

release

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PRAY FOR PAKISTAN

Join our Day of Prayer on October 3

PAGE 2



GET READY FOR IDOP

How to plan a prayer event in your church

CENTRE PULL-OUT



SARAH'S STORY

Tortured by the Chinese authorities, yet she never gave up on God

PAGE 10



ERITREA

Light in the darkness

release
international
voice of persecuted christians



PRAY FOR PURITY

Please join our Day of Prayer for Pakistan on October 3, and continue to support persecuted Christians as part of this year's campaign 'Let Justice Flow.'

Two Christian families in Pakistan are trying to come to terms with brutal sexual assaults on their young daughters, while another family accused of blasphemy are living in hiding after a Release partner rescued them from the hands of an angry mob.

Meanwhile another Christian community are grieving the loss of two brothers, both pastors, who were

killed by masked gunmen outside the court where they were standing trial for blasphemy. These are just a few of a number of incidents in Pakistan that Release has reported on in recent months.

Day of Prayer

Now as part of Release's campaign 'Let Justice Flow', which seeks to bring about

justice and protection for Pakistan's Christians, we are urging supporters in the UK and Ireland to stand together in prayer for their persecuted brothers and sisters in Pakistan on **Sunday, October 3**.

The focus of this Day of Prayer for Pakistan will be 'purity'. In fact the word 'pure' is one of the shades of meaning of the name Pakistan – 'land of the pure'.

Please pray for purity for Pakistan: firstly for the Christians living in that land, that they will remain pure despite the pressures and the persecution; then for the Government, the courts and the police, that they would be characterised by purity in their actions and would carry out their duties with pure motives; and for the land and its people in general, that they might

Pakistan

Let justice flow

went to press, preparations were under way to deliver these names to the Pakistan High Commission in London – with a final delivery taking place at the end of the year.

If you haven't signed yet please take a moment to do so. 'I would strongly encourage Christians to sign the petition and to raise the issue of Christian persecution in Pakistan with their local MP,' said Release patron Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali. 'Be assured it really can influence the Pakistan Government.'

The petition can also be signed online; alternatively copies can be downloaded from our website www.releaseinternational.org or obtained by contacting the Release office on 01689 823491. •



'I would strongly encourage Christians to sign the petition'

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali



DAY OF PRAYER FOR PAKISTAN

Sunday October 3

Pray for:

- 'Purity' in Pakistan
- The success of Release's petition to the Pakistan Government
- Christians in Pakistan, and any Pakistani Christians and Muslims you know living in the UK and Ireland



Please set aside time on Sunday, October 3, to pray for Pakistan.

be touched by God's purity.

We would also encourage you to use the Pakistan Prayer Guide inserted with the July/August edition of *Release* during your church services or other prayer meeting on the day. Further copies can be ordered from the Release office (01689 823491), or downloaded from www.releaseinternational.org/current.

Don't miss out on being part of this powerful day of intercession when thousands of Christians throughout the UK and Ireland will lift up their voices in prayer on behalf of this suffering part of the Body of Christ. Let your voice be one of them.

Release has produced a 10-minute DVD called *Cry Justice*, which features first-hand interviews with Christians who lost family

members in the Gojra/Korian riots as well as others who have been forced to flee their home after being accused of blasphemy.

The film is ideal for showing in church services and prayer meetings and includes a selection of prayer points. Copies are available from the Release office for a suggested donation of £10 (please use coupon on IDOP pull-out) or can be bought from the estore on the Release website for £10.

Petition

By mid-July around 20,000 people had signed Release's petition calling on the Pakistani Government to restore justice to this vulnerable community of believers and to protect their human rights. As *Release*

Light in the darkness



ERITREA

Eritrean Christians who have fled the brutal regime of President Afewerki boldly continue to share the love of Jesus in their refugee camp in northern Ethiopia, reports Prisoners of Faith manager Colin.

When Eritrea declared its independence in 1993 the nation was alive with hope. Eritreans from all walks of life believed in their leaders and dreamed of democracy, freedom and a brighter future for their children.

Today, though, those dreams have turned into a nightmare and Eritrea has descended into a highly-repressive totalitarian state, from which its citizens are escaping at an alarming rate.

A wave of repression and torture, together with desperate privation and a growing food crisis across the whole of Eritrea, has made life extremely difficult, if not unbearable, for most citizens.

Hundreds of thousands have already risked life and limb to escape from the country, choosing to live in the harsh conditions of a refugee camp in a neighbouring country rather than stay under oppression in their homeland.

'In effect the military has taken over virtually every aspect of Eritrean life'

Although it has a population of less than six million, Eritrea has the largest army in Sub-Saharan Africa with as many as 320,000 soldiers. The number of soldiers per head of population puts Eritrea second only to North Korea, a feat made possible

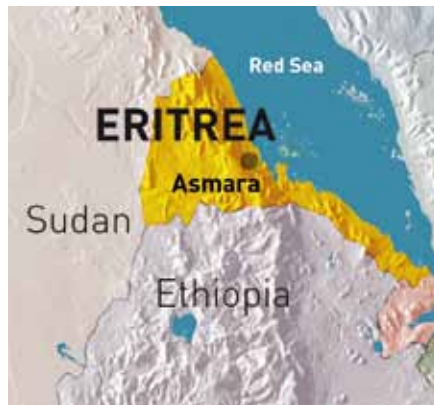
by the ruthless enforcement of mandatory national service for all citizens, men and women alike. In effect the military has taken over virtually every aspect of Eritrean life.

In 2002 the Government declared that it would recognise only three churches: the Orthodox Church of Eritrea, the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran-affiliated Evangelical Church of Eritrea. All other churches were made illegal, and have been closed.

Since then security personnel have forcibly closed church buildings, raided private meetings, and detained believers and church leaders without trial. Well over



This young church of Eritrean refugees in northern Ethiopia is a light in the darkness to those around them.



about taking you own life, just to end the pain.'

Those who escape across the border into refugee camps in Ethiopia or Sudan face considerable dangers, with many reporting harrowing accounts of extortion, abuse, hunger, long journeys at night across the desert and being shot at by the military.

Although life is incredibly difficult in the refugee camps, there is hope. A number of churches have been established by and for the Eritrean refugees, providing light in the darkness.

'God is definitely at work'

There are huge practical, spiritual, emotional and physical challenges that come with being a church in a refugee camp.

Many in the congregation have experienced torture, physical abuse and imprisonment because of their faith, whilst others have husbands, wives or family members still at risk in Eritrea.

Most of Eritrea's key Christian leaders have been imprisoned or have fled to other countries and so the elected leadership in the refugee churches can often feel overwhelmed or inadequate to meet the demands of ministry.

Yet God is definitely at work in and through these young churches. Their passion for the Gospel and their desire to worship and serve the Lord Jesus is challenging and inspiring to those of us who have had the privilege of visiting them and enjoying their fellowship.

Meeting 'Maranata'

During a recent visit to one of the camps in northern Ethiopia we had the privilege of meeting several very special brothers and sisters. Had we had time to spend with each individual church member, our hearts could not have contained the joy, sadness, and emotion of listening, praying and sharing together with so many.

One of the first sisters we met was 'Rachel'. Rachel, who faced persecution in Eritrea, had fled into neighbouring Sudan and found work in a coffee shop. One evening, as she made her way home through dimly lit streets, she was attacked and raped by four men.

Frightened, alone and now pregnant as a result of the attack, she made her way to Ethiopia where some Christians arranged for her to have a medical and eventually to give birth to a beautiful little girl. With no money, no food and no home of their own, mother and daughter then made their way to one of the refugee camps near the Eritrean border.

Continued overleaf



Rachel escaped from Eritrea and is now living in a refugee camp in northern Ethiopia with her baby Maranata.

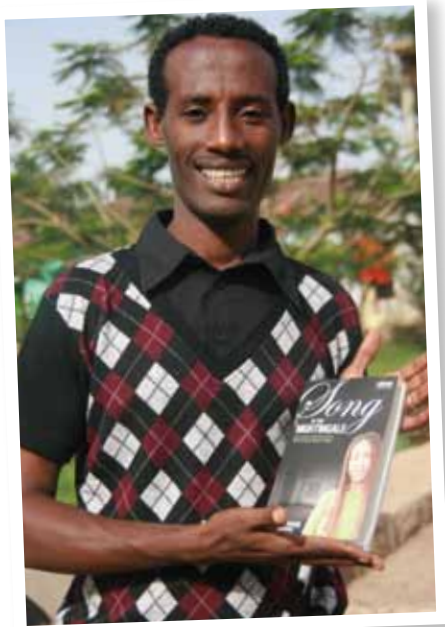
2,000 Christians have been detained to date, with some estimating the number may be more than 3,000.

Most of those who are imprisoned are malnourished, and few, if any, receive treatment for dysentery or the myriad infectious diseases that run rampant throughout the country's secret network of prisons, detention centres and solitary cells.

Prisoners who have escaped describe how they were forced to endure overcrowded underground prison cells, and the notorious metal shipping containers, which become unbearably hot during the day, and freezing cold at night.

Christians who refuse to deny their faith are also subject to severe beatings.

'Their aim is to break you and make you despair,' said one former prisoner. 'The authorities want Christians to suffer without experiencing any relief. Prison was like hell on earth, and at times you think



Brother John: 'one of those people in whom you can see the Lord Jesus'.

When the leaders of the church brought this dear lady to share her story with us, she told us that her daughter's name in Tigrinya is Maranata – literally 'The Lord comes' or 'Even so come Lord Jesus'.

Looking at this little girl and hearing her name touched me in a profound way. What had begun as the sinful act of those

four men had culminated in a precious life whose name declares faith and hope.

As Rachel asked us to pray because she felt ashamed and unclean because of what had happened, we realised her pain, her fears and her desire to be accepted and loved by the church. We prayed also with her that God would provide her with a strong and loving husband.

Hope is born out of adversity and Maranata is testimony to that reality.

Brother John

Another special Christian we met is John. John is an elder in one of the refugee churches. He is one of those people in whom you can see the Lord Jesus.

His whole face lights up when he smiles. John was imprisoned in the port city of Assab for seven years. Two of his Christian friends, Mogos and Tedros, both died in prison during this time. John had brought Mogos to faith in Christ and you could see the tears in his eyes as he shared about the lives of his two friends.

It was difficult to get John to share about his own experiences: he was more concerned that we heard about his friends. He wanted to tell us about their lives, their faith, their faithfulness and their deaths. He didn't want their sacrifice to go unnoticed or their testimonies to be forgotten.

John moved his hands back and forward to illustrate the beatings his friends had endured. The conditions in prison were appalling, and the stench in the cells meant that guards rarely entered their cell.

Mogos had already been suffering from chronic vomiting and diarrhoea for 12 months when he was put in the same cell as John. He became so weak that John and another prisoner had to carry him to the toilet each morning. John faithfully washed and cared for his friend, but after just six months he died.

John has a pastor's heart and now that he has been released he is trying to find Mogus's son. 'I want to tell him the kind of man his father was,' he says to me, 'and I want to tell him about Christ.'

Alem and Abeba

We met Alem and Abeba again, whose stories we shared in our July 2009 magazine (available for download from www.releaseinternational.org/release).

Alem, who had been tortured and imprisoned in a shipping container in Mai Serwa prison, shared at our first meeting that his burden was to be reunited with his wife and two children and that she would accept his faith. We discovered that God had answered his prayer!

His wife and children have now joined him in the camp. Alem continues to run his small café and asked us to continue praying



Eritrean Christians gather for morning worship at their church in the refugee camp.

particularly for his wife. She moved to the camp and became a Christian but is finding life and faith difficult.

Later in the capital Addis Ababa we met Abeba, who featured in our DVD *Pray for Eritrea*.

Abeba's husband had been a Christian for only six months when the authorities detained him without charge. Six months later he died while in prison because he hadn't been given the insulin he needed to treat his diabetes. After his death Abeba and her four children fled across the border into Ethiopia.

Abeba had now moved from the camp to live in Addis Ababa for the sake of her children's education, though she said she missed the fellowship and support of the brothers and sisters in the camp.

It was a privilege for us to be able to pray with both Alem and Abeba and to see the joy in their faces when we presented them with cards of encouragement from their brothers and sisters in Christ. Alem said the messages of love and the verses of Scripture encouraged him to remain faithful and to continue trusting in the Lord.

Just like the book of Acts

Alem, Rachel and John are part of a thriving church that is reaching out to those around them. There are now almost 200 members that live, work, pray, worship and serve together in this church in the refugee camp. Their membership has doubled in the last year alone. It's a young church (only two years old), with young leaders and lots of challenges.



Abeba with some of the cards of encouragement.

They have drought to contend with, floods, malaria, and shortages of food and medicine. It's not easy to put your tithe into the offering when you don't have enough to provide for yourself and your family.

The young church here is a visible and vivid expression of the loving, caring God who reaches out to those in need.

They need support - pastoral care, Bible teaching, Bibles and equipment.

They need help to develop the children's and women's ministry. But with all the needs and the challenges there is something about this congregation that echoes what we read in Acts 2:46-47:

'They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity - all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved' (New Living Translation).

The young church here is a visible and vivid expression of the loving, caring God who reaches out to those in need.

One body

Not only is God working in and through the church in the camps, He is also reconnecting the Eritrean church with the Body of Christ worldwide. Not many Christians around the world knew much about the independent and Pentecostal churches in Eritrea before they were made illegal by the Government in 2002.

Today many thousands of Christians in the UK and Ireland, and around the world, pray and take action to support believers inside Eritrea, and in the refugee camps of Ethiopia and Sudan.

Eritreans still dream of a nation where men and women are free to worship God, have a future for their children and can enjoy peace, security and prosperity.

In the camp we visited, there are Christian teachers, nurses, accountants, mechanics, administrators, lawyers and others who want to go back to their homeland to rebuild their nation. Let's pray that God gives them that opportunity - and soon.

Eritreans still dream of a nation where men and women are free to worship God, have a future for their children and can enjoy peace, security and prosperity.

PLEASE PRAY

- Thank God for the active witness of Eritrean Christians in the refugee camps. Pray that God gives grace, strength and wisdom to the young leaders.
- Pray that God will bring healing and restoration to all those who have suffered because of their faith in Jesus.
- Pray that the sovereign Lord will bring good government to Eritrea, so that all citizens may live in peace and security.

PLEASE GIVE

We need your support to help persecuted Christians in Eritrea, Ethiopia and around the world. To make a financial gift to Release, please use the back-page coupon.



RELEASE'S SUPPORT

Release has supported Eritrean Christian refugees in Ethiopia by helping to:

- create income-generating small businesses
- support needy individuals and families
- give a diesel generator to the church described here, to be used to provide power to the community, and income for the church
- provide Bibles and Christian literature for evangelism and discipleship
- give pastoral care and encouragement to Christian leaders



FREE ALIM!

Release has campaigned for the release of Uyghur Christian Alimjan Yimit, who was tried in secret in 2009 by the Chinese authorities and sentenced to a punitive 15-year jail term for allegedly 'providing state secrets to overseas organisations'.

Alimjan (or Alimujiang, as he is also known) converted from Islam in 1995. He and his wife Gulnuer led a house church ministry in Kashgar, Xinjiang, spreading messages of hope and peace in a region riddled with ethnic conflict and violence.

Targeted for his minority faith and ethnicity, Alim has been persecuted unjustly in what his lawyer, Dr Li Baiguang, calls 'the worst case of religious persecution in the past decade'.

Our partner China Aid has set up a dedicated website, www.freealim.com, where you can sign an on-line petition, and watch a short video about Alim.

Wedding celebration!

We're delighted to celebrate the wedding of Helen Berhane and Tesfaldet Meharena, pictured below, at Emanuel Evangelical Church in Copenhagen, Denmark, on July 10. Helen, a former Eritrean prisoner, tells her moving testimony in the book *Song of the Nightingale* (available from Release for £8), and will be speaking at a number of churches in the UK in November - see page 14 for further details.



KEEP UP TO DATE



Every month Release produces the free Prisoners of Faith email alert as part of its ministry to

support persecuted Christians. Each edition includes the details of a Christian imprisoned for their faith in Christ and gives specific prayer points and suggestions for letter-writing.

To receive your own copy by email, please register your details at www.releaseinternational.org/signup, use the coupon on the back page of this magazine, or call our Supporter Relations Team on 01689 823491.

BE AN ADVOCATE

We'd like to encourage you and your church to write letters on behalf of Christians imprisoned for their faith. It is an important way of 'remembering' those in prison (Hebrews 13:3).



To help you, we produce the Advocates' Pack, which is available as a free download to supporters who register on our website at www.releaseinternational.org/adpack. A paper version is also available on request

for a suggested annual donation of £8 by calling our Supporter Relations Team on 01689 823491.

The pack gives essential guidance on how to write letters in support of persecuted Christians around the world. It includes background information, contact details for selected Christian prisoners, and letter-writing guidelines. The pack is essential for all who want to stand with Christians imprisoned for their faith.

Ideas for IDOP 2010

Join the International Day of Prayer on November 7 and be part of a worldwide movement praying for persecuted Christians

PRAYING FOR ALL THE SAINTS



Prayer is at the heart of Release's ministry, which is why I am delighted to invite you and your church to take part in this year's International Day of Prayer (IDOP) on Sunday, November 7.

Whenever I meet persecuted Christians face to face, they ask Release and our supporters to pray for them, their families, their churches and their nations.

That's why IDOP is such a great opportunity to generate a wave of intercession right around the world.

To help you, we've prepared this short pull-out guide, with some suggestions as to how you can organise your own prayer event using resources from Release. Whether you have five minutes or sixty, I'm sure you'll find here plenty to inspire you and your fellowship.

Page ii overleaf includes some written prayers, and short prayer points for three countries where Christians face severe persecution today: **Nigeria, Pakistan and Egypt**. If you wish, this page can be photocopied and given to everyone in your group or congregation.

We also describe some of our DVDs that give background information about these and other countries, which could be played as part of a prayer event.

On page iii, we suggest how young people can set up their own 24/1 Prayer Room; and on page iv give brief suggestions to help you pray for both prisoners and women.

I do hope you will join IDOP on November 7 (or on another date of your choice), whether you plan to pray as an individual, a family or a church. Please ask your church leaders now if they can give some or all of your church meeting on November 7 to pray for persecuted Christians.

As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Ephesians: 'pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests ... and always keep on praying for all the saints' (6:18).

Yours in Christ

Andy Dipper, CEO of Release

THREE WAYS to take part in IDOP

1 NORMAL CHURCH MEETING (up to 5 mins)

Read one or more of the prayers overleaf (page ii), perhaps using different readers. If you wish, these written prayers can be followed by informal prayer guided by the topical bullet points.

If everyone in your meeting has a photocopy of p ii, you could read one or more of the written prayers together. (You could also copy the written prayers to OHP, or project using the downloadable version from www.releaseinternational.org/idop).

Or play just a brief extract from one of our DVDs (see page iii), followed by prayer.

2 MEETING DEDICATED TO IDOP [10-20 mins]

Choose one or more of our DVDs listed overleaf, most of which focus on a particular country where Christians are being persecuted today because of their faith. The majority of our DVDs are around 10 minutes long, so are ideal for playing during a meeting.

Our three most recent DVDs focus on Nigeria (*We Forgive*), Pakistan (*Cry Justice*) and Egypt (*Staying Power*). If you choose one of these, then you can also use the written prayers and topical prayer points on p ii. DVDs focusing on other countries are also available (see p iii).

Before the meeting, watch the video(s) and **plan** which section(s) you wish to use. Most of our videos give specific prayer points on screen, which could also be incorporated into your meeting.

Using the information we have provided, try different ways of praying: allowing people to pray in silence, as small groups, or reading the written prayers together aloud. Feel free to **experiment** and to give variety.

Young people in your church could organise their own 24/1 prayer room (page iii).

3 IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME

Use the above suggestions, but provide greater prayer coverage by using more extracts from more DVDs. For example, if you are dedicating morning and evening meetings to IDOP, then consider a different country focus for each meeting.

If your youth group has been running a 24/1 prayer room, get some of them to share their experiences with the whole congregation.

Consider holding a simple lunch (eg bread and cheese, or beans and rice), and ask people to give to Release what they would usually have spent on their Sunday lunch.

Don't forget to pray specifically for prisoners and women too (see page iv). If you feel really adventurous, why not build your own replica prison cell as a prayer cell?

Pray for persecuted Christians

NIGERIA

Christians face severe pressure in northern Nigeria, where 12 states have adopted Sharia (Islamic law). In central Plateau State, organised attacks by militants have claimed the lives of hundreds of Christians so far this year.

Almighty God, we thank you for the faithful witness of your church in Nigeria today.

Where your people face persecution, we ask for your perseverance;

Where they face intimidation and violence, please bring your protection;

Where families have lost loved ones, pour out your healing.

Grant your church in Nigeria your power to stay strong. Give them your love for the poor and the oppressed, your hope, an anchor for their souls, firm and secure, and your grace which enables the daily miracle of forgiveness, even to their persecutors.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

PLEASE PRAY

- For Christians living in and around Jos, Plateau State, where hundreds have been killed by militants during 2010.
- For healing and reconciliation between communities caught up in ethnic violence.
- For God to pour out His Spirit in revival power.

PAKISTAN

Christians make up just 2.5 per cent of Pakistan's population, are largely poor and powerless, and are often treated as second-class citizens. Young girls and women are the most vulnerable. Some Christians and churches have been attacked by militants.

We thank you that your church is a holy nation, a people belonging to you, declaring your praise. Please help your church in Pakistan to live each day in purity and simplicity, and in humble dependence upon you.

We pray too for the Government of Pakistan, the courts and the police, and ask that they would act with honesty and integrity in all that they do.

We cry to you, the Lord who works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed, that you would uphold all those who face discrimination because of their faith.

Today we remember Christians who are the victims of legal injustice, including those in prison.

We remember those who have suffered violence or loss.

We remember Christian girls and young women who have suffered exploitation or abuse. For all of these, we pray that you would bring hope, healing and your joy that brings strength.

In your mighty name we pray, Amen.

PLEASE PRAY

- For an end to discriminatory laws, especially the notorious blasphemy laws, which are open to widespread abuse.
- For protection for Christian prisoners and their families. Pray that prisoners who have been jailed unjustly will be released.
- For an end to violence and militancy, so that all communities can live together peacefully.

EGYPT

Christians from a Muslim-background face the most intense pressures: including rejection by their families, and sometimes detention and torture by the authorities, who consider them as apostates (those who have rejected Islam). Some have come to faith after seeing Jesus directly in a dream or vision.

Lord, as at Pentecost, you are at work today in Egypt:

Pouring out your Spirit, with young men seeing visions, and old men dreaming dreams.

We thank you for each new believer in Christ, so wonderfully precious to you. Many face huge challenges of faith that we find difficult to imagine.

Lord, guide the steps of each new believer, and help them to find Christian fellowship that will sustain and strengthen them.

Keep each one close to you, even through the times of darkness and hard testing.

In the name of your holy servant Jesus. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY

- For protection for Muslim-background believers, and that they would find fellowship in existing churches.
- For Christians taking legal action so that they can change the religious status on their ID cards from Muslim to Christian.
- For the safe house, supported by Release, which offers shelter to Christian women from a Muslim-background.

News from persecuted Christians and requests for prayer can be found on our website www.releaseinternational.org

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Youth

PRAYING 24/1

Why not set up a 24/1 prayer room? This means gathering a group of people who will commit to praying for 24 hours non-stop. But don't worry: everyone takes a turn, rather than doing the full 24-hour shift – unless you really want to! You could do this in your church, or even your house. For creative ideas on how to set up a prayer room visit www.24-7prayer.com/prayer

Release's website www.releaseinternational.org includes **news** of persecuted Christians from around the world, prayer points for Christian prisoners of faith, as well as a series of **country profiles** – all ideal for your prayer room.

Alternatively, how about taking a **Vow of Silence**? We love this action because it has triple impact. First, you are highlighting how restricted Christians are in what they can say about Jesus in many nations.

Countries such as Pakistan, China, India, Eritrea, Vietnam and many others have laws or policies that try to stop Christians from sharing the gospel.

Secondly, when people ask you *why* you are silent, you can show them a 'silence card' (see www.releasepotential.org/IDOP

to print one off) which explains the restrictions that many Christians face.

Thirdly, you can pray as you refrain from speaking – it's funny how often we fill our time with talking when we could use it to pray!

If you want to experience how difficult it is to communicate a message whilst being limited with what you can say, try visiting www.releasepotential.org/taboo, and let us know how well you get on.

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:potential



ORDER A DVD FOR IDOP



We Forgive (10 mins) describes how Christians in **Nigeria** continue to face violent attacks in Plateau State, yet still find God's grace to forgive their attackers.

Suggested donation: £10



Cry Justice (10 mins) reports on the plight of persecuted Christians in **Pakistan**, and includes testimonies from the village of Gojra, Punjab Province, which was attacked

by militants. Suggested donation: £10



Bruised: not broken (10 mins, for youth groups) A rapper, a dancer and a musician visited some of their Christian family in **Pakistan**, and are overwhelmed by the love shown to them. Suggested donation: £3



Staying power Find out more about the secret and dangerous lives of Muslim-background believers in **Egypt** in *Staying Power* (10 mins). Features Mohammed

Hegazy, who is taking legal action against the Government to change his religious status. Suggested donation: £10



Pray for Eritrea Over 2,000 Christians are being detained without trial in **Eritrea** because of their faith in Christ. *Pray for Eritrea* (13 mins) shows how Eritrean Christians stand firm. Suggested donation: £10



Enemies of the State In the communist nations of **Vietnam** and **Laos** Christians are often viewed as *Enemies of the State* (25 mins). Contains moving testimonies from Christians imprisoned for their faith. Suggested donation: £10.



Pray for China (13 minutes) reports on some of the pressures faced by Christians today in the world's largest communist state, **China**. Includes a heartfelt prayer from a young Chinese Christian. Suggested donation: £10.

FREE POSTER SET

These three punchy full-colour posters, in both A3 and A2 sizes, powerfully capture the needs of persecuted Christians, and are ideal for displaying in your church, or on your church notice board. **Free** if ordered by phone or coupon here.



Pray for prisoners

Most prisoners who are imprisoned for their faith in Jesus Christ will endure very poor conditions in jail, and will often face attacks from prison guards or other prisoners. They are not the only ones to suffer: their families are deprived of their bread-winner, and most have difficulty visiting their loved one in prison.

PRAY

- that Christian prisoners of faith, like the Apostle Paul, will be ambassadors for the gospel, despite their chains or prison bars.
- for the families of Christian prisoners: that God will provide for all their needs.
- for the release of Christians unjustly detained. In Eritrea, for example, over 2,000 Christians are detained without trial.

Find out more about Christian prisoners of faith at www.releaseinternational.org/prisoners

release
PRISONERS

Pray for women

Today many courageous Christian women suffer persecution for their faith in Christ.

Christian women have a low status in Muslim nations, and little recourse to justice through the legal system. They are therefore particularly vulnerable to abuse or exploitation. In Pakistan, for example, young girls and women risk kidnapping, forced marriage and forced conversion.

PRAY

- that Christian women facing persecution will be encouraged by the testimonies of the Bible's many strong women of God.
- For the wives, mothers and daughters of Christians in prison. Pray that God sustains them with his mighty power.
- That churches are open to hear the voice and experience of women who have suffered for their faith.

Find out more about Release:Women at www.releaseinternational.org/women

release
women



Order form

PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

ITEM (please tick)	QUANTITY	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Set of 3 A3 posters		FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> Set of 3 A2 posters		FREE
<input type="checkbox"/> We Forgive DVD (Nigeria) <i>Suggested donation £10</i>		£
<input type="checkbox"/> Cry Justice DVD (Pakistan) <i>Suggested donation £10</i>		£
<input type="checkbox"/> Bruised: not broken DVD (Pakistan, for youth) <i>Suggested donation £3</i>		£
<input type="checkbox"/> Staying Power DVD (Egypt) <i>Suggested donation £10</i>		£
<input type="checkbox"/> Pray for Eritrea DVD <i>Suggested donation £10</i>		£
<input type="checkbox"/> Enemies of the State DVD (Vietnam and Laos) <i>Suggested donation £10</i>		£
<input type="checkbox"/> Pray for China DVD <i>Suggested donation £10</i>		£
	Total	£
	Donation to Release	£
	Grand total	£

I enclose my cheque (payable to Release International).

You may also order resources by telephoning 01689 823491.

Title _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime Tel No _____

Email _____

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Release International, PO Box 54, Orpington BR5 9RT

email: info@releaseinternational.org

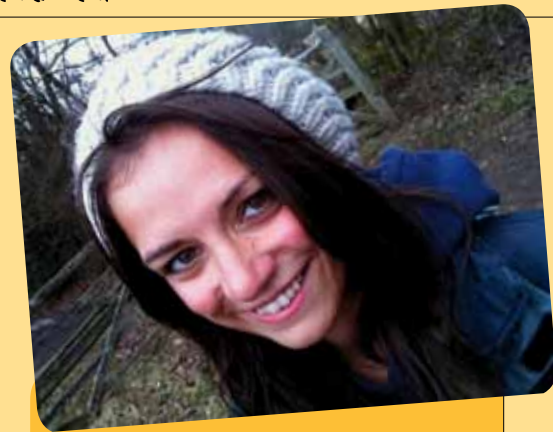
Registered Charity 280577

summer of fun



We've just got back from another summer of festival-filled fun! It was great to see so many of you take on the challenge of 'earning your stripes'! Thank you to everyone who signed our Pakistan petition and earned themselves a green stripe. And another big thank you to everyone who earned their black stripe by committing to praying for the Christians in Pakistan.

Thank you for praying for Christians in Pakistan such as Josefine (left) who narrowly escaped death when she was attacked by militants in Gojra, Punjab Province.



welcome to jo

Jo has just joined the release:potential team and is well excited about what God has in store for the youth of Release! She lives in London, is married to Andy, is an unashamed coffee snob and supports Liverpool FC, even after the last season.



tough topics tackled

Check out our free six-week course for youth groups. Our new back2BASICS free course material is out now! The discipleship course encourages the development of a personal relationship with Jesus as well as tackling tough topics such as suffering, being different, boldness and persecution. To get your own copy/copies visit www.releasepotential.org and place your order!

being an L-plate disciple

I am currently learning to drive. This is not an easy thing.

I keep watching other drivers on the roads, and think to myself 'well if they can all do it - surely I must be able to.' Nine times out of ten, as I'm thinking this I promptly stall the car, so I'm still not convinced.

People always have an encouraging word to offer; 'you'll get it in the end,' 'it'll soon become automatic,' 'don't worry, it took me five times to pass.'

Can I just say, for the record, NONE of it helps.

I still feel like an uncoordinated fool. I'm petrified of knocking down a child running across the road or ploughing the car into the neighbour's fence. The idea of driving becoming second nature

seems as likely as me winning *The X Factor*.

The only thing getting me through this ordeal is my husband Andy. As I get into the driver's seat a quivering wreck, he's already right by my side, reassuring me, telling me I can do this. When I get scared and flustered, he's still calmly sat there, exuding confidence in me. I may still be a learner, but Andy is treating me as if I am already qualified.

Throughout the gospels we see a similar dynamic between Jesus and his disciples. They are trying to learn how to live as part of the kingdom of God, and Jesus is constantly there, reassuring them even when they get it wrong. I find it so encouraging that the sermon on the mount, the pinnacle of Jesus' teaching of discipleship, doesn't start with commands, it starts with grace.

Jesus is really honest about what life is like following Him. He doesn't promise it will get easier, that it will become automatic, like driving a car, but He does promise blessing.



release
:potential

WOMEN IN OUR HEARTS



Sarah

Sarah's trail of blood

Chinese Christian Sarah was detained and tortured by the authorities to make her betray her faith and her friends – but she never gave up on her Lord

In the eyes of the Chinese communists Sarah is a criminal – guilty of being the editor of an underground Christian newspaper.

She knew the risks involved and had been arrested before, but this night was different. Uniformed police came to Sarah's house when she was sleeping and forcibly took her in her pyjamas – not to a police station but to a secret warehouse. She felt humiliated, helpless and very afraid.

Left on her own, the only sound she heard was her own heart beating which seemed to grow louder with every beat.

The soldiers brought a document for Sarah to sign – a confession and a statement against her friends. She refused to sign and silently prayed for the night to go by quickly.

Later the guard became very angry with Sarah and used the cigarette he was smoking to burn the palm of Sarah's hand, which was unbearably painful. Sarah repeated Bible verses to herself as she tried not to give in.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.'

Sarah was then beaten very severely on her feet and other parts of her body. She screamed with the pain, wondering if anyone would hear her or help her. She felt like giving in to the soldiers' request and wondered if God would forgive her if she signed the document.

Just when Sarah thought the worst had to be over, her legs were chained and she was forced to walk over and over again across the room on her beaten and bleeding feet whilst the guards watched.

She cried out to God to give her the strength to endure.

Suffering for Christ

After hours of walking Sarah noticed the footprints she had made on the floor – footprints of blood. She thought of how Christ was beaten before his walk to Golgotha and so must have left his own trail of blood.

Sarah realised that she was suffering for Christ and that she was not alone. He was with her and had walked this path before. This gave her the courage to go on.

Sarah never signed the document to denounce her friends. As a result she was imprisoned by the Chinese authorities for six years, during which time she was forced to make Christmas lights to send to America.



HEART2HEART CONFERENCES

Join us for a special time of fellowship and prayer, and hearing first-hand from sisters who have faced persecution.

September 18 10am-4pm

The Mission, Heol Gleien,
Lower Cwmtwch, Swansea Valley,
SA9 2TT

Tickets are free. Please bring a packed lunch.

November 13 10am-3.30pm

St Nicholas' Church, 79 Maid
Marian Way, Nottingham, NG1 6AE
Tickets cost £7 (concessions £5)

Hear Helen Berhane, former prisoner in Eritrea.

February 12, 2011

The People's Church,
Newtownabbey, 64 Mallusk Road,
Mallusk, Newtownabbey, BT36
4QE. More information to follow.

To order your ticket, please call our Supporter Relations Team on 01689 823491.

COMING SOON

Look out for our new **Release:Women DVD**, ideal for use in your women's group, prayer meeting or church. Available early 2011.

We're planning a special Valentine's Day event (February 14, 2011) in support of our persecuted sisters. More details to follow.

Sarah realised that she was suffering for Christ and that she was not alone. He was with her and had walked this path before.

release
women

WOMEN IN THE WORD

The power of praise

'The fire on the altar must be kept burning – it must not go out'

(Leviticus 6:12)

This was one of the instructions contained in the law passed on to the Israelites by Moses concerning sacrificial offerings in the temple. In New Testament terms this surely means that the sacrifice of praise must be continuous on the altar of our heart.

We have become the temple of the Holy Spirit and it is from within us that divine worship now takes place.

We live our lives on two levels. There is the temporal, day-to-day existence with its pleasures and pains, excitement

and tedium, satisfaction and frustration, its sorrows and joys. Then there is the eternal spiritual level sustained by the ever-present and ever-faithful God in three Persons: 'The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.' (Deut. 33:27)

What reassurance for us! Whatever happens in this worldly life, underneath us are the everlasting arms of God. This is why it is possible to praise God in all circumstances. We praise Him for who He is and for what He has done to bring us into such a wonderful relationship.

The word of God is eternal. Memorising and meditating upon scripture brings awareness of the eternal into our temporal lives, eliciting our praise and worship.

Praise is powerful. Look what happened when Paul and Silas responded to adverse circumstances, including imprisonment and savage beatings, by singing to God. Doors flew open, chains were loosened and

the jailer and his family received salvation (Acts 16).

Praise can lift us from the bondage of despair. It doesn't come naturally – we are more prone to grumble when things go wrong – but we can train ourselves to react with praise in all situations.

Recently I was in a situation where both my husband and his mother were in hospital for serious heart problems. I felt very low and anxious. God whispered to me: 'You haven't been praising, have you?'

Indeed, I had forgotten to praise Him in all circumstances and depression had taken over. Then I began to praise and strength and hope returned.

The joy of the Lord is indeed our strength. This is demonstrated so often by our sisters living in far more difficult circumstances than we do - so let's encourage each other to keep the fire of praise burning in our hearts.

Janet Moussavi

WOMEN IN THE UK



Praying for our sisters

As 27 women joined together for the Release:Women conference in Beath and Cowdenbeath church in Fife, we thought of great women of the Bible, such as Ruth, Esther, Lydia, and Martha.

After being challenged by Esther 4:14: 'you have come to a royal position for such a time as this', we spent the day focusing on converts from Islam in China, Egypt, Pakistan and the UK.

Our Pakistani sister shared how she had been a secret believer for five years, unable to tell her family of her conversion because of what she knew would follow. When she

was baptised, she told her family and was immediately disowned. They beat her and spat upon her.

Isolated

Her Muslim husband divorced her by telephone, repeating 'I divorce you' three times. Then alone with her young family, our sister spoke of the isolation she felt, especially so as Asian families are very close. Each day she trusted God and this gave her the strength to go on. We prayed for our sister and those in the UK who find themselves in similar situations.

Our Release volunteer Annette told us how she got her church interested in those being persecuted for their faith. Annette created a replica of a cell used to house Iranian Christian prisoners. Members of her church could then experience for

themselves how little room there was, with just enough in which to sit up.

We prayed for those in prison and for opportunities to tell our churches and get them involved with those suffering for their faith.

Florence, our Irish sister, told us how God had called her to go on an intercessory trip to China and how unworthy she felt at meeting those who had suffered for their faith.

We heard of the many people that she met on her journey and the fellowship she had with Chinese believers.

Linda, our Scottish sister, spoke about the isolation which women believers in Egypt have to endure when they convert from Islam to Christianity. They and their families frequently have to move house to remain safe. Their children have to live a life of dual religion, being Christian at home, but Muslim at school. She also spoke briefly of the women who live in the safe house in Egypt that is supported by Release. We prayed for the women converts of Egypt and their families.

The women who attended the conference felt challenged by what they had heard and were encouraged to tell others of the plight of their sisters in these different nations.

Read news about persecuted Christians on our website www.releaseinternational.org/news



Families mourn after Fulani Muslims in military uniforms attacked the village of Kizachi Dawai Chawai, Kaduna State, on July 3. Seven people were killed. Photo: Stefanos Foundation.

NIGERIA

Christians are 'sitting targets'

Release has given warning that Christians in Nigeria are 'sitting targets', as news emerged that the family of a priest had been murdered in a machete attack in Jos.

A mob armed with guns and machetes attacked the Christian village of Mazah, on the outskirts of Jos, on July 17. According to news reports, militants killed the wife, two children and grandson of church leader Rev Nuhu Dawat (Church of Christ in Nigeria), and four others. Some reports put the death toll higher. Others were injured.

According to the AFP news agency, the mob attacked the village in the early hours of the morning, firing into the air to draw frightened villagers out of their houses. Those who emerged through their doors they killed. The attackers, identified as members of the Muslim Fulani tribe, also burned down a church and seven houses, says AFP.

This was the latest in a series of attacks against Christian villages near Jos, in Plateau State, which have left hundreds dead. According to local rights groups, 1,500 people have been killed in inter-communal violence in the Jos region in 2010.

'How many more have to be killed before the Nigerian Government acts to do something about this?' said Release CEO Andy Dipper.

Plateau state is on the dividing line between the mainly Muslim north and mainly Christian south. Observers fear a push is taking place to drive Christians from the state to pave the way for the expansion of strict Islamic law. Twelve northern Nigerian states have so far adopted Sharia – even though the country has a secular constitution.

Living in fear

'Christians appear to be sitting targets,' said Andy Dipper. 'Church leaders are calling on them to respond with grace and avoid violence, which Release supports. But as we recently reported, Christians are living in fear of further attacks, and the Government seems to be doing little to help them. That has to change.'

It has been reported that the military have stood by while attacks have taken place, and that some have been carried out by men in military uniform.

Release has appealed to Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan to take firm action to ensure that the military and police carry out their full responsibilities and protect Christians properly.

Release's latest DVD *We Forgive* reports on the continuing attacks against Christians in Plateau State: see centre pages.

• Pray that the Nigerian Government takes action to protect all citizens in Plateau State, and that those responsible for violence are brought to justice.

INDIA

Two evangelists 'play dead' to survive attack

Two evangelists said they survived an attack in Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh, by playing dead when suspected Hindu extremists severely beat them.

The six assailants accused Mahindra Kharoley, 20, and 30-year-old Munshi Prasaad Bahey of 'forced conversion'.

The two evangelists were cycling to their home village of Susua following a prayer meeting at Dunda Sivni, 15 miles from Balaghat district, when they were attacked on July 20.

The assailants did not wait for them to respond to the accusations of forced conversion before they began hitting and kicking them, the evangelists said.

'We lay motionless and pretended to be dead after they had beaten us about 20 minutes, to escape their fury,' Kharoley told the news agency Compass Direct.

Bahey added: 'If we had not done so, they would have killed us.'

• Pray that both evangelists recover quickly from their attack, and pray that God will touch the lives of their attackers.

BHUTAN

Government proposes anti-conversion law

Christians in the restricted Himalayan nation of Bhutan were disheartened in July when the Government proposed the kind of anti-conversion law that other nations have used as a pretext for falsely accusing Christians of coercion.

The Amendment Bill would punish proselytising that 'uses coercion or other forms of inducement'. Christians fear that this vague wording could be used against them to stop their legitimate activities.

'There was always a virtual anti-conversion law in place, but now it is on paper too,' said a senior pastor from the capital Thimphu.

'Seemingly it is aimed at controlling the growth of Christianity,' said Kuenly Tshering, a member of Bhutan's Parliament and the chairperson of its Legislative Council. Offences under the proposal would be punishable by one to three years in prison.

Tshering told the news agency Compass Direct that the Bill 'may be passed during the next session of Parliament, after the National Assembly deliberates on it in the winter session.'

Of the estimated 680,000 people in Bhutan, over 75 per cent are Buddhist, mainly from the west and the east. Hindus, mostly ethnic Nepalese from southern Bhutan, are estimated to be around 22 per cent of the population.

There are just 6,000 Christians in Bhutan, mostly ethnic Nepalese, whose faith is already restricted. Bhutan has no church building or registered Christian institution. The Bible, however, has been translated into the national language, Dzongkha, as well as into Nepali.

While the constitution guarantees freedom of religion, the Government has not officially recognised the presence of Christians, who must practise their faith at home.

• **Pray that the proposed anti-conversion legislation is not enacted.**



THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored walkers on this year's North Downs Trail, which started in glorious sunshine at Cuxton in Kent. The route included part of the legendary Pilgrim's Way. 'On a beautiful summer's day we heard larks singing as we walked alongside unfenced fields with views of wooded hilltops and chalk escarpments,' said Release's Supporter Relations Manager Paul.

IN BRIEF

DAGESTAN: Christians in the Russian republic of Dagestan have been shocked by the murder of the founder of the biggest Protestant church in the region. Artur Suleimanov, 49, pastor of Hosanna Christian Church in the capital Makhachkala, was shot on July 15 while leaving his church building. Local media had broadcast calls for people to take measures against him because he had converted ethnic Muslims.

INDONESIA: Police officers demolished a house used for church meetings in a village in Bogor Regency, West Java, on July 19. Clashes broke out with church members and others as police tore down the Narogong Pentecostal Church building in Limusununggal village, Cileungsi sub-district, and officers arrested 10 people.

MOROCCO: In the third wave of deportations since March, eight Christians were summoned to police stations on June 25, accused of 'threatening public order', then told they had 48 hours to leave the country. This brings to 128 the number of foreign Christians deported from Morocco since March. Christians are said to be living in fear, especially because the Christians expelled most recently included foreigners married to Moroccans.

NORTH KOREA: News has just reached the West that North Korean evangelist Son Jong Nam, who was detained in 2006, was tortured to death in December 2008. The news was relayed to Son's brother by a fellow prisoner. Son, who was arrested with 20 Bibles and 10 cassette tapes of hymns, had been sentenced to death, but was widely believed to be still alive, if in poor health.

PAKISTAN: Two Christian brothers were shot dead on July 19 outside the courthouse where they were standing trial for blasphemy. Pastors Rashid and Sajid Emmanuel had just left the courtroom in Faisalabad District and Sessions Court, Punjab, when five masked gunmen opened fire on them. The two leaders of United Ministries Pakistan, who were expected to be exonerated, were being led back to jail in police custody.

SOMALIA: Members of the militant Islamist group *al-Shabaab* publicly executed a Christian convert from Islam in Hudur district, Somalia, on July 1. Mohammed Guul Hashim Idris, who was travelling to the capital Mogadishu, had been accused of insulting Mohammed, the prophet of Islam.

VIETNAM: A gang of youths attacked a house church as the congregation worshipped in Xi Thoai village in Phu Yen Province on Vietnam's south central coast on July 18, Christian sources said. The gang smashed the walls of the home and wreaked havoc within as they railed against evangelist Mang Vuong for being a Christian and for using his home as a church.

Release National Conference 2010

STRONG TOGETHER

10am-4pm Saturday, November 6, 2010
Salvation Army Hall, London W1
Nearest tube: Oxford Circus

Planned speakers include:

 MARK GALSWORTHY (UK) Release's general secretary and former pastor and evangelist	 CHOI YOUNG-HUN (South Korea) Former missionary to China
 SELAM KIDANE (Ethiopia) Co-ordinator, Release Ethiopia	 BROTHER YOUNG (North Korea) Director
 CORNEEL VERCARAIAH (Sri Lanka) Release partner and Executive Director of the World Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission	

Don't miss this unique opportunity to be informed and inspired! Why not bring a Christian friend with you to find out more about persecuted Christians?

There is no charge for the conference, but an offering will be taken during the day. There is no charge also as the venue has committed itself to bring their own lunch to the aid of the needy.

release
voice of persecuted churches

REGISTER now by calling 01689 823491 or email conference@releaseinternational.org
Places are limited.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Don't miss Release's National Conference, *Strong Together*, being held in London on Saturday, November 6. Featuring representatives of the persecuted church from China, Eritrea, North Korea and Sri Lanka, it promises to be both inspiring and informative. Why not bring a Christian friend, or a group from your church?

There is no charge for the conference, but an offering will be taken during the day. Places are limited. For more details see page 15.

release
international
voice of persecuted christians

Our ministry involves:

Showing God's compassion

providing for the needs of the families of martyrs and prisoners

Serving God's church

enabling them to survive persecution and its effects

Sharing God's love

helping the persecuted church bring to Christ those who are opposed to the gospel

Spreading God's Word

supplying Bibles and literature to meet the need for growth and evangelism

Speaking as God's advocates

being the voice of the martyrs and the oppressed

RELEASE SPEAKERS

Why not invite one of Release's team of development managers to speak in your church or small group?

North and Central England, Wales
Tel 01234 271855

South of England Tel 01689 823491

Ireland Tel 028 9334 0014

Scotland Tel 01294 602674

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Andy Dipper

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Release International,

PO Box 54, Orpington BR5 9RT

Telephone 01689 823491

email info@releaseinternational.org

website www.releaseinternational.org

RELEASE MAGAZINE

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HEAR FORMER ERITREAN PRISONER HELEN BERTHANE

Speaking for the first time in
the UK in November:

Sunday November 7

11am Emmanuel Church, 23A Castle Lane,
Lurgan, County Armagh BT67 9BD

3pm Venue in Belfast to be confirmed

6.30pm Bethany Baptist Church,
23-27 Gransha Road, Bangor,
County Down BT20 4TN

Contact for Sunday meetings:
Florence 028 9334 0014

Tuesday November 9

7.30pm Hebron Church, North Bridge Street,
Sunderland SR5 1AB

Contact Anthony Tel: 01234 271855

Wednesday November 10

7.00pm Culduthel Christian Centre, Culduthel
Avenue, Inverness IV2 6AS

Contact Linda Tel: 01294 602674

Thursday November 11

7.30pm St George's-Tron Church, Buchanan
Street, Glasgow G1 2JX

Contact Linda Tel: 01294 602674

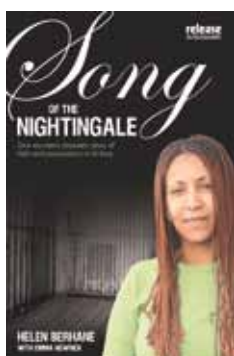
Saturday November 13

10am-3.30pm Release:Women conference
at St Nicholas' Church, 79 Maid Marian Way,
Nottingham NG1 6AE Tickets £7 concessions £5
Tel 01689 823491

Monday November 15

South West England (venue to be confirmed)

Contact Andrew Tel: 01689 823491



Helen shared her experiences of imprisonment inside the brutal Eritrean regime in her inspirational book *Song of the Nightingale*, and is passionate about supporting persecuted Christians in Eritrea.

**Don't miss this unique opportunity to
hear Helen first-hand.**

Strong Together



‘The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the

brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners’ Isaiah 61:1

Christians in Jos, capital of Plateau State, Nigeria, have clung to these words in recent weeks.

On a recent visit I heard how snipers had fired from high buildings towards the churches and houses of Christians, causing panic and devastation.

I met a young woman, Mary, who told me that her husband was in prison without trial for the alleged crime of arson. The reality was that his own house had been destroyed, and he was part of the community trying to put the flames out. The injustice of victimisation is all too apparent in Nigeria today.

And yet, just a few miles away in the cathedral, hundreds of us praised, worshipped and danced as 13 men were ordained into ministry. It was a marvellous four-hour colourful fusion of ceremony and celebration!

Today in Nigeria millions of Christians know the anointing of the Lord on their lives as they reach out to their oppressors with the love of Jesus. It is getting harder though, and the pressure is building to fight back with vengeance and hatred.

As I walked through the streets of Jos, and listened, I was struck by the need to stand together with our brothers and sisters even more than ever. The grace that they show to their attackers took my

breath away, and they are eager to make a difference in their communities and country as a whole.

Afghan Christians have faced a different struggle these past weeks, with threats of execution being discussed in the Kabul Parliament. As I have taken up their cause with our authorities, I have been very encouraged by the listening ear of British Government officials promising to voice these concerns to their counterparts in Kabul. Quiet diplomacy, and the prayers of God’s people, are making a difference, as we stand, strong together.

ONE BODY

A few weeks ago our staff team spent time together on retreat, reflecting on the fact that we are one body, one family with one purpose. What a precious time that was to listen to God’s agenda for our lives individually and together at Release.

This verse from Isaiah struck home, because that is the commission, the power house and the rock from which we move into action, reaching out to those around us.

So, today, whether we live in Nigeria, Afghanistan, the UK or Ireland, this verse has currency.

What does this scripture mean to you in your life, family and church? I would love to hear from you. Maybe I can share your thoughts in a future edition of *Release*.

In the Name of Jesus,

Andy Dipper CEO

Come to our National Conference

‘Strong Together’, Release’s National Conference in November, is a chance not only to hear first-hand accounts of persecution but also to get to know other Release supporters who carry a burden for their persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ.

We can learn so much from each other and be inspired and encouraged by one another’s commitment to and involvement with persecuted Christians around the world so do spend time talking to other attendees as well as Release staff.

Strong Together takes place at the Salvation Army Hall, London W1, on Saturday, November 6.

Planned speakers include Release patron **Martin Goldsmith**, the author and lecturer; **South Korean Choi Young Hun**, a former missionary to China; **Brother ‘John’**, a North Korean defector; **Selam Kidane**, Co-ordinator of Release-Eritrea, and **Godfrey Yogarajah**, head of the World Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission and General Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of Asia.

Regrettably **Helen Berhane**, the former Eritrean prisoner of faith, who was to address the conference, will not be able to attend. However, she will be speaking at various venues (see opposite page) around the UK between November 7 and 15. Helen is an inspiring and much sought-after speaker and we would highly recommend attending one of these engagements – her first in the UK.

To register for the National Conference please call the Release office (01689 823491) or email conference@releaseinternational.org. Places are limited.

The conference will take place between 10am-4pm. There is a small coffee shop at the venue but attendees will need to bring their own lunch on the day or buy locally.

There is no charge for the conference, but an offering will be taken during the day.

FOUNDATIONS



‘I hate the communist system but I love the people. I hate the sin but I love the sinner. I love the communists with all of my heart. Communists can kill Christians but they cannot kill their love towards even those who killed them.’

Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand, founder of Release, writing in *Tortured for Christ*.



Help John share the love of Jesus with Eritrean refugees

As a Christian who refused to renounce his faith, Eritrean Christian John endured seven years in appalling conditions in detention inside Eritrea.

Today, after escaping to a refugee camp in northern Ethiopia, he helps to lead a small congregation that is reaching out to other refugees with the love of Jesus.

Your financial gift will help us to support the ministry of John's church, and to help other persecuted Christians around the world.

Through our international network of missions, Release International serves persecuted Christians in 30 countries around the world by supporting pastors and Christian prisoners, and their families; supplying Christian literature and Bibles; and working for justice. Registered Charity 280577.

YES I want to support the persecuted church around the world. Please send me regular information.

Here is my gift of £_____ to be used where most needed (please make cheques payable to Release International)

I am a UK tax payer and would like you to recover tax on my giving

Please send me a standing order form so that I can give regularly

giftaid it

I want to receive your free monthly **Prisoners of Faith** email alert (please give email address below)

Please arrange for a speaker to visit my church

Please send me information about working as a church representative for Release

Title _____ Name _____ Date of birth (if under 18) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

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