those

responsible for these attacks will be convicted to the point of repentance. May Pastor Sanyu be greatly encouraged by the assurance that her work for the Lord is never in vain.

TAJIKISTAN: Arrested and Fined for Evangelism

Source: Release International

Ten Christians were arrested by security police in the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan on August 7th. The group was distributing Christian literature in Russian, Tajik and various local languages when they were detained. According to a ministry partner of Release International, the believers were later released but fined \$1,000 by a court. Since they had no money, a Tajik church paid the fine for them.

Although the government of Tajikistan suppresses and punishes religious activity, imprisoning individuals of the Christian faith on unproven criminal allegations, Christianity continues to grow. By law, religious literature must be approved by government censors. The teaching of religion to children under the age of 18 is banned, except in a few isolated cases.

Please pray for Christians throughout Tajikistan as they continue to share God's love amidst hostility. While we are thankful that these Christians were released, and that the church was able to cover the fine, God's Word reminds us to intercede on behalf of those in governmental authority who are in need of His wisdom to govern righteously (1 Timothy 2:1-3). May we also remember other followers of Christ who have been imprisoned because of their faith and ministry.

PRAISE REPORT

INDIA: Falsely Accused Christians Released

Sources: VOM USA, OpIndia

Four Christians in Jharkhand have been imprisoned since May, following an accusation made by the father of one of these believers that they had attempted to physically force him to convert to Christianity. According to the police report, Somaru Manjhi's daughter, Sumanti, was to be married on May 30th. Opposing his daughter's desire for a Christian wedding, the 65-year-old man claimed that he was beaten with a bamboo stick by Sumanti, her fiancé Rupash, and two Christian missionaries.

We are pleased to report that after investigation, the four falsely accused Christians have been released from police custody. While praising God for their release, we remain mindful of their need for God's help and protection as they return to their communities and families.

If you would like to post a prayer of praise or petition on behalf of our persecuted family around the globe, visit VOMC's prayer wall at www.vomcanada.com/prayerwall.htm. Another effective way to serve the persecuted is through volunteering: www.vomcanada.com/volunteer.htm.

The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
The Voice of the Martyrs Canada, P.O. Box 608, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 2C1
Tel. (905) 670-9721 Website: www.vomcanada.com

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If you would like to encourage someone to read or receive this weekly prayer alert, please use our online form at www.vomcanada.com/pnpforward.htm and help spread the message of the persecuted church around the world.

For information on additional ways to support members of the persecuted church overseas, review the list of options at www.vomcanada.com/take-action.htm.