

**I WILL NOT
ABANDON
THEM!**

*Fundraising
Guide*

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
voice
of Persecuted Christians



#IWillNotAbandonThem



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Dear Friend,

During my first week as CEO of Release, I met with a pastor from Nigeria who told me how some Islamist extremists came to his home seeking to kill him. They put a gun to his head, but he asked them if he could pray before they pulled the trigger.

Knowing this might be his final day on earth he prayed for these men, asking God to forgive them. Suddenly they decided to leave, saying they couldn't kill a man of God.

What this pastor did was very courageous. But what impressed me most was that he still lived in the same house and continued to witness faithfully for Christ, knowing that more assassins could come again at any time.

Over the years I have met many persecuted Christians like that pastor who shared with me stories of their suffering and their joy in following Christ through extreme circumstances.

Some of the believers I have met were forced to flee their homes. Some had been thrown into prison. All had endured hardships. Some had even seen their loved ones killed.

The Christians we love and serve face tough challenges every day. They need our help and our prayers.

That is why I am inviting you to support Release's ministry by making a special commitment to **pray**, to **fundraise** and to **act** on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world.

Together, we can help our brothers and sisters to rebuild their lives, to grow strong in their faith and to share about Jesus, even with their persecutors!

Paul Robinson Release International CEO



*How you
and your
church
can get
involved*

PRAY: Use our quarterly *Prayer Shield* for a daily prayer point; or check our website, Facebook page, Twitter feed, Instagram or YouTube channels for prayers for you and your church to use.

FUNDRAISE: Encourage members of your home group and others in your church to raise funds to support persecuted Christians through Release*.

ACT: Invite your church leaders to consider the initiatives you'd like to support or organise. These could be connected to the Day of the Christian Martyr, the International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians, or one of the ideas on pages 6 and 7.

** Please do not fundraise from vulnerable people. This is a Fundraising Regulator requirement.*

For help and support join our online community

 [releaseinternational](https://www.facebook.com/releaseinternational)  [@ReleaseInt](https://twitter.com/ReleaseInt)  [YouTube /releaseinternational](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv33333333333333333333)  [@releaseinternational](https://www.instagram.com/releaseinternational) [#DoNotAbandonThem](https://www.instagram.com/DoNotAbandonThem)

TEN IDEAS YOU CAN ADOPT OR ADAPT TO FUNDRAISE FOR RELEASE

1 Host a coffee morning – Ask your home group or other fellowship groups in your church to host a coffee morning. Share with them why you are fundraising for Release. You can provide the cakes and the coffee but people can bring along their friends and have a good time.

2 Let's have afternoon tea – People love a good cuppa, freshly baked scones and cakes so why not host an afternoon tea in your garden or the church hall. Introduce people to Release's ministry using our magazine and general leaflets and invite them to sign up for the magazine and to make a one-off or a regular donation to help persecuted Christians.

3 Host a dinner party – Why not organise a Sabina Supper? This is an initiative to raise awareness and funds for persecuted Christians. Inspired by Sabina Wurmbrand, the pack can be downloaded from our website, or you can call 01689 823491 for a printed copy.



4 Host a screening of *Tortured for Christ* – A moving drama documentary about Richard Wurmbrand, whose bold witness and patient endurance in Romanian prisons still inspires Christians around the world. It is free of charge for private screenings. Call 01689 823491 to order your copy.

5 Monopoly, Scrabble or Snakes & Ladders, anyone? – Why not host fun games nights for your church's youth groups, your home group or friends from work? Invite guests to donate for participating.

6 Hold a sale – Do you enjoy cooking, crafting, or growing plants? Then why not arrange a Saturday sale from your home or church hall. People can be amazingly enthusiastic about supporting charitable sales like these!

7 Run a quiz night – First, arrange a quiz master and a venue. Then look online for the types of questions you want to use. Invite your friends and make sure you provide some tasty snacks. You can charge for tickets and maybe even do a raffle if you have a few items or services that you might want to auction.

8 Organise a sponsored walk – Ending with tea and cake at the church hall. Don't make the walk too long! Challenge the walkers to raise £50 or more each, and if 10 take part, you've raised £500! Also, see page 11 for organised sponsored walks in England you can join.

9 Organise a football match – This is a great way to involve men and young people in your church. Organise and promote a football match and if you don't get enough people playing you can always make it a game of five-a-side.

Ask each player to pay a fee for playing and get the spectators to make a contribution too. Also, you might want to provide some hot drinks and snacks and charge a small amount for them to raise more cash.

10 Organise something more challenging – Such as a three peaks walk, a 50-mile bike ride, an abseil, a bungee-jump, or taking part in a marathon. These are all things supporters have done in the past. See the next page for some inspiring examples of how others have fundraised for persecuted Christians.



Be inspired by these supporters who fundraised for Release!

• **Mervyn** celebrated his 50th birthday with a barbecue in his garden. He asked for gifts, not for him, but for Release. They amounted to some £350.



• **Ella** decided she would 'burn out for God', at the age of 85. So for her 85th, 90th and 95th birthdays, she invited family and friends to celebrate with her at her church, and bring a gift for Release and for a school in India. Each time she raised a total of around £500 for Release!

• **Belinda** arranged a bed push in colourful and comical costumes which raised £1,700.



• **Sam** took part in the Lanzarote Ironman triathlon and raised funds for Release three times. This is a gruelling 2.4-mile swim, followed by a 112-mile bike ride, and a 26-mile marathon. For his last triathlon, Sam raised £600!



• **David** joined one of the Ultra Challenge walks, and raised £500.



• **Catarina** ran the Edinburgh marathon and raised £1,300.



- **Ruth** wanted to honour the memory of her best friend Diane. She was a keen supporter of Release who sadly died of breast cancer at a young age. So Ruth invited friends to participate in the Belfast marathon, and between them, they raised over £1,100.



- **Christine** makes jewellery which she sells to raise funds for Release. Over the years, she has raised almost £10,000 to support persecuted Christians!



- **Robert** arranged a 700+ mile sponsored cycle ride from Cape Wrath in Scotland to Peacehaven in East Sussex. Three riders joined him for the whole distance, and dozens of others rode with him on various days. Altogether, they raised over £50,000!

THE DAY OF THE CHRISTIAN MARTYR

Release invites you and your church to join us in remembering modern-day Christian martyrs, and to raise funds to support their surviving families.

Just call us on 01689 823491 or email us for your free Day of the Christian Martyr pack, which includes helpful suggestions for readings, a sermon, hymns, prayers, and prayer cards, and provides examples of Christians who have died for their faith.



☎ 01689 823491 🌐 releaseinternational.org/martyrs

✉ martyrsday@releaseinternational.org

🐦 #IWillNotAbandonThem

GET READY FOR A GREAT WALKING CHALLENGE!



Each year Release supporters join the brilliantly-organised Ultra Challenge series sponsored walks in various parts of England. These are a few of the walks available:

JUNE	COTSWOLDS WAY	<i>(Bath – Cheltenham)</i>	100km
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JULY	PEAK DISTRICT	<i>(Bakewell – Bakewell)</i>	100km
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AUG	SOUTH COAST	<i>(Eastbourne – Arundel)</i>	100km
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SEPT	THAMES PATH	<i>(Putney Bridge – Henley)</i>	100km
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SEPT	THAMES BRIDGES	<i>(Putney Bridge – Tower Bridge)</i>	25km
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This is a great opportunity to raise funds to support persecuted Christians while enjoying some of the finest scenery in the UK.

There are rest stops with free food and drink every 12.5km and you can walk the full 100km, or do 25km or 50km. Each one takes place over a weekend.

Find out more at ultrachallenge.com





**God will
judge us not
according to
how much we
endured, but
how much we
could love.**



Richard Wurmbrand,
Tortured for Christ



***Thank you so much for transforming the lives of
persecuted Christians through Release International.***

www.releaseinternational.org

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