

Release Women Email - February 2021

Hello Friend

Wait for the Lord!

Are you good at waiting for things? I'm sure we have all experienced some impatience as we wait for the Covid restrictions to be lifted and for life to return to something resembling normality!

This week we've been reminded of two of our Christian sisters who are waiting... waiting for the return of loved ones.

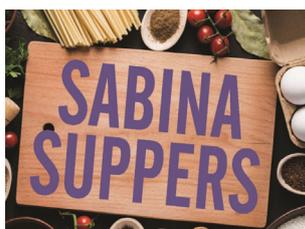
It is just over four years since Pastor Raymond Koh (pictured with Susanna and their family in happier times) was abducted off the streets of Malaysia and has not been seen or heard of since. You can hear Raymond's wife, Susanna Liew, tell their story on Release International's Voice podcast ['Where is Raymond Koh?'](#), recorded in August last year. In the



podcast interview, Susanna reflects on how she has experienced God at work in her life and how He has brought her to a place of forgiveness and love for her enemies, as she waits for Raymond's return. 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.'

Rebecca Sharibu also waits for the return of a loved one, her daughter Leah. Leah was just 14 years old in February 2018, when she was abducted by Boko Haram along with more than a hundred other Nigerian schoolgirls from a girls' school in Dapchi, Nigeria. Nearly all of the other abducted girls were released and returned home, but Leah has remained in captivity. It is understood from the kidnapped girls who returned home, that Leah refused to renounce her Christian faith. And so, Leah's mother continues to wait.

A few weeks ago, we received some prayer points from our sisters in the Strength to Stand (S2S) groups in Pakistan, where they have just endured a second wave of the pandemic. Several of the women, Farzanam, Alishba, Nazish, and Arshad, have asked for prayer as they wait for the blessing of a child. Parveen also asks for prayer for her daughter who has had two miscarriages. Others are struggling with their health and long to be well again: Rasoola with joint pains and who feels sick; Haleema who is recovering from a heart attack; Seeta with a skin allergy and Mumtaz's mother whose spine is damaged and cannot move on her own.



How do you fill your time when you are waiting for something? May we encourage you to turn this time of waiting for lockdown to lift into prayer for these women above, and many others just like



them? Why not also take action and organise an online Sabina Supper or Esther Experience [to raise funds](#) for your persecuted sisters in the S2S groups in Pakistan and

Egypt? Or use one of the Lockdown Church 2021 fundraisers on our [website?](#)

As we journey through this season of Lent, we remember that the Jewish people waited for the Messiah for many centuries; yet when He came, most didn't recognise Him or accept Him. It is our privilege though to look forward in anticipation to the joy of Easter Sunday and the celebration of the resurrection of Christ, and at the same time we can remember our persecuted sisters.

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14

Blessings,

Release Women Team

Please CLICK on the red button if you prayed.

I prayed!

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