



Embrace

Newsletter of Release Women
Summer 2021

Sabina Wurmbrand

God is great and He can do everything!

Many of you will be familiar with the Strength to Stand (S2S) groups which your generosity helps to support in Egypt and Pakistan. Christian women in countries such as these often face marginalisation and injustice, through lack of access to a good education, for example.

This can result in poor employment opportunities and economic well-being, with Christian communities frequently living in poverty. S2S groups help to build resilience to economic oppression by helping the women to save small amounts of money each week. This then enables some of the women to take out loans to start up small businesses. The groups also help to build resilience to persecution by helping members to understand their identity in Christ and to develop their faith in Him. The positive impact of these groups is not just on the women who attend them; but also on their families, as Rachel's story from Pakistan demonstrates.

Rachel has two children, a son and a daughter. Her son is married and has two young children of his own.

However, the young couple struggled to live peacefully together, and Rachel's son felt that his wife was always fighting him. Perhaps it was no surprise then that she asked him for a divorce. When Rachel's son had an operation on his throat, his wife took the opportunity to leave the marital home, and returned to live with her mother. Rachel's son was devastated and he confided in his mother.

As she listened to her son's problems, Rachel drew on her own faith in God. 'Don't worry,' she told her son. 'Our God is a living God, and He can turn [around] your wife's heart and mind.' At the next weekly S2S meeting, Rachel confided in the group, and shared her family's problems. She asked them to pray for her daughter-in-law. For two months Rachel and the women in the S2S group prayed for her daughter-in-law. At last, God changed her daughter-in-law's heart and mind, just as Rachel had asked, and she returned to her husband and now lives peacefully with him.

As harmony in her family is restored, Rachel is keen to give God the glory for the change He brought about: 'God is great and He can do everything. I give big thanks to God and to all my group members and our facilitator.'

By putting her trust in God and by asking her S2S group to join her in prayer, Rachel has seen her living God work in a difficult situation. We pray that this will strengthen her and those around her, making them more resilient when they face oppression and that it will enable them to be ready to stand for Jesus if they face persecution.



A Strength to Stand group praying together.

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
voice
of Persecuted Christians

Release Women: Connecting Christian women in the UK and Ireland with their suffering sisters around the world.

Editorial

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Recently I have become aware of just how blessed we are as I look at God's creation that surrounds us. I find it becomes even more amazing when seen through the glorious sunshine we've been having during these past few days. Praise the Lord for His goodness to all of us.

This edition of *Embrace* is slightly shorter than usual and has a focus on the S2S groups in Pakistan. Included with it is a copy of Release's new 'Fundraising Flyer' (Click [here](#) to view) to inspire you with creative ideas to raise funds for the S2S groups or any other aspect of Release International's ministry. We pray that this and the stories in this edition of *Embrace* will help you to have more understanding about the ministry, as well as inspiring you to seek new and creative ways to help 'raise the voice' of our persecuted family, or raise funds to 'give them the tools' they need to live fully for Jesus Christ.

All three women featured have seen God's hand at work in their lives and praise the Lord for His provision for them.

May our Lord speak clearly to you and help you to do His will for our suffering family in Pakistan and the rest of the world.

Every blessing,

Wendy

Responding to the pandemic

We have all been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and our sisters and brothers in Pakistan are no exception. Many families living in poor Christian communities were already struggling to make ends meet and relying on jobs which paid a wage daily. The pandemic meant that many of these jobs were no longer available, and some had to take out loans just to provide 'daily bread' for their children to be able to eat. Some of the women and families of the S2S groups were the worst affected and so, in addition to the S2S groups, a short-term Covid-response project was established to help those most in need. As a result, 61 families, including 22 widows and 144 children, were helped financially to meet their basic needs.

Zubayda is a single mother who lives with her brother; together they support her three children. She received some financial support from this project to enable her to pay back the loan which she had taken out to buy food. Her brother's job was affected by the pandemic, but she has been able to find some limited domestic work in people's homes. She gives thanks to God for His provision: 'I am very grateful to God that He arranged this support for me. I was very worried and was praying



S2S members sharing testimonies to encourage others.

about how I would manage. But He is my living God who cares for me and provides for me.'

Rubina is one of the 22 widows helped by the project. She lives in rented accommodation with her three children, including her youngest son who suffers with mental health issues. Rubina receives a very low wage for her domestic work. With the Covid support she received, she intends to buy groceries and clothes for her children. Her prayer request though is that God will provide her family with a new home, and she sees the support she has received as God opening a special door for them in this difficult time.

NOTICEBOARD

Please give

Please give a gift if you can. It's the generosity of people like you that enables us to help people like those you have read about in this edition of *Embrace*. You can give to the S2S groups via the drop-down giving list on the website, or to any other aspect of Release International's work; or you can contact our Supporter Relations Team (contact details below).

If you no longer wish to receive *Embrace*, please phone or email our Supporter Relations Team (see contact details) and ask to be removed from the mailing list.

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
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Prayer Points



'And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.'

Philippians 4:19 (NIV)

Please pray for the women in the S2S groups in Pakistan:

- That Rachel will continue to be strengthened in her faith as she remembers what the Lord has done for her and her son's family.
- For Zubayda, that as she looks to God, He will continue to meet her needs and that she will cast all her cares upon Him.
- For Rubina, that God will provide her and her family with the new home she desires.

Please pray for creative ideas for fundraising and raising the voice of our persecuted sisters:

- That God will speak to those who desire to fundraise and give them a vision to run with, as well as many new ideas that will involve others.
- That people will be inspired to raise funds for the S2S groups as they read the flyer.
- For fresh ideas of creative ways to engage with others and to raise the voice of our persecuted sisters.

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