IDOP Resources

Story two: Tsedal (Eritrea)

Tsedal’s husband, Ftsum, was arrested when Eritrean secret police began indiscriminately rounding up Christians from their homes and places of work.

Unable to visit her husband in prison, Tsedal tried to smuggle him medication for his high blood pressure. Ftsum was recognised as a leader among Christians and so was put in solitary confinement, and yet, despite constant ill-treatment, he and other believers refused to renounce their faith. Two years after his arrest he died in prison.

For two months Tsedal remained in the coastal town of Massawa where the family had lived. But when she received some financial support from a ministry related to Release International, the Eritrean security forces began spying on her. Her children began to be harassed at school for being Christians.

So Tsedal moved briefly to the Eritrean capital of Asmara, before fleeing to neighbouring Ethiopia, where she spent several months living in a refugee camp, before resettling in a small Ethiopian town. Despite all she has been through, her trust in God remains strong.