



Lighthouse News



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“DARE to SHARE Your TESTIMONY” — by Dr. Tom White

When a follower of Jesus Christ in America or the Western World thinks of sharing their faith with another person, they typically have little to fear. However, the same cannot be said in much of the world where believers often risk life or limb or earthly treasures as they obediently fulfill this crucial Scripture: **“They overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony”** (Revelation 12:11).

Dr. Tom White, the Executive Director of The Voice of the Martyrs, shares the important stories of some of these who boldly but gracefully share the “word of their testimony.”

In Pakistan last year when a radical Muslim mob of about 3,000 came to burn the Christian village of Korian, the Christian families ran for their lives. But 86-year-old believer Baba Qadar could not run. He could not even walk. The mob found him lying on his bed outside his house.

He told us, “My family wanted to take me but I could not run. I forced them to run for safety. I told them, ‘Go! I will remain here.’ About 20 to 30 of the attackers surrounded my bed. One of them shouted at me, ‘You are old, so it is better that you accept the true religion. We will not beat you if you say the Kalma (the Muslim confession of faith).’ I said, ‘No, no, I will not say this. Burn me or kill me or do whatever you like. I have said my Kalma and that is Jesus Christ.’ Then they beat me with their weapons — pistols, Kalashnikovs and big sticks. They kicked me.

“Lying on the ground I looked up at them and said, ‘How can you kill me? The Master of Life is only one and that is Jesus Christ. Only he can give or take life, so do whatever you like because I know that it is God alone who can take my life.’”

A group of men picked Baba up off his bed and hurled him into a thorn bush about 20 feet away. One of them promised him, “If you say the Kalma and accept the Muslim faith, we will take you off this bush.”

As some of them turned to walk away, they heard a voice from the thorn bush: “Kill me. Burn me. I will not say the oath.” Furious, they rushed back to the bush and dragged Baba across the yard to a hole in the ground where dogs slept. While beating him, they pushed him headfirst deep into the hole.

He told us, “I pushed myself a little bit out of the hole, just enough to breathe, but I could not move back to my bed. Although my eyesight is poor, I could see fire all around me. My own house was burning. I prayed in my heart, ‘Oh God, you are so great. Please help my family and the villagers that they will be saved.’”

In the morning, Baba’s son came secretly back to the village and placed Baba back on his bed, but the fanatics, still in the village, saw this and chased him away. Baba lay on his bed, still harassed by the persecutors, for three days. Then his daughter came with the police to take

him away to her village.

Baba tells us that his favorite Bible passage is Matthew 10:28-31. He does not fear those who can kill the body, because they cannot kill the soul. He knows that whatever happens he is secure. We are providing aid for Baba and those in the village of Korian.

Just as an 86-year-old man can dare to lift up his savior, so can courageous six-year-old boys in Iran. In a public school in Iran, a six-year-old boy placed his backpack against the wall of his classroom, then went up to his teacher’s desk. “Do you want to know about Jesus?” he asked the teacher. She nodded her head yes. “Okay, this is what I will do,” he said. “When it is time for recess, I will put my backpack by the door and unzip it and leave it open. After all the students leave the class, you go and pick up the Bible and the video from my backpack.”

The next day, he asked her, “Did you read the Bible, and did you watch the video? What do you think about Jesus?” The boy’s evangelistic-minded parents risked going to prison or being killed like other Iranian Christians, but they courageously reached out with their son to love others in a hostile world.

Here at home we can keep a few Bibles or tracts in our locker at school, in our desk at work or in the glove box of our car. There is no law against doing this. The youth in our town gave out 3,000 Bibles to their classmates at school. The Bibles were personalized with stickers of the school mascots on the cover. Working with their youth pastors, the students highlighted special Bible verses before distributing the Bibles. One administrator tried to stop them, but there is no law forbidding one student from giving another student a book — yet. There were only six complaints from parents, and none of the students handing out Bibles were harassed by classmates. Students now read them in their study hall, and extras are passed around from lockers! (Find out more about doing this Bible project at www.takeaBibletoSchool.com)

Choose to live for Christ. Your friends may face eternity without God. You have the answer. Exercise heroic adaptation, overcoming obstacles for the gospel. The cloud of witnesses described in Hebrews 12:1, which could more than fill all of the football stadiums in the world, clap for you.

Heroic Christian martyrs over the centuries did not ask to die. Dying was simply their final act of service in this world. The word “martyr” means witness. As Jesus, our door to heaven, was lifted up, those witnesses who suffer or die today remind us to escape the lure of our world and focus on eternity.

The founders of VOM, **Richard and Sabina Wurmbbrand**, were imprisoned and held in labor camps, tortured and abused for their faith because they dared to live, to reach out to the



(Left) Baba Qadar’s house was destroyed by a mob, but he refused to deny Jesus. Although he cannot read, he told us, “I hold the Bible so I can kiss it.” (Right) Most Muslims are not violent and will accept a gospel booklet about Jesus. Jesus commands us to love our enemies. Whether we effect change is up to God. (Photos courtesy of The Voice of the Martyrs)

citizens of Bucharest in communist Romania. They loved their enemies and won to Christ the invading Russian soldiers. They did not stay inside their downtown church building (with 1,000 members) but took their members outside as living bearers of Jesus Christ. When we asked Sabina how she would describe the Wurmbbrand’s ministry with the persecuted church, she replied with one word: “fellowship.” The fellowship she was talking about is a fellowship that lasts forever.

This is not a strange answer when we remember that we are born with nothing. We own nothing (only use it a few years) and we die taking nothing. When we pray for those who suffer for Christ and pray for our enemies (Heb. 13:3), we are in fellowship with Christ, who asked Saul, “Why are you persecuting me?” After Saul was converted to Paul becoming part of the body, the fellowship, he called his own persecution a “light affliction.”

In the nations where we work, Christians are persecuted for their faith. In Vietnam, Christians are beaten, taken to jail and fined for starting new churches or evangelizing. In Ethiopia, 39-year-old Bashir Musa Ahmed has been sitting in prison without charges for “malicious” distribution of Bibles. The Bibles, which are in the Somali language, were distributed in a zone of Ethiopia where Somali is spoken.

In Bangladesh, Christians who were tortured with cigarette burns for sharing the gospel have their children read scripture to them because they cannot read. In Nigeria, many Christians are killed or wounded and their church buildings are repeatedly burned. We give them medical care, and they continue to rebuild again and again.

When I was in prison in Cuba for a year and a half, my wife did not cry during our three-hour visit and say, “I hope you can get out of here.” Instead, she smuggled powdered grape Kool-Aid to me so the prisoners could have communion together as the body of Christ. Our two children, ages 2 and 4, prayed for me.

Take courage from our persecuted family around the world. We help them. They help us. Dare to live for Christ.

Masthead photo: (L-R) ADM Thad Allen, George Hamilton, and Jack Anastasia turn off switches on attenuator boxes to decrease the Long-Range Aids to Navigation (LORAN-C) signal at LORAN Support Unit Wildwood, NJ on Feb. 8, 2010. The Coast Guard terminated the LORAN-C signal at 19 of its 24 stations (USCG photo by CWO Veronica Bradkowsky)

The VOICE of the MARTYRS was established in 1967 to serve the Persecuted Church wherever in the world fellow Christians suffer simply because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. For a free subscription to their monthly 16-page newsletter, as well as a wealth of other material, resources, and news updates from around the world, please click on this link: <http://www.persecution.com/>