

PETR JASEK THANKS RELEASE SUPPORTERS FOR YOUR PRAYERS

A Czech missionary who was facing death in Sudan for reporting on the persecuted church, has given his thanks to Release International supporters for praying and campaigning on his behalf.

Petr Jasek was jailed for spying after secret police filmed him photographing a church that had been bulldozed by the government.

His message to Release International supporters is prayer works, campaigning encourages prisoners of faith – and we should never fear persecution, as he explained to Andrew Boyd...

In: 'Petr, you have been prayed for...'

Out: '...better than we know ourselves.'

Dur: 3mins 55secs

Transcript

Andrew: Petr, you have been prayed for yourself, you've been supported while in prison. What would your message be to Release International supporters who supported you?

Petr: I have been extremely deeply encouraged by the fact that there was so many people praying for me. I knew, and this was the same understanding of the other three brothers, we knew that the Lord was in control, that the Lord was the one who had the keys for ourselves.

We were still receiving information about so many Christians praying for us, writing letters to me personally, writing letters to my family, to our families, writing protest cards and letters to different embassies of Sudan in the whole world. Or just taking courage and protesting in front of the embassies around the world. That was so encouraging for us.

We had tears in our eyes, when we heard about the massive support of prayers, or the initiatives of Christians who were willing to stand up and to raise their voices for our support. This feeling of being the part of the same body and so well supported, this was so precious to us.

That's why I'm going to encourage people to really come out from their anonymous grey area of being Christians, living in a free country, enjoying our freedom; to be active, actively supporting, actively speaking out in public places and just to get to know the world about the situation that the Christians are facing in many countries of the world. I think that's what the Lord wants us to do. He wants us to really live and to be Christians and to live as Christians in public, and to act like Christians, even when our dear brothers and sisters facing this persecution.

While we pray for the persecuted Christians themselves, for those who are imprisoned, we should also not forget those who are family members.

One afternoon, I was sitting with the other two pastors and we all agreed that it was not ourselves, rather it was our wives and children who suffered much more than we did. We knew the horrible conditions we were in, but they had no idea. For instance, the wives and families of [two] pastors for five months had no idea of whether their husbands and fathers were still alive or dead. And that's really important to pray that the Lord will grant them the supernatural peace that is surpassing all human understanding, that this peace would guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Andrew: Is there anything you'd like to add?

Petr: I would say that we should not be afraid of persecution. The Lord has definitely appointed to each one of us a different role to play, but we should be deeply rooted in the Scripture. If we are rooted in his word, and we have determined to remain faithful, no matter what happens in our lives, it's not about our strength. It's about our determination, about our decision to follow Christ. He will not allow us to be tested above our strength. And he promised, in 1 Corinthians 10:13, he promises us that he will deliver us and he will give strength to go through it, because he knows us better than we know ourselves.