



Persecution & Prayer Alert

The Voice of the Martyrs Canada
www.vomcanada.com

Thursday, July 23, 2020

*"I have said these things to you,
that in Me you may have peace. In the
world you will have tribulation. But take
heart; I have overcome the world."*

~ John 16:33 ESV

SOUTH KOREA: Accused as Criminals for Bible Distribution

Source: The Voice of the Martyrs Korea

When missionaries first arrived in Korea in the late 19th century, they discovered that the Gospel message had already preceded them. Koreans who had been assisting with Bible translation in China consequently came to faith in Christ. By smuggling portions of the New Testament into their homeland, they were also able to lead others to Christ. The resulting believers came to be known as "Bible Christians."

The Bible remains essential to the church in North Korea today, and The Voice of the Martyrs Korea (VOMK) is determined to continue getting God's Word into this closed nation through the use of various innovative methods. However, these efforts have recently become a point of contention with leaders of the South Korean government who are seeking to appease demands from the dictatorial government of Kim Jong Un in North Korea. See www.vomcanada.com/kp-2020-06-11.htm for a recent report on the challenges encountered when making these efforts.

The co-founders of VOMK are presently facing possible criminal charges, as well as a review of the ministry's status as a registered NGO. In a recently sent email, Rev. Dr. Eric Foley and his wife Dr. Foley wrote, "We stand accused in our own country as criminals, and we do so alongside our North Korean Christian brothers and sisters." The couple released a fascinating account about the "Bible Christians" of those earlier days and how they connect to the current situation in both North and South Korea (see www.vomcanada.com/bible-christians).

Please keep the Foleys in your prayers, and the rest of the VOMK staff, as they navigate how to wisely deal with these present challenges while endeavouring to honour God through the

distribution of His Word and the provision of humanitarian aid. Pray that the people of North Korea who have received the distributed Bibles will be touched by what they read, resulting in their eternal salvation. Intercede for the governmental leaders of both North and South Korea that they would not only cease from opposing the Gospel but also willingly embrace our Heavenly Father's 'Love Letter to Humanity' to the point of becoming convicted of their need to accept His Son Jesus as their own personal Saviour.

INDIA: Pastor Killed by Rebels

Source: Morning Star News

On July 10th, Pastor Munshi Devu Tado was leading a worship service for a small group on his property when armed Maoist rebels approached. According to his wife, they shook hands with the pastor and then tied his hands behind his back and led him away. The rebels then told family members that they wanted to talk to him. A few minutes later, a gunshot was heard. Pastor Munshi was found dead on the ground and, by this point, the attackers were gone.

Pastor Munshi leaves behind a wife and four young children. According to reports, opposing villagers had been upset about the growth of the church, as people were being converted from their tribal religion to Christianity. It is believed that the disgruntled villagers incited the Maoists to kill the pastor, contrary to a note left at the scene by the killers claiming that he had been a police informant.

Police investigating the crime insist that Pastor Munshi was not an informant. The family has faced ongoing persecution since they came to faith in Christ seven years ago. Pastor Vachami, who was a close associate of the slain minister, spoke favourably about him, "He was a very simple man and a very faithful servant of God." For more on the persecution facing Christians in India, go to www.vomcanada.com/india.htm.

Remember Pastor Munshi's wife Jaini, as well as their young children, in your prayers during this time of tragic loss. In addition, pray for the villagers who have come to trust in Christ through their pastor's faithful service to God, asking the Lord to spur them onward in their walk of faith. May others of this community who have yet to acknowledge Christ as their Saviour -- including the attackers -- be touched by the late pastor's testimony and, through his ongoing legacy, receive God's mercy, forgiveness and transformative saving grace.

REPORT UPDATE

IRAN: Appeal Decisions for Ismaeil Maghrebinejad

Sources: Article 18, Middle East Concern, International Christian Concern

In January 2019, Ismaeil Maghrebinejad, 65, was arrested and has since faced multiple charges and convictions, which he has appealed. Originally convicted of "membership of a group hostile

to the regime" and "insulting Islamic sacred beliefs," he was further convicted of "propaganda against the state" in May 2020 (see www.vomcanada.com/ir-2020-05-21.htm).

On July 5th, an appeal court overturned the three-year sentence for "insulting Islamic sacred beliefs." The charge came about due to someone else's social media joke, to which Ismaeil merely responded with a smiley face emoji. The judge ruled that since the accused was not the originator of the joke, he should not be convicted.

The appeal of the other two convictions were decided on July 15th. In this most recent case, the judge rejected both appeals. As a result, Ismaeil must serve two years in prison for "membership of a hostile group." The sentence for propaganda against the state was reduced; however, since that was a shorter concurrent sentence, it doesn't make any difference to the length of his prison term. For more on the persecution of Christians in Iran, go to www.vomcanada.com/iran.htm.

Continue to uphold Ismaeil in your prayers, along with the members of his concerned family, as they now face a two-year period of separation from one another. May the Lord sustain them with renewed hope, peace and strength -- having the assurance that He is ultimately working through this difficult situation to bring about His greater plans in each of their lives and for the salvation of others. As Ismaeil waits on God for deliverance, may he experience continued health and strength -- physically, emotionally, mentally, as well as spiritually -- seizing every opportunity made available to him to be a vibrant Christian witness to fellow prisoners and prison workers.

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.