

## **Introduction**

[S1▶] Thank you so much for joining us and for supporting our fundraising event today. Today we are raising funds to support the vital ministry of Release International, Voice of Persecuted Christians.

[S2▶] Release International is a Christian ministry called by God to love and serve persecuted Christians. [S3▶] They work with partners on the ground in around 30 countries across the world bringing all kinds of prayerful, pastoral and practical support to Christians who suffer because of their faith.

## **Story – Luul, Grace and Wisdom**

[S4▶] I want to share the story of one particular family with you. Luul is a pastor from Eritrea who spent 14 years in prison because of his Christian work. He was pastoring a thriving church and had led over 500 people to the Lord. But when he was arrested his life changed forever.

Luul was sentenced without trial and he was never allowed to appeal. He was moved between three prisons and kept in a tiny cell, and his family were never told of his whereabouts. Fearing for their lives his wife Grace and their young daughter Wisdom were forced to flee the country and eventually arrived in the UK.

In prison Pastor Luul was beaten and tortured. But his faith stayed strong. He was even able to lead some of the soldiers and prison guards to Christ. Eventually in 2021 he was released. He managed to escape Eritrea and just last year he was finally reunited with his wife and daughter.

Release International recently spoke to Luul's daughter, Wisdom and here is what she said.

[Show video.] [S5▶]

What an amazing testimony, what a remarkable story of God sustaining the faith of his people in the most difficult circumstances.

## **Call to Action**

[S6▶] This family's story is not unique and Release International's partners are working hard to help people like Luul, Grace and Wisdom who are mistreated because of their faith in Christ.

That work depends on the generosity of Christians here in the UK. We are all part of the one body of Christ. So please do give generously at our event today. You can make a donation here [edit as required], or you can go to the website [releaseinternational.org](https://releaseinternational.org) and give online. Thank you so much for all the contributions you have already made.

[S7▶] And if you want to find out more, Release International would love to stay in touch with you. So please do pick up a copy of the *Voice* magazine and fill in one of these Stay in Touch cards so you can stay informed about this vital work. Thank you. [S8▶]