

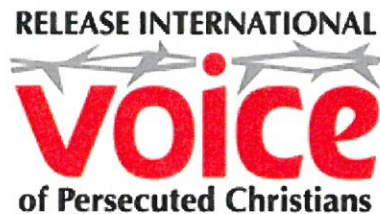
RELEASE WOMEN EMAIL - February 2019

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Release Women Monthly Email - Feb 2019

Hello Friend

40x40x40

Is this a new command about how many times we should forgive a brother or sister if they sin against us? No, although maybe it should be! 40x40x40 is a Lenten initiative Release volunteer Margaret has suggested and which Release Women is keen to support. We hope that you will be keen to get involved too!

Ash Wednesday on March 6 is the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, a period of reflection and preparation as we lead up to Easter Sunday and remember the glorious resurrection of Christ and God's gift of salvation to us all. Margaret's inspiration for this Lenten initiative is from scripture and the words we read in Isaiah 53v7:

'He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.'

We know these verses refer to Christ before his crucifixion and yet we also know that many of our persecuted family also remain silent before their accusers: refusing to recant their

faith, refusing to endanger others. Some even refuse to cry out when they are beaten. Eritrean gospel singer Helen Berhane tells in her powerful story, *Song of the Nightingale*, how during her imprisonment for her faith she fixed her mind on this very verse to stop her crying out in agony as she was beaten. 'As he continued [to beat me],' she writes, 'and I still did not open my mouth, he obviously thought that he was not beating me hard enough, so he redoubled his efforts.'

During the **40 days** of Lent, could you commit to spend **40 minutes a day** in silence, in prayer and reflection for your persecuted family? In addition, could you commit to give **40p each day** to help to give them the tools they need as they live under oppression and persecution?

Resources are available to support you to do this. The Prayer Shield in Release's *Voice* magazine and on our [website](#) provides a daily prayer point to use during the 40 minutes. Read again the Passion narratives in the Gospels, or read [Helen's story](#), available from the estore on our website. Collection boxes, for your daily 40p, are available on request from the office (info@releaseinternational.org or 01689 823491). At the end of Lent, you can send the money from your box as a cheque, made payable to Release International, with 40x40x40 written on the back. The money will help to support women in the Strength to Stand groups in Egypt and Pakistan. You can read more about these groups in the next edition of Release Women's newsletter *Embrace*, available at the beginning of March.

If just one of you takes up this initiative, 40 prayers will have been offered for the persecuted and £16 will have been raised, but if 100 of you take up the challenge, that's 4,000 prayers and £1,600! What a difference that will make to our persecuted family.



Thank you, Margaret, for your wonderful suggestion. We pray that you will all be inspired to take part and make a difference.

Blessings

Release Women Team

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.

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