



## Release Women Email - August 2020

Hello Friend

### Commit to stand with Susanna

It was an ordinary day. Susanna (pictured - courtesy of *Free Malaysia Today*) left her home early to babysit a friend's children while the parents visited the hospital. When she was at her friend's house, she called her husband and asked him to come and collect some items from her car and deliver them to another friend. Her husband arrived and collected the items before leaving to deliver them. That was the last time that Susanna saw him. A short time later her husband, Pastor Raymond Koh, was abducted off the street in Malaysia by 15 men in seven vehicles in an operation lasting less than a minute, and he has not been seen since.



Susanna tells her story to Sarah, host of Release International's Voice podcast, in the latest episode: *Where is Raymond Koh?* With love and gentle humour Susanna describes her husband as a simple and humble person, able to live with just three sets of clothes! He is a loving husband and caring father, who shows his love through acts of kindness. He loves to read the Bible, to pray and to worship on his guitar, even composing his own songs.

On top of being a church pastor, Raymond's gentle and compassionate heart led him in 2004 to start a social organisation to minister to the poor. As well as working with those with HIV and Aids, Raymond also sought to empower single mothers, to teach them to bake and to cook, so that they could supplement their income. His work was not without risk and in the podcast Susanna describes how both she and Raymond received death threats in 2011, accusing them of converting Muslims to Christianity.



Before his abduction, Susanna noticed a spiritual deepening within Raymond which may have been God's way of preparing him for what was ahead. He began to take longer prayer walks in the morning and evening and he memorised whole passages of scripture, as well as showing greater sensitivity towards his family.

It is more than three years since Raymond's abduction and Susanna is honest about her experiences since then and the struggles she has had with feelings of anger, frustration and bitterness. But she has also experienced God at work in her life, convicting her of wrong attitudes, especially towards the police. God has brought her to a place of forgiveness and love for her enemies – and she describes how she demonstrated this through a remarkable act of grace! As she has learned to focus on God, and not on her circumstances, she has gained confidence and is able to face the media, the lawyers or the police. 'All glory to God,' she says, 'He's there; He shows up for you and guides you through.'

You can listen to Susanna's prayer requests for her family, for Raymond and for the country of Malaysia on the podcast [Where is Raymond Koh?](#) But you can also do something practical and sign a [petition](#) to the Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Inspector General of the Malaysian Police, calling on the government to release information about Pastor Raymond's disappearance and demanding his immediate release and safe return to his family. The petition also calls for justice and for those responsible for his disappearance to be held accountable.



Please will you commit to stand with Susanna and pray that the God of justice will continue to give her courage, conviction and love as she continues to serve the Lord with grace and compassion.

*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.* 2 Corinthians 12:9

Thank you for your prayerful support for our sister in Christ.

Blessings,

Release Women Team