

JULY-SEPT 2018

● RELEASE INTERNATIONAL

voice

50
YEARS

1968-2018

of Persecuted Christians

**JOIN HANDS WITH
PERSECUTED
CHRISTIANS**

A close-up photograph of a woman's face in profile, looking down. She is holding a white cloth or banner that has the word 'JESUS' written in large red letters. Below the 'JESUS' text, there are smaller drawings of yellow chains and the phrase 'I ❤️ JESUS' repeated several times. The background is blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a public gathering or protest.

News, stories and prayer requests
from persecuted Christians worldwide



Welcome

by Paul Robinson, CEO

Join hands!

'We must join hands with members of the underground church and give them the financial means to travel about with the Gospel,' pleaded Richard Wurmbrand in 1967.

On pages 6-9 you can read how today your gifts continue to resource persecuted Christians in **India, Central Asia, Iran, Sri Lanka** and **Kenya** – enabling them to share the Gospel without compromise in their communities.

I was particularly moved by the testimony of Iranian pastor 'Joseph', who has resisted attempts by his government to restrict some of his church activities. As our partner wrote: *'It is a privilege to know faithful and brave people like Joseph and his wife who are ready to stand for Christ.'*

'Joining hands' in prayer and financial support makes all the difference to

Christians who share the Gospel in hostile environments – often at considerable personal risk.

As our Central Asian partner 'Pavel' told us: *'Despite the very hard spiritual ground and the extraordinary danger of such missionary activity, this ministry is already bearing good fruit ... I would like personally to thank all the churches and wonderful people of God in the UK and Ireland who have made our ministry possible.'*

FAREWELL TO KATE

We say goodbye to Kate, our Manager of Release Women, who has done so much to extend this vital ministry. This includes the development of Strength to Stand groups helping vulnerable Christian women in Egypt and Pakistan. On behalf of supporters, staff and partners: thank you!

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

- **Don't miss former Prisoner of Faith Petr Jasek who is speaking at a number of churches in the UK (see p15).**
- **Our 50th anniversary Thanksgiving Service will be held in central London on Thursday, October 4. Tickets are limited. Request your free tickets now (see p13).**
- **Richard Wurmbrand's bestselling testimony has inspired a gripping, full-length film, as well as a new narrative account of his life. See pages 10 and 19 for how to order.**



CONTENTS

4

FAITH UNDER FIRE

News for your prayers



6

'JOIN HANDS'

with persecuted believers and help share the gospel



10

TORTURED FOR CHRIST: THE MOVIE

Engage afresh with the passionate vision of Richard Wurmbrand



12

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Our first office in 1968!



13

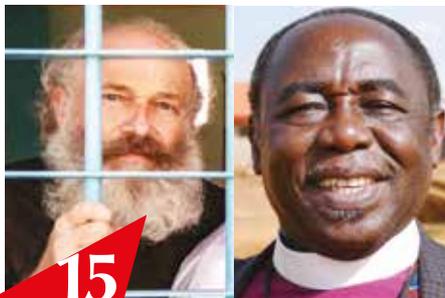
GIVE THANKS

for 50 years of ministry

14

GOOD NEWS

Mary's new start



15

BE INSPIRED

by hearing these key partners on tour



16

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Serving the underground church in Communist Vietnam



17

BE A CHANGE MAKER!

Let the adventure begin



20

#IWillNotAbandonThem

Check out our great new gifts

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
voice 50 YEARS
of Persecuted Christians 1968-2018

Release helps Christians in the UK and Ireland to actively engage with their persecuted brothers and sisters around the world: praying with them, standing with them, helping them, and learning lessons of true Christian discipleship with them.

Release International: PO Box 54, Orpington BR5 4RT - T: 01689 823491- E: info@releaseinternational.org – © 2018 Release International – Registered Charity 280577 (Scotland: SC040456). The ministry of Release International Ltd, a company limited by guarantee in England, No. 1506576. Registered office: c/o Kingston Smith LLP, Betchworth House, 57-65 Station Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1DL. All personal data/special categories of personal data herein are processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR). Further details are available from Release International. Stock images may be used to protect those we serve.



releaseinternational.org



releaseinternational



@ReleaseInt



releaseinternational

FAITH UNDER FIRE



Chinese partner Bob Fu highlighted the increasing persecution of Christians in China during his recent speaking tour in the UK.

Bob Fu speaks out

Our Chinese partner Bob Fu stated on his recent visit to the UK that ‘the persecution of Christians in China is worsening and is now as severe as at any time since the Cultural Revolution.’

Yet despite the increasingly open persecution, the growth of Christianity there seems unstoppable. ‘Under communism, Christianity has grown from one million Christians in China to an estimated 100 million today,’ said Bob.

Meanwhile, the authorities are arresting pastors, pulling down crosses and demolishing churches. Christian human rights Li Baiguang, an outspoken campaigner for religious freedom, died in suspicious circumstances earlier this year.

Listen to Bob Fu at releaseinternational.org/bob-fu

- *Pray for wisdom and courage for the leaders of China’s unregistered (illegal) churches as they face increasing pressure*



Increasing pressure in Nepal

Christians in Nepal were shocked by a series of arson and bomb attacks on four church buildings in May.

Suspected Hindu extremists launched arson attacks on three church buildings and bombed another. These caused extensive property damage, but no casualties.

At the same time, six Christians were detained by police in Tehrathum District, eastern Nepal, accused of evangelism. Two were arrested while singing worship songs on the street and allegedly proclaiming Christ, while four were arrested in their homes.

Evangelising is prohibited under Nepal’s constitution of 2015.

- *Please pray for protection for all Nepali Christians*

SIGN THE PETITION

Please sign the petition enclosed with this magazine – and ask your friends and church contacts to sign too.

The petition to Chinese President Xi Jinping urges him ‘to rethink and repeal its new religious ordinance’ introduced in February 2018 which is part of ‘the growing and sustained campaign of repression being waged by government officials against the Christian church’.

This ordinance ‘targets citizens who want nothing more than to live out their faith in peace, and lawyers who desire only to uphold the rule of law.’

Please return completed forms **as soon as you are able**, and by **October 31** at the latest. The petition form can also be downloaded from releaseinternational.org.

PRAY FOR ANDREW



Christians in Turkey request further prayer for American missionary Andrew Brunson (pictured)

following his second court hearing on May 7.

Andrew has been behind bars in western Turkey since October 2016 because officials say he is a 'terrorist' — a charge he strenuously denies.

On May 4, 50 Members of the European Parliament submitted a letter to President Erdogan calling for Andrew's release. The Turkish Foreign Minister said that the government was powerless to do anything and that it was in the hands of the judiciary.

The date of the next hearing is set for July 18.

• *Pray that the Lord will continue to strengthen Andrew, and that he and his family will know God's peace. Pray for Andrew's release.*



Photo: Morning Star News.

Churches hit by horrific attacks in Indonesia

Christians in Surabaya city, Indonesia, continue to suffer after a family with children launched suicide attacks on three churches in May.

A woman is believed to have blown up herself and two daughters in an attack on one church. Within minutes, her husband had driven his car into another, while their teenage sons on a motorbike detonated a bomb outside a third. The youngest of the children was nine.

At least 13 people died and more than 40 others were wounded in the three attacks.

Our partners report that one man who lost both his sons and his wife is in a critical condition.

The attacks were timed to coincide with Sunday services and occurred within ten minutes of one another. Islamic State has since claimed responsibility.

• *Please pray for all those who were injured in the attacks or who lost loved ones.*



Walk it, Jog it or Run it!

South Coast Challenge, August 25-26, 2018

This summer, why not join walkers, joggers and runners of all ages for an unforgettable and fun challenge — and raise funds for persecuted Christians at the same time?

Organised by Action Challenge, this is a great opportunity for supporters of Release to take part in the South Coast Challenge, opting to support Release as their chosen charity, and to enjoy some of the finest scenery in the UK.

Come as an individual or group, and complete the whole 100km route, or shorter half or quarter sections. You'll get full support and hospitality all the way.

Find out more at southcoastchallenge.com.

WILL YOU JOIN HANDS WITH PERSECUTED BELIEVERS TODAY?

When Richard Wurmbrand inspired the founding of Release in 1968, one of his eight urgent pleas was to give support and encouragement to hard-pressed pastors, and to help persecuted churches share the gospel. Fifty years later, thanks to your support, Release continues this much-needed ministry around the world.



Your support enables hard-pressed pastors in India to receive Bibles in their own language.

PRAY FOR THOSE UNDER ATTACK IN INDIA

In recent years Hindu militants and others have targeted Christians through intimidation, physical violence and by attacking their places of worship. A recent report recorded more than 350 acts of

violence against Christians in India in 2017. The actual number could be far higher.

In May 2018, for example, 46-year-old Abraham Topno, pastor of the Pentecostal Church of God in Ranchi District, Jharkhand state, was kidnapped and murdered by unidentified gunmen.

Even though the constitution protects religious freedom, seven Indian states have introduced anti-conversion laws that hinder the proclamation of the gospel.

In response, inspiring conferences are held to strengthen the faith of pastors and to prepare them for the pressures they may face. Release funds a number of these conferences every year, each one bringing much-needed encouragement to some 250 pastors and leaders. Bibles in

local languages are provided at each conference. In addition Release helps to provide essential legal assistance to pastors and Christian workers facing persecution.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD IN CENTRAL ASIA

Despite state and legal opposition to the Christian faith, a team of more than 20 church planters continues to share the gospel effectively in many nations in the region.

Your prayers and gifts are helping to bring Bible teaching for church members and new disciples – including many young people who have a deep spiritual hunger.

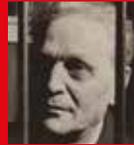
Our partner 'Pavel' also trains pastors and evangelists, and encourages them to engage in mission in different countries in the region.

'Despite the very hard spiritual ground and the extraordinary danger of such missionary activity, this ministry is already bearing good fruit,' reports our partner.



PLEA 5

'We must join hands with members of the underground church and give them the financial means to travel about with the Gospel.'



wrote Richard Wurmbrand in *Tortured for Christ*.

Today we continue to fund pastors to strengthen their communities, enabling them to preach and to travel to spread the Gospel.

Joseph refused, and was summoned to the capital Tehran for further questioning.

He again refused to stop any meetings, simply stating: *'We, like the apostles of Christ, say: "We must obey God more than man." Furthermore, what you say is illegal, for Christians according to the law can meet for worship whenever they want to.'*

As a result he was ordered to leave his home town, with his wife, within 15 days.

Again, he refused, and God gave him a dream relating to the sick mother of one of the officials. Joseph told this man about the dream.

Suddenly the eyes of this hard official were filled with tears. He asked Joseph to pray for his mother who was very seriously ill. After this, the man's behaviour changed, and he did nothing against him for a long time.

Eventually, however, another officer was appointed, who put pressure on Joseph's own denomination to dismiss him.

However, Joseph continued secretly to pastor his congregation, and to support believers from a Muslim background.

It is a privilege to know faithful and brave people like Joseph and his wife who are ready to stand for Christ. Right now, after further threats, they are living in a neighbouring country and we pray with them that they will know the will of the Lord for their future and ministry. **;**

ENCOURAGE FAITHFUL IRANIAN PASTORS LIKE JOSEPH

In Iran the authorities are continuing to intimidate and arrest church leaders in an effort to crush the Christian church.

Recently our partner told us how God had enabled Pastor 'Joseph' to stand strong in his faith – despite repeated attacks against his ministry:

; Joseph came to faith at the age of 17 in his home town in the north of the country.

From the beginning of his conversion, he took the Christian life very seriously. He decided to commit himself to study God's Word and the principles of Christian living.

By the age of 21 he was leading a church in his town, supported by elders, before later being officially ordained as a pastor. Then a security official told him that while he could meet on Sundays, he had to stop the meetings for prayer and Bible study.



Photo: Reuters/Nozim Kalandarov.

Many governments in Central Asia are opposed to Christians and the gospel of Jesus.

'In the past 20 years there has been tremendous growth in the Christian church. But there remains a great need for new, young pastors, for Bible training and for Bibles and Christian literature.

'I would like personally to thank all the churches and wonderful people of God in the UK and Ireland who have made our ministry possible by providing significant prayer, and financial and practical help.'

GIVE GENEROUSLY TODAY

at: releaseinternational.org/give to help share the gospel and to provide discipleship materials in Iran and around the world.



STRENGTHEN PERSECUTED FAMILIES IN SRI LANKA

Our partner in Sri Lanka has developed a wonderful ministry to build up families who have experienced persecution because of their faith in Jesus.

In rural areas particularly, many pastors and their families have come under attack from Buddhist militants who feel threatened by the growth of the church.

Christian children have been harassed at school, church buildings have been damaged or destroyed, and church leaders put under pressure to close their meetings.

With your support, our partner regularly holds 'Shalom' camps to give some of these families a welcome break, and an opportunity to worship together, study God's Word, and receive pastoral care and practical advice – all in a safe environment.

In addition, church leaders are given teaching focusing on persecution. These sessions include topics such as 'Why is there persecution?', 'What is persecution?' and 'Biblical aspects of persecution'. These bring immense encouragement to people who live amidst many challenges and harassments every day.

Another project provides tailored support to the children of rural pastors, mainly helping them with their education. This includes an opportunity for the children to attend a Kids Camp. Recently 180 young Sri Lankan believers were thrilled to be joined by a team of Release volunteers.

'The time at this camp was truly a blessing for us,' said one participant. 'We were greatly encouraged by this. We were discouraged and down. But this camp brought us a great revival and strengthened us to move forward.'



Persecuted Christians in Sri Lanka worship together at a camp, held at a safe location.



A church leader said: *'At home we are scared to go out, we are scared to sleep at night. Over the past two days, my family and I had a restful time of healing and respite.'*

'I also met other pastors who have gone through similar situations. We shared each other's pains and sorrows. I realised there are others who also suffer for standing strong in their faith. It encouraged me to know that I was not alone. God is with us all; He is our deliverer.'



SUPPORT SOMALI BELIEVERS

With your support, Somali Christians in Kenya are reaching out with the love of Jesus to their communities, including refugees from Somalia.

As the gospel is spread, our partner helps believers from a Muslim background to set up their own small businesses – so they can earn an income for themselves and their families. Here are just three examples:

- 'Yusuf' was given a small grant to start a business using PlayStation games consoles. On a good day he makes £7-£10, and is able to support his elderly mother and to pay for food and rent. His income also helps him to take a bus to a prayer meeting in another part of the city.
- 'Asad' has opened a kiosk selling cooking gas, electrical gadgets, mobile phone accessories, drinks and snacks. He greatly appreciates the support.
- 'Yasmin' was helped to start a women's clothing business, to meet the needs of her mother and herself, as well as others in her household. This has also enabled her to support needy individuals in the church.

'The Lord has been faithful in their lives,' says our partner. 'They'll be great examples in the cell groups they are part of.'

Names have been changed.

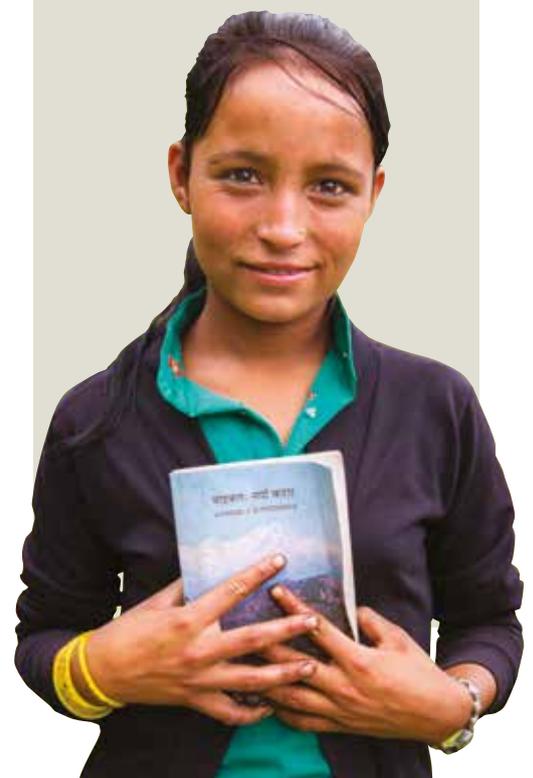


WILL YOU JOIN HANDS WITH PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS TODAY?

Your generosity enables Christians in the underground church to share the good news of Jesus with others and to disciple new believers.

By making a gift today you can enable these vital ministries to continue in 2018 and beyond.

- Give using the attached card
- Give securely at releaseinternational.org
- Call: 01689 823491



50TH
ANNIVERSARY

TORTURED FOR CHRIST: THE MOVIE

NEW

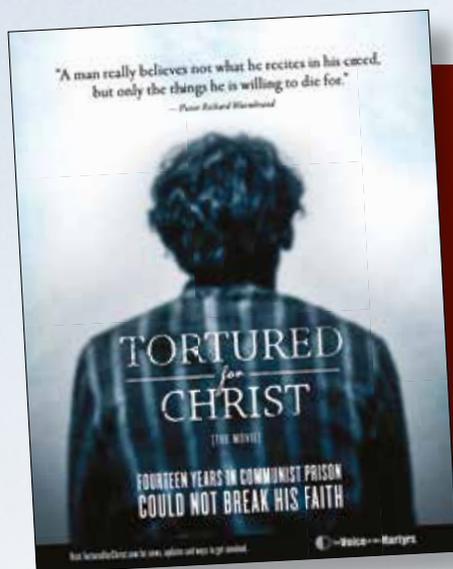
Fourteen years in communist prisons
could not break his faith!



This Autumn Release will be showing the new 70-minute film produced by Voice of the Martyrs USA, which depicts Richard Wurmbrand's best-selling testimony *Tortured for Christ*.

Filmed entirely in Romania, this is a powerful depiction of the man who inspired the founding of Release in 1968, as well as a family of missions around the world.

Don't miss this significant opportunity to engage afresh with Richard's passionate vision to serve persecuted Christians.



SHOWING AT A CHURCH NEAR YOU

Tortured for Christ: the movie will be showing at selected churches in the UK and Ireland this Autumn.

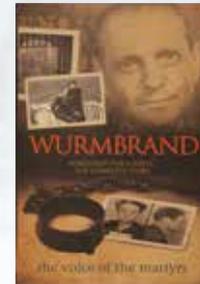
To find out more, and for details of how to order tickets, check out:

 [releaseinternational.org/events](https://twitter.com/releaseinternational)

 [releaseinternational](https://www.facebook.com/releaseinternational)



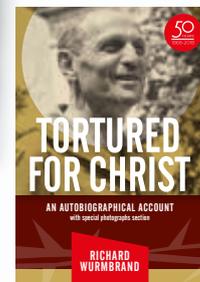
GET THE BOOK!



This new 381-page paperback is a factual account of the lives of Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand, in the style of a novel, drawing on material from *The Pastor's Wife*, *In God's Underground*, and *Tortured for Christ*. Highly recommended. **£10**

'I thank God for this remarkable book and its timeless message'

Christian author
Joni Eareckson Tada



Richard Wurmbrand's bestselling testimony includes a selection of archive photographs. Special edition to mark our 50th anniversary. **£8**

Prices include P&P.

- Order using the enclosed form
- Call: 01689 823491
- Order securely online at releaseinternational.org



This year Release International's ministry to persecuted Christians is 50 years old. And, by God's gracious leading, it all began in a green wooden shed in a church car park...



Release's first office in 1968 was a small hut at Elmstead Baptist Church.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

'He was such a peaceful, gentle man. He sat and talked for ages.' That's how Margaret Kent remembers the day Richard Wurmbrand visited her parents' home in Elmstead, South East London.

Margaret's parents, Cliff and Olive Kent, were key figures at the very heart of Release's humble beginnings.

'They had never done anything like this before'

'Stuart Harris, of the European Christian Mission, came and talked to Mum and Dad about working full-time for the mission, early in 1968,' Margaret recalled.

Cliff worked in insurance, and Olive was a part-time typist. 'Three times people sent them a message – with the same Bible verse: "Come over to Macedonia and help us" (Acts 16:9).

It was amazing. They had never done anything like this before – but agreed to take it on.'

The Kents lived close to Elmstead Baptist Church and its minister, Ernest Raisey, offered enthusiastic support. 'European Christian Mission had these portable chalets they used – little more than garden sheds – and they transported one here and set it up behind the church,' said Margaret.

A power line was installed from the church and telephone calls had to be transferred from the Kents' home. Margaret and her brother Nigel were put to work stuffing envelopes during the school holidays. 'As a child it was all very exciting!' she said.

'As children we were warned not to worry if we heard him screaming in the night'

'There were just two desks and two typewriters – but the work expanded very quickly. Every quarter Mum used to get a group of ladies from the church; they would put on a lunch in the church hall and spend the day stuffing the magazine into envelopes!'

Cliff organised meetings at Croydon's Fairfield Hall where Richard Wurmbrand spoke; he also stayed



Richard Wurmbrand shared his moving testimony at meetings throughout Europe and the USA.

in the Kents' home. Margaret remembers the torture scars on his neck. 'He used to have nightmares (about his time in prison),' she said. 'As children we were warned not to worry if we heard him screaming in the night.'

But she also remembers his sense of humour. 'He told my Dad, "You know, they (the Communists) will be looking out for you now!"'

Within a few years the ministry had outgrown the car-park shed and moved to larger offices in Bromley. 'The church began using the office as a prayer hut. They even had all-night prayer meetings in there for the work,' Margaret recalls.

Today the little green hut is no more, but the ministry that began there continues to serve persecuted Christians around the world.



Cliff and Olive Kent in 1969; their daughter Margaret today.

50TH
ANNIVERSARY

NOT ABANDONED!

Giving thanks for 50 years



Join Release International for a **Service of Thanksgiving** as we mark 50 years of ministry with persecuted Christians and prepare for all that God has planned for the future.

Thursday 4 October 2018

Emmanuel Centre, 9-23 Marsham Street, LONDON SW1P 3DW

Doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments; 7.30pm start

A retiring collection will be taken for the work of Release International.

Tickets are free, but limited. Register online at eventbrite.co.uk (search for Release International), call: 01689 823491 or email info@releaseinternational.org.



Guest Speaker:
George Verwer,
Founder of
Operation
Mobilisation



MARTYRS' DAY 2018



Richard Wurmbbrand, who inspired the founding of Release in 1968, urged Western Christians to support the families of Christian prisoners and martyrs:

'When a Christian goes to prison – and often to torture or death – the suffering only begins. The family suffers endlessly. We can and must help them.'

In our 50th year we are launching Martyrs' Day to encourage prayer for today's courageous Christians who suffer for their faith in Jesus – even to the point of death.

Find out more at releaseinternational.org.

FUNDRAISING PACK



Make a difference to the lives of persecuted Christians by using our new pack to organise your own fundraising event or activity. Contains:

- Creative fundraising ideas
- Four attractive A3 and A4 colour posters (pictured)
- Pledge cards
- Children's leaflets
- Collecting boxes and more!

Order your free pack today using the attached card or call 01689 823491 (email info@releaseinternational.org).

GOOD NEWS

AFTERNOON TEA RAISES £1,000!

Release volunteers in Swansea pulled out all the stops to put on an afternoon tea with music and a speaker from Release at Waterfront Community Church – raising a fantastic £1,000.

Over 60 ladies bought tickets for the event. The funds will be used to support our Strength to Stand (S2S) women's groups caring for vulnerable Christian women in Egypt. A big thank you to all those who organised the event.



Stock photo



MARY'S NEW START

'Mary' (not her real name) is a Christian in the Middle East who lost her husband when her children were very young. Left to fend for herself, things became even more difficult when five members of her husband's family converted to Islam, and put pressure on her to convert too.

So she fled with her children to a village some 300km from her home.

There our partner helped Mary to start her own small shop, so she could earn enough to support her family. Now she is so grateful to God.

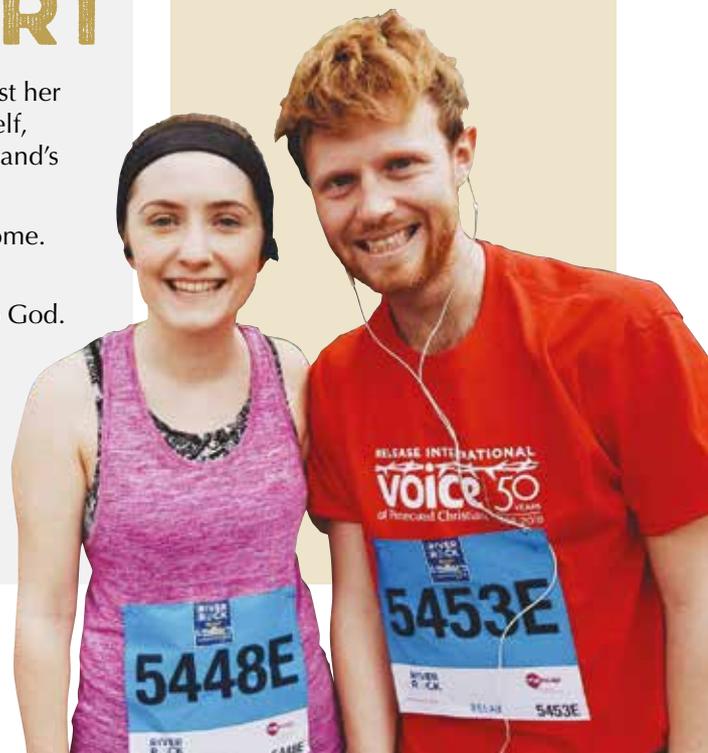
'It's a miracle that He sent me His people to help me make a new start,' she told us.

Our partner told us: 'Mary was devastated and discouraged. But when we helped her, she felt that God has a better plan for them and He holds the future.'

MARATHON EFFORT

A big thank you also goes to those supporters who took part in the recent Belfast Marathon to raise funds for persecuted Christians.

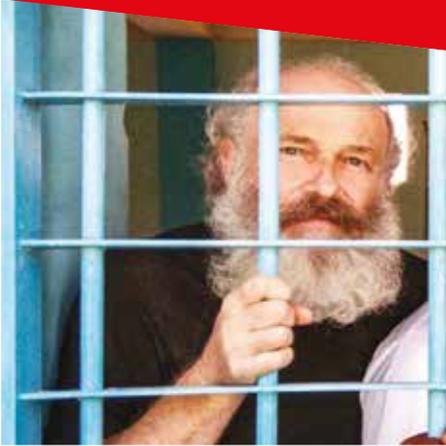
Check out [youtube.com/releaseinternational](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).



50TH
ANNIVERSARY

BE INSPIRED BY THEIR STORIES OF SUFFERING AND GRACE

#IWillNotAbandonThem



FORMER PRISONER OF FAITH PETR JASEK



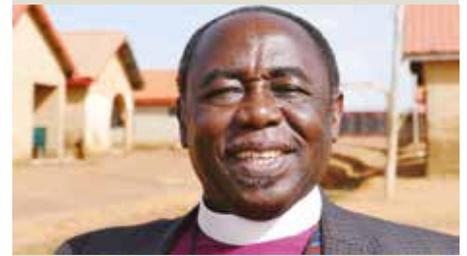
Christian worker Petr Jasek was accused of spying and imprisoned in Sudan for 445 days, before being released in February 2017. Today he works for our associate ministry Voice of the Martyrs (USA).

| | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|
| Sat JUN 30 | 7.30pm* | EASTBOURNE Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Place, BN21 3BX |
| Sun JUL 01 | 10.30am | ORPINGTON Crofton Baptist Church, 100 Crofton Lane, BR5 1HD |
| | 7.30pm | ORPINGTON Hope Church, 36 Chislehurst Road, BR6 0DG |
| Mon JUL 02 | 7.30pm* | ANERLEY Christ Church, Anerley Road, SE20 8ER |
| Tues JUL 03 | 7.30pm* | BEXLEYHEATH Bexley Christian Life Centre, 17 Upland Road, DA7 4NR |
| Wed JUL 04 | 7.30pm* | EAST SHEEN East Sheen Baptist Church, Temple Sheen Road, SW14 7PY |
| Thurs JUL 05 | 7.30pm* | FOREST GATE St Mark's Church, Lorne Road, E7 0LJ |
| Fri JUL 06 | 8.00pm | SEVENOAKS St John's, Hildenborough, 194 Tonbridge Road TN11 9HN |
| Sat JUL 07 | 7.30pm* | SWANSEA St James' Church, Walter Road, SA1 4QF |
| Sun JUL 08 | 10.30am | SWANSEA Liberty Church, Siloh Road, SA1 2PN |
| | 6.00pm | BRIDGEND Hope Baptist Church, Station Hill, CF31 1EA |

*Refreshments and bookstall available from 7.00pm

Three high-profile partners of Release will be speaking at churches in the UK. This is a great opportunity to be both informed and inspired.

ARCHBISHOP BEN KWASHI



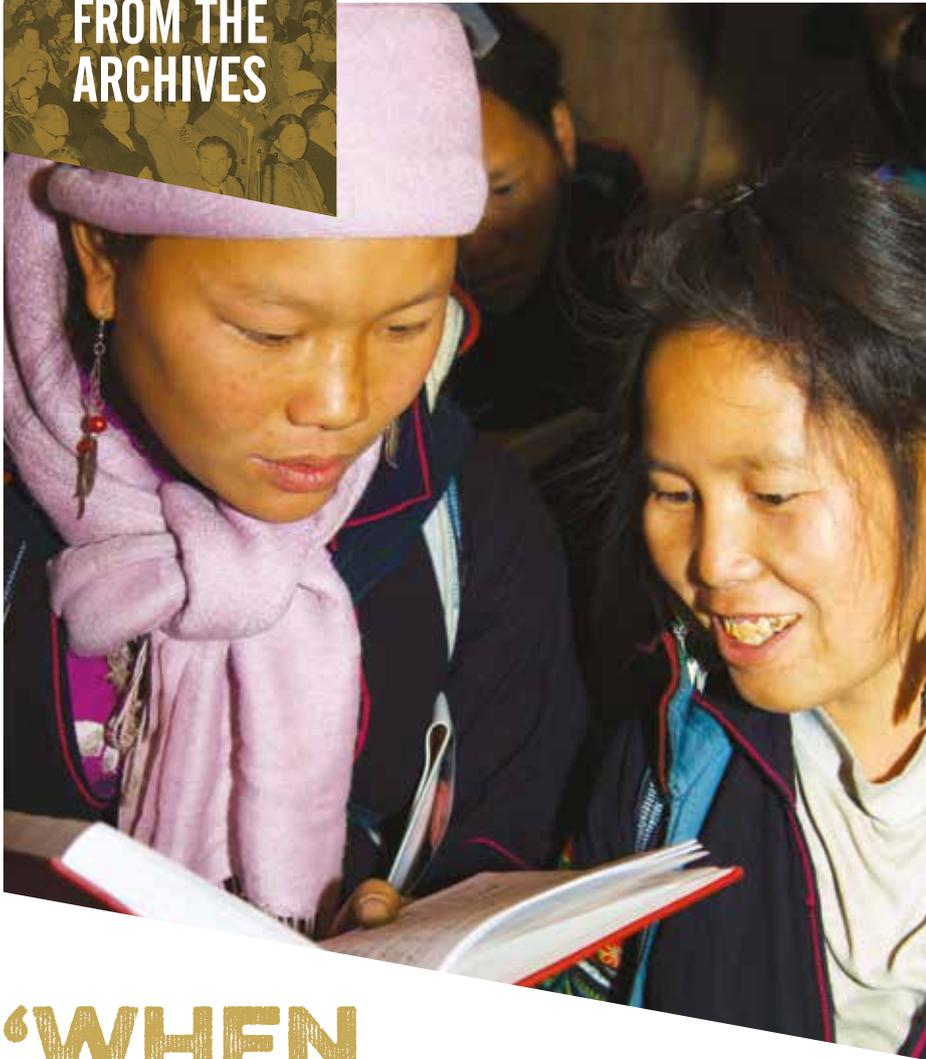
The Rt Rev Dr Ben Kwashi is well-known for his faithful and courageous ministry to persecuted Christians in Plateau State, central Nigeria. Ben will be speaking at various venues November 20-27 (to be confirmed).

MIDDLE EASTERN PARTNER

We hope to arrange for a key Christian partner from the Middle East to visit Scotland later this year, to talk about his ministry of evangelism and support for believers from a Muslim background. Full details will be given in due course and on our website.

For further information call: **01689 823491**, email info@releaseinternational.org or visit releaseinternational.org/events.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



‘WHEN PERSECUTION COMES’

In our fiftieth year, we look back at some of the key projects that have supported the underground church around the world. In 2000 we published this report of a Release ministry visit to Communist Vietnam.



Christians in the Communist nation of Vietnam are constantly under attack, yet they remain joyful and happy to bear these burdens for Christ.

On foot, bicycle, or motorbike, they are witnesses of His faithfulness as they undergo their own trials.

On a van ride from Ho Chi Minh City a mission team stopped to leave two cases of Bibles in a tribal language

with a local evangelist and his wife, who would see that the precious books were distributed to Christians in their area. In one corner of their home was a bookshelf covered with a clean white sheet. Underneath the sheet were Bibles and other Christian books, hidden from view, but ready to be given out.

In Vietnam it is illegal to have Bibles printed in tribal languages as the Communist government tries to wipe out the cultures of these precious people.



‘Living water’

Later, the team visited a village of Koho people [an ethnic group in the Central Highlands]. Children gathered and sang for the visitors. Then one of the team was asked to give a short message. Pointing to the well, the courier told them that in each of us, who know Christ, is also a well, one that supplies ‘living water’.

He reminded them of the thirsty people all around them, and encouraged them to generously share their supply of God’s love, just as the well in the village gives fresh, clean water to drink.

After the message and a time of prayer for the village, the local pastor turned to the speaker, through an interpreter, and asked for prayer for his most deeply felt request:

‘Please pray for me, so that when the persecution comes, I will stand for Jesus.’

What a precious request from this brother who doesn’t doubt that persecution will come and only desires the perseverance to stand strong when it does!]



JOINING HANDS

Through your gifts today you enable us to continue to join hands with the underground church in Vietnam. See p6 for how your support also helps persecuted Christians in other countries.

**GREAT
OUTDOORS**
CHURCH
SERVICE



River of Life Church, New Forest, took part in our recent Great Outdoors Church Service for the first time. 'We shared stories of persecuted Christians and marked the occasion with prayer and thanksgiving,' they said. 'It was a blessing.'

**release
&
your church**



**Invite
a Release speaker
to your church**

To request a speaker for your church or fellowship group, please contact these numbers:

Ireland

Stephen on
028 9334 0014

London

Imtiaz on
07957 677162

Midlands and North

Kenneth on
07375 516408

Scotland

James on
07434 894016

South

Kenneth on
07375 516408

Wales

Paul on
077747 535588

Release Women

Laura on
01689 823491

Or call 01689 823491

**BE A
CHANGE
MAKER!**

Release Potential's
**CHANGE
MAKERS**

Are you 18-30 and passionate about helping persecuted Christians (or know someone who is)? Would you like to join a movement of young believers who will support and act on behalf of our family around the world? Want to travel and raise your voice to help others?

Applications are now open for Release Potential's exciting one-year Change Maker discipleship programme for 2018-2019.

'Being a Change Maker has brought me so many opportunities to step out and do things I wouldn't do otherwise,' said former Change Maker Abena.

Find out more at releasepotential.org/change-makers-2017/about/



**release
POTENTIAL**

THE WORD

'Don't abandon them', urged Richard Wurmbrand at the conclusion of his inspirational book, *Tortured for Christ*. What might that mean for you, in practice? In a series of articles to mark Release's 50th anniversary year, Kenneth Harrod offers some biblical answers.

LOVE THEM



If you've ever been to a football match you'll know it's easy to recognise who the spectators are supporting. A sea of blue at one end... a sea of red at the other. Fans show whose side they are on.

Christians are meant to show whose side we are on – by the way we treat others who are Christians. Jesus made this point the night before he was crucified: 'Love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples.' (John 13:34-35; ESV).

But what, in practice, does it mean to love our fellow Christians?

The Apostle John addresses this in his first letter – and in a context where he reminds us that the world hates Christians. 1 John is all about genuine, Christ-centred Christianity, and what it should look like. John stresses right doctrine – truth over against falsehood; he stresses the need to take sin seriously and to desire holy lives... and he stresses the love that Christians should show one another.

'Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you,' he writes (paraphrasing Jesus' warning at the Last Supper). 'We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers' (1 John 3:13-14).

And then comes the practical outworking. This love for fellow

Christians should be sacrificial, as Christ's love was (verse 16). 'But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.' (1 John 3:17-18).

Persecuted Christians are certainly 'brothers in need'. **Loving** them, in the manner John suggests, is yet another important way we demonstrate that we will not abandon them.

And as John reminds us, this love is practical, as biblical love always is, reflecting how God showed his love by sending Jesus to die for us.

In the stirring final chapter of *Tortured for Christ* Richard Wurmbrand challenged Christians in the West to provide persecuted believers with resources, to make Bibles available, to support families when someone is imprisoned or martyred. This kind of love costs.

In every edition of this magazine you will find examples of needy persecuted Christians, and pointers to how you can help meet those needs. Will you show whose side you are on? Will you love in both deed and in truth?

INSPIRING FAITH



'A flower, if you bruise it under your feet, rewards you by giving you its perfume. Likewise Christians, tortured by the Communists, rewarded their torturers by love.'

Pastor Richard Wurmbrand was imprisoned for 14 years in communist Romania in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1968 he inspired the founding of Release, which today continues his ministry to serve persecuted Christians around the world in the name of Jesus.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

#IWillNotAbandonThem



Collecting box **FREE**



Mug **£10**



Wristband

£3 each, 5 for **£10**, 25 for **£15**



Teddy (25cm tall) **£5**



Pen **£3** each, 5 for **£10**, 25 for **£15**



Stylish cotton T-shirt (available in M, L, XL, XXL, for chest sizes 40", 43", 45" and 48" respectively) **£10**

Suggested donation amounts in red. Add £2.95 for postage & packing (£5 for mugs).

Order today using the enclosed form, at releaseinternational.org/shop or call: **01689 823491**.

SUMMER FESTIVALS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help at Greenbelt and the Keswick Convention. We need help on our stand, welcoming visitors, gathering petition signatures, answering questions, and engaging new supporters.

- GREENBELT arts, faith and justice festival, Northamptonshire (August 24-27): we need three lively volunteers, and are offering a free ticket if you volunteer for the whole weekend.
- KESWICK CONVENTION (July 28-August 3): one extra volunteer or a couple is needed to assist on our stand during the day and evening periods. We are offering free accommodation for the week.

Travel and meal costs will be covered.

If you would like more information, contact Gene White on gwhite@releaseinternational.org or call: **01689 823491**.



Will You Leave a Legacy of Enduring Faith and Love?

A legacy gift to Release International can be a natural continuation of your commitment to sharing God's love and compassion with persecuted Christians around the world.

For 50 years, your generous gifts have enabled Christians to stand strong in their faith in the face of persecution. With your support, Release's partners are providing prayerful, pastoral and practical help to persecuted Christians in over 25 countries.

By including a gift to Release International in your Will you can enable that support to continue.

To request a free legacy brochure please call us on 01689 823491 or email info@releaseinternational.org

#IWillNotAbandonThem

GET THE COMPLETE STORY!

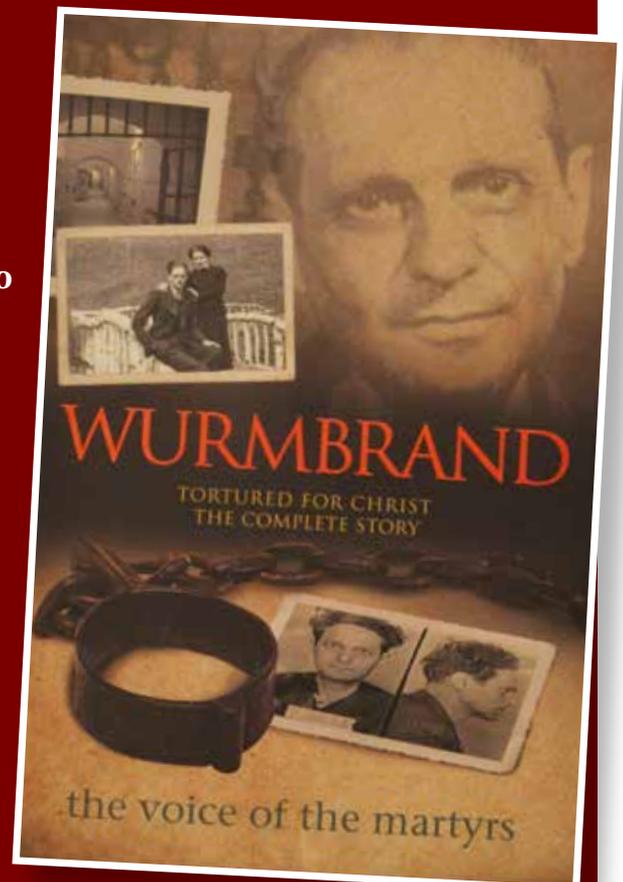
As part of our 50th anniversary, we are delighted to publish *Tortured for Christ: the complete story*.

This new 381-page paperback is a factual account of the lives of Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand, in the style of a novel, drawing on material from *The Pastor's Wife*, *In God's Underground*, and *Tortured for Christ*.

'I thank God for this remarkable book and its timeless message'

Christian author Joni Eareckson Tada

Order your copy today for just £10, including P&P, by using the enclosed form, or by calling 01689 823491



PRAYERSHIELD

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2018



Christians in China are thrilled to receive their own copy of the Bible.

JULY 2018

Heavenly Father,

I praise you that nothing escapes your gaze and we can never be away from your presence, Lord.

Thank you for standing with my persecuted family, in their jail cells and by their hospital beds, in their pain and suffering and sorrow.

Thank you that you scan the whole earth looking to strengthen those 'whose hearts are fully committed' to you (2 Chronicles 16:9).

Lift their heads, strengthen their faith and renew in them a steadfast spirit, Lord, so that they can continue to build your kingdom here on earth.

Amen

CHINA

SUNDAY 1: Pray for wisdom for leaders of house churches, which are under pressure to come under the state-controlled Three-Self Church following the recent introduction of new laws on religion.

MONDAY 2: Pray for Christians in Luoning County, Henan: many have been detained and preaching and gathering for worship are said to have been banned. A number say they are too scared to meet.

TUESDAY 3: Pray that, as officials continue their crackdown on Luoning churches, Christians there will find new, creative ways to

enjoy fellowship and build up each other's faith.

WEDNESDAY 4: In Shangqiu district, Luoning, officials recently removed crosses from the historic Nantang Church, cut off its power and arrested its pastors. Ask God to build the faith of this congregation.

THURSDAY 5: #Pray50
Pray for a radical change of heart among Henan officials: may they see the folly of repressing religious liberty and trying to silence the word of God.

FRIDAY 6: Pray for six Christians in Yunnan who were sentenced in January to between four and 13 years in jail for allegedly being part of an 'evil cult' and a 'threat to the state'.

SATURDAY 7: Chinese authorities earlier this year used dynamite to blow up the Golden Lampstand church in Shanxi province. They also jailed church leaders for seven years: pray for their release.

SUNDAY 8: Officials interrupted a Bible study at the Holy Love Fellowship in Beijing and questioned those present. Ask God to protect the church.

MONDAY 9: Please pray for the success of a Release petition calling on the Chinese Government to

end its programme of church closures and its imprisonment of Christians.

TUESDAY 10: Officials charged four members of a house church in Sichuan province with 'obstructing government administration' – for distributing Christian leaflets at a university. Praise God for these evangelists' boldness.

WEDNESDAY 11: #Pray50 Ask the Holy Spirit to move among the Chinese Government and cause them disquiet in their hearts about the policies they are pursuing.

THURSDAY 12: China has banned the sale online of Bibles and the business licences of some shops selling Christian literature have been cancelled. Pray that the gospel reaches every part of this vast nation!

SUDAN

FRIDAY 13: Thank God for the powerful testimony of Release partner and Czech Christian Petr Jasek who was due to complete a speaking tour of UK churches earlier this month. Pray that many in his audiences will have been encouraged to pray for Sudan.

SATURDAY 14: Sudanese Christian Samuel (pictured) translated the Bible while living in a refugee camp, having lost all his earthly possessions at the hands of the very people he seeks to reach with the gospel.

SUNDAY 15: Pray for justice for four Christians who tried to prevent the confiscation and sale of a church-owned school in Omdurman last year. They have recently been charged



Sudanese Bible translator Samuel receives prayer for his work in a dangerous mission field.

PRAYERSHIELD

with causing physical harm to police and those attempting the takeover.

MONDAY 16: Pray for members of a congregation of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church whose church in the Khartoum suburb of Haj Yousif was demolished in February.

TUESDAY 17: Ask God to help Sudanese Christians be faithful witnesses, responding to persecution in a way that speaks of His love and grace.

WEDNESDAY 18: #Pray50 Ask God to show President Omar al-Bashir and his ministers that tolerance and freedom will make their nation great, not persecution.

CENTRAL ASIA

THURSDAY 19: Continue to pray for churches in Central Asia which are often forced to go underground or risk harassment and persecution. Pray that God will strengthen their faith and enable them to change their society, even through their silent witness.

FRIDAY 20: Ask God to reassure Central Asian Christians of His deep love for them, despite the opposition and discrimination they face in daily life. In one Central Asian nation, for example, Christians have not been able to bury their dead in local cemeteries.

SATURDAY 21: Pray for efforts to translate the Bible into local languages in various parts of Central Asia. Thank God that His Word never returns empty when it is sent out (Isaiah 55:11).

SUNDAY 22: Discipleship of young Christians is much needed in Central Asia. Thank God for a worker whom Release funds and who runs Bible courses for trainee evangelists and missionaries in the region.

MONDAY 23: Praise God that Bible training Release partners are involved in is bearing rich fruit in the form of new churches. Pray that these churches will become officially registered and grow swiftly (Acts 2:47).

TUESDAY 24: Ask God to protect our partners in Central Asia and the pastors they support. Pray that they will receive the visas they need to travel for their work and that they will find favour with the communities and officials they meet.

EGYPT

WEDNESDAY 25: Pray that President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will make religious liberty a clear focus for his second term in office and work hard to address the long-term cultural discrimination that Christians face.

THURSDAY 26: Praise God that Prime Minister Sherif Ismail approved the

legalisation of 102 unlicensed churches and 64 church-associated buildings in Egypt in April.

FRIDAY 27: Thank God for an apparent easing of restrictions on churches after an order in January issued by Egypt's Ministry of Housing allowed Christians to practise religious rites at unlicensed churches pending licence approval.

SATURDAY 28: #Pray50 Pray for Islamist extremists who have set their hearts against Christ and set their sights on destroying His people in Egypt. Pray that, like Saul, they may have a Damascus Road encounter with the living God.

SUNDAY 29: Villagers recently set fire to the homes of several Christians in Beni Suef village, Beni Menin. Pray for justice for those affected: some Christians were arrested after being wrongly accused of setting their own homes on fire.

MONDAY 30: Violence in Beni Suef (above) followed attacks on a building used for Christian worship for a decade, as well as Christians' homes and shops, in April. The attacks came after police told local Christians they now needed a permit to pray there.

TUESDAY 31: Please pray against a growing trend of grooming and forced conversion of Egyptian Christian women and girls, believed to be funded by religious leaders with cash from Saudi Arabia.

AUGUST 2018

IRAN

WEDNESDAY 1:

Commentators say that sentences for Iranian Christians have become increasingly harsh in the past year. Ask God to strengthen the faith of His people in Iran as persecution intensifies.

THURSDAY 2: Pray that Iranian Christians will remain bold in sharing their faith and will draw many to know Christ as their friend and Saviour.

FRIDAY 3: Hadi Asgari was released from Evin Prison in Tehran after posting bail. Continue to pray for the success of an appeal by Hadi, and those of his co-defendants, Amin Nader Afshari and Pastor Victor Bet Tamraz who remain imprisoned.

SATURDAY 4: Shamiram Isavi Khabizeh, the wife of Pastor Victor Bet Tamraz (above), is appealing against a five-year sentence after being convicted of acting against national security. Pray she will know God's comfort.

SUNDAY 5: Eskandar Rezaei and Soroush Saraei were each sentenced in December to eight years in prison. Pray their appeals will be heard swiftly and be successful.

MONDAY 6: #Pray50 Ask God to overwhelm Iran's leaders with His love. Pray He will show them they have nothing to fear from His

people and everything to gain from following Him.

TUESDAY 7: An appeal court in Iran has recently upheld a ten-year prison sentence against Rasht Christians Mohammad-Reza Omid, Yasser Mossayebzadeh, and Saheb Fadaie for their church activities. Pray that they will know God's presence close to them daily.

WEDNESDAY 8: Yasser, Saheb and Mohammad-Reza (above) also face separate charges of consuming wine and were sentenced to 80 lashes each in 2016. Their appeal remains outstanding; pray it succeeds.

PAKISTAN

THURSDAY 9: Azhar and Rahib were shot in broad daylight in Quetta city, Balochistan, in April. Three others were injured in the drive-by shooting. Pray for peace and healing for the bereaved and injured.

FRIDAY 10: Fifteen Christians were killed in Balochistan province in three attacks in four months recently. Pray that the Pakistan Government will heed local Christians' calls for increased security.

SATURDAY 11: On Easter Monday, four members of the Masih family were shot dead as they sat in a rickshaw in Quetta. Pray for 12-year-old Sidra who was shot but survived: her father was among the dead.

SUNDAY 12: Continue to pray for survivors of a suicide bombing at Bethel Memorial Methodist Church in Quetta last December. Ten people died and 50 were seriously injured.

MONDAY 13: #Pray50 Islamic State (IS) says it carried out recent attacks on Christians in Quetta. Pray that God will thwart the plans of extremists across Pakistan – and lead them to repentance and new life in Him.

TUESDAY 14: Continue to pray for survivors of the Easter Sunday bombing in Lahore in 2016. Release partners are supporting some of the families who are still struggling emotionally and spiritually.

WEDNESDAY 15: Thank God that officials and police in Punjab made great efforts to step up security at churches this Easter.

THURSDAY 16: Ask God to guide a Release partner whose ministry equips, trains and encourages pastors. Pray that God will accelerate this process of learning and discipleship.

FRIDAY 17: This same Release partner (as above) has a strong commitment to unreached, rural areas of Pakistan. Praise God that it has developed good relationships with 20 village pastors whom it plans to work with.

SATURDAY 18: #Pray50 Pray that state officials in

SEPTEMBER 2018

INDIA

SATURDAY 1: The husband of Poonam (pictured) kicked her out of their home and denied her access to her three children when she turned to Christ. Thank God that they are now reconciled. Pray he will come to Christ.

SUNDAY 2: Hindu extremists attacked two

churches in Tamil Nadu and one in Hyderabad on Palm Sunday, during church services. Pray that these congregations will stand firm in their faith.

MONDAY 3: Pray for Christians in Uttarakhand State which has just introduced 'anti-conversion laws' such as those routinely used to falsely accuse and persecute Christians elsewhere in India. Uttarakhand's laws also

mean people now need prior permission to convert.

TUESDAY 4: Pray that anti-conversion legislation will not be extended to other Indian states: Arunachal Pradesh passed legislation but has not yet decided upon 'subsidiary rules', and Rajasthan's Bill was not signed by the state governor.

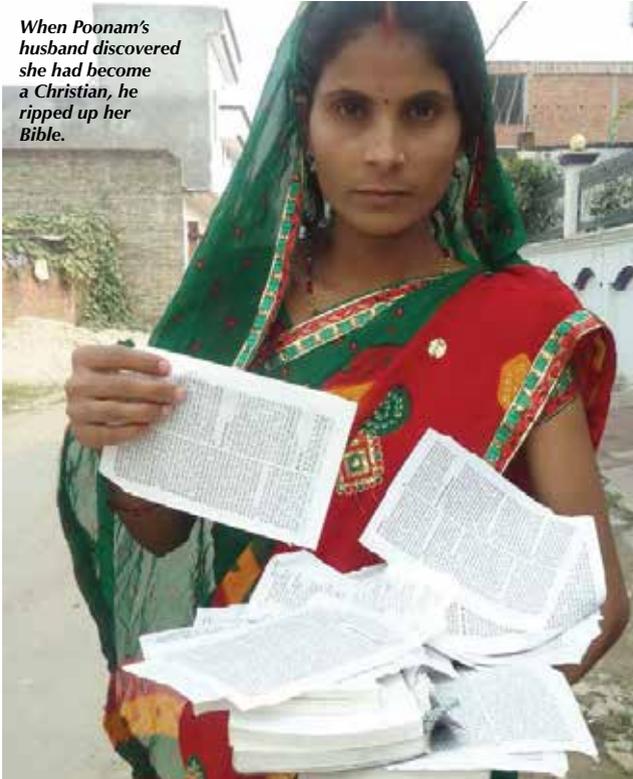
WEDNESDAY 5: About 60 extremists raided a house church in Bihar and had Christians arrested on false accusations of 'forcible conversion'. Three adults – including a married couple with children – remain in custody.

THURSDAY 6: #Pray50
Pray that India's National Democratic Alliance Government, led by the nationalist BJP, will start to use more conciliatory language towards non-Hindus.

FRIDAY 7: Continue to pray for justice for the family of Pastor Gideon Periyaswamy, found hanged at home in Tamil Nadu in January. Christians believe he was murdered and are asking police to investigate: the Government insists he took his own life.

SATURDAY 8: Thank God Pastor Madira Koti Reddy survived an attack with an axe by a Hindu extremist who raided his home in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

When Poonam's husband discovered she had become a Christian, he ripped up her Bible.



'MY BIBLE IS EVERYTHING TO ME. WITHOUT IT, I CAN'T LIVE.'

Poonam, persecuted Christian, India.

PRAYERSHIELD

Pakistan will have their eyes opened to the suffering of non-Muslim minorities in their nation – and resolve to uphold religious freedom for every citizen.

MYANMAR

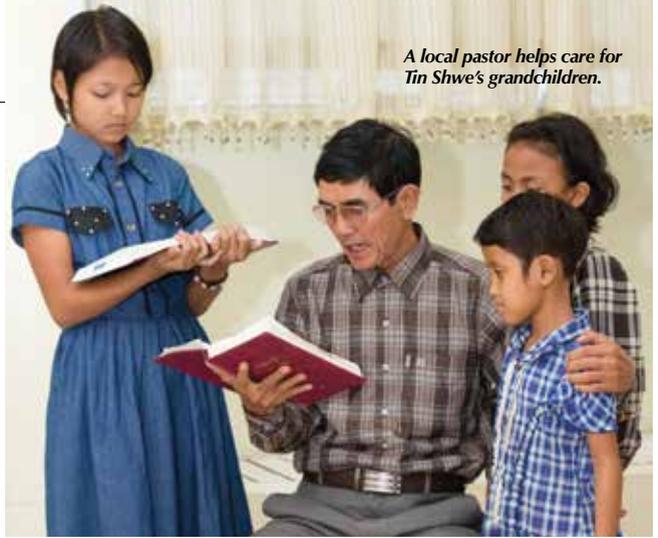
SUNDAY 19: Christians remain a small minority in Myanmar which is about 80 per cent Buddhist. Pray that they will transform their nation through Christian values such as grace and forgiveness.

MONDAY 20: Pray for Tin Shwe and his family whose home was attacked for four hours by a mob of 150 people throwing rocks. The mob were furious the family recently turned to Christ.

TUESDAY 21: Tin Shwe and his extended family were forced to leave their village after the attack but did not file charges against their attackers and have forgiven them. A local pastor (pictured with Tin's grandchildren) is caring for them.

WEDNESDAY 22: #Pray50 Ask God to speak to those in authority in Myanmar and give them dreams and visions about His kingdom.

THURSDAY 23: The Myanmar military recently bombed mainly Christian, ethnic Kachin civilians in Awng Lawt village in Kachin state and restricted aid to those who had fled, local Christian leaders said.



A local pastor helps care for Tin Shwe's grandchildren.

Pray that worsening conflict between the military and rebels in Kachin will subside.

FRIDAY 24: The military often interrogates whole congregations, says the US Commission on International Religious Freedom. Pray that churches targeted in this way will only grow stronger in their faith.

SATURDAY 25: Thank God for the release of pastors Dom Dawng Nawng Latt and La Jaw Gam Hseng after more than a year in prison over false accusations of sedition. They were freed in April under a government amnesty.

INDONESIA

SUNDAY 26: Ask God to strengthen His people in Indonesian amid mounting Islamic militancy in recent years.

MONDAY 27: Pray that the Indonesian Government will heed calls for greater security at churches and take decisive action to clamp down on militant activity.

TUESDAY 28: Pray for three congregations in Surabaya city targeted by suicide bombers in May. The attackers were all members of the same family and included children. At least 13 people died in the blasts.

WEDNESDAY 29: One man lost both his sons and his wife was seriously injured in the Surabaya church bombings. Ask God to heal his wife and all those injured in the attacks – physically and spiritually.

THURSDAY 30: In a second attack in Surabaya (see above), a family of five, including an eight-year-old, bombed a police station in Surabaya, killing at least four people. Pray for the child who is believed to have survived.

FRIDAY 31: #Pray50 Pray for families connected to those who exploded bombs at the three Surabaya churches in May. Pray that God will remove any hatred burning in their hearts and show them how much He loves them.

SYRIA

SUNDAY 9: Syria remains in the grip of civil war. Persecution and violence have forced many Christians to flee. Ask God to strengthen those Christians who have chosen to stay and care for their communities.

MONDAY 10: Pray that Syria will see its churches full once again, despite fears by some church leaders that Christianity is being 'erased' from the nation.

TUESDAY 11: Pray that the Syrian authorities will do more to prevent land grabs in which land and property belonging to Christians who have fled the country have been seized.

WEDNESDAY 12: Pray for 300 Christians who were involved in a relief project in Afrin and who have been forced to flee the area due to attacks by Islamist militias. They are among hundreds of thousands of Kurds who have fled.

THURSDAY 13: Release associate ministries which are supplying Scriptures inside Syria report a growing demand for Bibles from former Muslims. Praise God!

NORTH KOREA

FRIDAY 14: Pray that it becomes possible for Christians in North Korea to practise their faith freely for the first time in their lives.

SATURDAY 15: #Pray50 Please pray for North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-Un, that God will meet him in His grace and His glory and cause in him a radical change of heart.

SUNDAY 16: Ask Jesus to sustain and strengthen our brothers and sisters in North Korea and restore their hope in Him and in a future where His name is glorified across the Korean peninsula.

MONDAY 17: Pray that Pyongyang's 'show churches' will soon resound with the worship of true followers of Christ – able to sing His praises freely in a country where religious freedoms are embraced once again.

TUESDAY 18: Praise God for the recent release of three Korean-American evangelicals held as prisoners in North Korea for at least a year: Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Kim Sang Duk.

WEDNESDAY 19: Pray for the release of the tens of thousands of North Korean believers thought still to be held in the country's labour camps.

THURSDAY 20: Ask God to keep hidden Christian resources such as Bibles inside North Korea, so that believers inside the 'hermit kingdom' can mature in their faith.

FRIDAY 21: #Pray50 Pray that the Holy Spirit will move among the Supreme Leader's

inner circle and lead many of them to meet with Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

LAOS

SATURDAY 22: Thank God that the Government of Laos has agreed to sponsor an education programme highlighting the fact that religious freedom is a human right. Pray that the seminars will succeed in their aim of 'encouraging dialogue between religious leaders and Government'.

SUNDAY 23: Ask God to encourage His people in Laos, a mainly Buddhist nation where followers of Christianity can be seen as foreign agents.

MONDAY 24: Pray for a Christian family who were forced to move to another part of Luang Prabang city, a popular tourist destination, because of their faith. They were also fined the equivalent of £300.

TUESDAY 25: #Pray50 Lao officials and community leaders often collaborate to put pressure on Christians to recant their faith. Pray they will be moved by the determined faith of local believers – and start to explore Christianity for themselves.

WEDNESDAY 26: A young Christian couple chose to stay in their village despite facing persecution which has caused many other villagers to abandon the



Somchi's family in Laos burned her Bible when she became a Christian eight years ago.

'LOOKING BACK AT EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME, I SEE GOD'S LOVE AND GOD'S PLAN'

Somchi, persecuted Christian, Laos.

Hers is one of only three Christian families in the village.

SUNDAY 30: #Pray50 Ask God to touch the hearts of Lao people who are persecuting relatives who have turned to Christ. Pray he will touch their hearts powerfully through the witness of family members.

Christian faith. Officials destroyed the couple's home – but they have remained. Praise God that officials have now allowed them to stay.

THURSDAY 27: Pray that the Christian couple in the previous prayer and their young son will remain strong in their faith and be a powerful witness to their animist neighbours.

FRIDAY 28: Praise God that persecuted Christian

Somchi (pictured) can now see God's plan for her life: she was rejected by her family at 17 but now, at 25, she has a Christian husband. 'Looking back at everything that has happened to me, I see God's love and God's plan,' she says.

SATURDAY 29: Thank God that Somchi's neighbours have stopped persecuting her family because they now recognise the family are kind and contribute to the community.

Sources: BBC; China Aid; Christianity Today; Human Rights Without Frontiers International; International Christian Concern; Middle East Concern; Morning Star News; Radio Free Asia; Release partners and contacts; Reuters; UCAN; VOM Canada; VOM USA; World Watch Monitor.

Names in inverted commas have been changed to protect identities. While we do not provide financial support to every Christian mentioned in *Prayer Shield*, we believe in the power of prayer to change lives.

Precious Jesus

We love you, Lord, and we thank you for the honour of bearing your name.

Lord, make us worthy of our calling. Forgive us our sins and cleanse our hearts of all unrighteousness.

Let us not compromise or be ashamed of the gospel, but rather let us live as if our life were the only story about your great love that our friends will ever read.

Amen

© Release International 2018

releaseinternational.org

Release International, PO Box 54, Orpington BR5 4RT
Tel: 01689 823491 Email: info@releaseinternational.org
Registered Charity 280577

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
Voice 50 YEARS
of Persecuted Christians | 1968-2018

All personal data/special categories of personal data herein are processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR).