



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

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*"The 'Living Jesus' will give
you joy amid tribulation."*

~ Richard Wurmbrand

CHINA: Pastor Arrested During Online Meeting

Sources: International Christian Concern, China Aid

Pastor Luo was taking part in a "Proclaim Jesus Gospel Gathering" via Zoom when police took him away for questioning. At around noon on May 23rd, police entered the Nanjing Road Church in Wuhan and began searching the building. After finding Pastor Luo, they took him for interrogation which lasted more than four hours.

While being questioned, Pastor Luo had the opportunity to share with the police what Christians were doing for the people of Wuhan during the COVID-19 crisis. Recalling the conversation, he stated: "Christians disregarded their own lives to do good things, yet the police treat them as the bad guys. This is unreasonable." He then let the officials know that he will continue living for Christ and sharing the Gospel with others. In the end, the authorities politely sent him on his way. For more information on the persecution facing Christians in China, as well as previously posted reports, go to www.vomcanada.com/china.htm.

Remember the ongoing efforts of Christians in Wuhan and throughout China as they share the love of Christ with their neighbours in many practical and meaningful ways. Pray that the government's efforts to stop the spread of the Gospel will be countered in a manner that will bring further honour and glory to His name. May the wise words spoken by Pastor Luo to the police officers be used by God's Spirit to convict them of their own spiritual need for salvation and lead them to faith in the Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ.

NORTH KOREA: Bible Launches Met with Resistance

Sources: Mission Network News, Voice of America, VOM Korea, BBC, The Guardian

For several years, The Voice of the Martyrs Korea has helped get Bibles into North Korea. Typically, this was done through the launch of large balloons, which would strategically drop the contained materials across the border. Recently, members of the ministry team have also begun using bottles filled with rice, vitamins and small Bibles to bless those residing in North Korea. These bottles were systematically sent while the timing of the tide was just right so they would float along the western coast to their intended destination.

VOM Korea is not the only organization sending materials across the border. Some others have been sending materials which are very critical of the North Korean government. Officials who have taken note of these items vehemently oppose all efforts to influence the minds and hearts of their people.

In 2018, an agreement was reached between North and South Korea to reduce military tensions. However, on June 4th, Kim Yo Jung, the sister of leader Kim Jong Un, issued a warning. She stated that unless the South Korean government stops this "evil propaganda" from being sent via balloons, North Korean officials will cancel the agreement. In response, the South Korean government has taken immediate action to appease them and thus avoid any tensions.

When a team of VOM Korea workers set out to launch the latest 500 rice bottles on June 5th, two dozen police officers, plain clothes officials and local residents blocked the road, preventing the workers from getting to the sea. Three days later, the ministry received a letter from the Department of Ocean and Fisheries directing them to cease and desist from any rice bottle launches or they will face charges.

Despite the opposition, Pastor Eric Foley, CEO for VOM Korea, recognizes how divinely appointed opportunities are being presented in every situation that arises. All previous attempts to obstruct their past humanitarian efforts have made it possible for the members of his mission team to demonstrate the love and grace of God. "Over the years," he explains, "we've done probably as much witnessing to South Korean police as we have to the North Korean people."

Pray that the hearts of the South Korean police officers will be open to receive the Gospel message. May God continue the good work that He has already begun in the lives of the many North Koreans who have received previously launched Bibles. While praising Him for the wonderful opportunities to share this "Good News" in the past, pray that He will present even more creative and effective ways to do so in the future. Please remember to intercede for Kim Jong Un, his sister Kim Yo Jung, and other North Korean leaders, asking God to soften each of their hearts so they too will be receptive to the life-transformative message of His tremendous love for them.

REPORT UPDATES

LAOS: Girl Facing Charges After Resisting Attack

Sources: Vision Beyond Borders, VOM Canada

To date, Nang Tookta Phetsomphone has spent almost six months in a Laotian prison after her former employer was stabbed and killed during his attempt to rape the young woman. In order to be released from custody, her family must pay a fine of \$11,000 USD and renounce their faith in Christ. Since our previously posted "Persecution & Prayer Alert" report, VOMC's Greg Musselman has spoken with Patrick Klein from Vision Beyond Borders about Tookta's terrible plight. This interview is available at www.vomcanada.com/laos-videos/video/la-nang.html.

May the Lord greatly encourage Tookta as she continues to recover from the unjust treatment of her employer, the trauma of the attempted rape, as well as the fatal loss of her attacker after responding in self-defence. Ask our God, the righteous Judge who sees and knows all -- including the intent of the heart -- give wisdom to all presiding over this case. May the Holy Spirit serve as the Counsellor, Mediator, Healer, and Deliverer for all concerned, including the families of Tookta and her former employer. Through it all, may God use what was meant for evil to accomplish His greater plans of salvation in many lives.

IRAN: Appeal Hearing Postponed Indefinitely

Sources: Middle East Concern, Church in Chains

The appeal hearing for Pastor Victor Bet Tamraz and his wife, along with three other Christians, had been scheduled for June 1st but was cancelled with no new court date set. No reason was given for the delay, and the lawyers involved with this case were not allowed to approach the judge. Pastor Victor and the others each face sentences of at least ten years in prison. (To review the previously posted report, go to www.vomcanada.com/ir-2019-08-29.htm.)

As they patiently await the next scheduled court date for their appeal hearing, may these imprisoned believers -- and many others who are serving time for their faith in Christ -- have an increased awareness of God's abiding presence with them in their prison cells. Pray that they will be able to seize every opportunity they are given to share the Gospel with other prisoners, as well as prison workers, while anticipating their eventual release from captivity.

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.

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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.