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## Release Women Email - July 2021

Dear Friend in Christ,

### **‘Because you have prayed...’**

We frequently encourage you to pray for our persecuted sisters around the world. At times, it can be difficult to keep persevering in this, especially when situations do not seem to change. We may wonder sometimes whether God hears our prayers? Do they make any difference? Doesn't God know about our persecuted family anyway; why do we need to pray?

For years we encouraged you to pray for Twen, a young Christian woman who was

imprisoned for her faith in Eritrea in 2005. It felt like a hopeless situation and maybe you felt helpless as you prayed. Your prayers made a difference and Twen was released last year; please continue to pray for her.

In Nigeria, the situation can look especially bleak for Christians as they face attacks on their villages and homes from Fulani militants, or face the threat of kidnap by armed Islamic militants. A Christian mother, Bilkisu (pictured), lost seven members of her family when militants attacked her village just over a year ago. Bilkisu's young son suffered a gunshot wound during the attack and Bilkisu herself was shot in the arm. Over the past year she has endured several operations to try to repair the shattered bone in her damaged limb. Yet despite this, Bilkisu says: 'I know that God, who has preserved my life, will continually be my comfort and will provide for me and my child.'



Please pray for Bilkisu – you can read more of her story in Release's [latest Voice magazine](#).

Release International's partner in Nigeria testifies to the importance of prayer: 'Thank you so much for keeping us in your prayers. Your prayers are keeping us alive and we continue to see the Lord's protection, grace and guidance in all we do.' Keeping people alive is an amazing encouragement to keep praying – our prayers do make a difference!

Just as these testimonies are an encouragement to us, so is God's Word. In Isaiah 37 we read about how King Hezekiah prayed to the Lord for deliverance for the people of Judah from the threat of attack by the Assyrians. The prophet Isaiah sent Hezekiah a message in

response to his prayer:

*“This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: **because you have prayed to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, this is the word of the Lord spoken against him...**”*

Isaiah 37:21-22a

God responded, through Isaiah, because Hezekiah had prayed to him, and the people were saved from the Assyrians. Hezekiah's prayer made a difference.

We have just received some prayer requests from some of the women in the Strength to Stand Groups in Pakistan. So, with renewed encouragement that our prayers do make a difference, please bring these dear sisters before the Lord in prayer.

- Please pray for **Nazih**, aged 28, who has been married for two years and has not yet had the baby she longs for; and for Naima, who is expecting a baby but is feeling very sick. She has asked for prayer for protection of the baby and for her own good health.
- Please pray for **Sonia** and **Meena Amir**, who both have ongoing health problems.
- Please pray for **Ruth**, aged 55, whose husband is addicted to drugs.
- Please pray for **Rasoola**, who suffers with joint pains, and for **Sumera**, who suffers from frequent migraines.

Thank you for your prayers – be encouraged that they do make a difference to your sisters' lives.

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 25 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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