



## Release Women Monthly Email - March 2019

Hello Friend

### Persistent women of prayer!

I'm sure that we are all familiar with the parable of the persistent widow, told by Jesus in Luke 18:1-8. The story tells of a widow who repeatedly asked a judge to grant her justice against her adversary. Eventually, because of the widow's persistence in asking, the judge determines that he will see that she gets the justice she has asked for. If the disciples, who were with Jesus on a daily basis, needed encouragement to be persistent in prayer, how much more do we need it?!

Earlier this year some Release colleagues visited refugees in Lebanon, where they met with Christians who had fled the war and persecution in Syria. One Syrian refugee, John, feared that his daughters would be kidnapped by the Syrian militia and so he sent his family to Lebanon. He remained in Syria, despite his own life being at risk. He was a wealthy farmer and was forced to pay *jizya tax*, a fine for being a Christian, which he paid in gold. Despite this, Islamic State came to his farm and tried to steal his animals. John was shot three times in the leg before he managed to escape, with the help of friends, to Lebanon.

During his first six months in Lebanon John was very depressed. His wife wanted him to go to church, but he refused. If Jesus had wanted to save him, he would have saved all his property, but he had lost it all, a million dollars! Depression and bitterness engulfed him. John's wife didn't give up on him, she was very persistent in encouraging him to go to church. John said that if he'd argued with her, he wouldn't have had a place to sleep! Eventually he started to go to church and the Pastor told him to read the Bible. As John read God's word, he realised that although he had lost a million dollars' worth of property, he was gaining Christ. John did some work for the church as an engineer on projects that helped other refugees in Lebanon. His wife's persistence had paid off. 'Today, Jesus is everything!' says John. 'I no longer care what I have lost. Now I sleep soundly because I have given Him all that I am and I know He will provide for me every day. I lost a million dollars, but I gained Jesus Christ.'

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You can see more of John and 'meet' his wife in Release International's new DVD *Forced to Flee*, available in mid-April, from the office and from our [eStore](#). The DVD is about Christians who have had to take flight and leave their homes because of their faith in Jesus.



We need to continue to be persistent in prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters, and for the persecutors. Jesus reminded his disciples to be persistent in prayer (verse 1), but he also reminded them that God will bring about justice (verse 7). The widow's persistence led to justice; the wife's persistence led to renewed life in Christ. Like the widow and the wife, let us be women who are persistent: persistent in prayer for the persecuted. Who knows what our persistence will lead to?!

Blessings

Release Women team

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Please CLICK on the red button if you prayed.

I prayed!

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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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