

Stand!

He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few." (*Matthew 9:37*)

Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice

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One Twenty

A kingdom initiative by

GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Raising a powerful last days company of prophetic people who knows their God and does great exploits for Him (Acts 2 : 17-18).

Goshen Events in July/August 2018

Month of July and August 2018

Date / Day / Time	Venue	Event
Thursday 7.30pm - 10pm (Every week except the 5 th Thursday)	170 Upper Bukit Timah Road #19-01 Bukit Timah Shopping Centre, Singapore 588179	ONE TWENTY@GOSHEN Ministering in Word and praying for the needs of the body of Christ.
Thursday 7.30pm - 10pm (5 th July and 2 nd Aug)	170 Upper Bukit Timah Road #19-01 Bukit Timah Shopping Centre, Singapore 588179	GOSHEN PRAYER MEETING for the persecuted and afflicted brethren.

For other events which may be launched after distribution of this issue, kindly look out for updates on our Goshen's Facebook



Why STAND? By the power of His strength, we aspire to stand firmly through the storms that are sweeping through Asia and the world. In the 4th issue of our magazine, we want to encourage you to walk by faith and not by sight. Let us be bold for the Lord.

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(Matthew 9 : 37)*

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Goshen International Ministries Limited is a non-denominational charity serving the afflicted church in Asia and beyond. We are incorporated under the Charities and Companies Act of the Republic of Singapore.

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STAND! is published bi-monthly and distributed free of charge by:

Goshen International Ministries Ltd
MCI (P) 110/05/2016
Reg No. 198204059N

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ARE YOU A DISCIPLE?

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

The Great Commission that the Lord laid down for His church is an imperative for all of His people.

Every disciple has a part to play to bring the good news of the Lord's redemption to people who have yet to taste His goodness.

Disciple vs Believer?

From a Biblical perspective, the words "believer" and "disciple" are used interchangeably. As far as the Lord is concerned, every true born-again believer is a disciple. Obviously, there are believers who are not walking the walk of a disciple, but that does not negate the Biblical truth that all true believers in Christ are called to a life of discipleship.

TRUE STORY:

A brother used to serve shamans before he gave his life to Jesus. When the Lord touched him and healed him of cancer, he decided to be a Christian.

Shortly after He came to Christ, he received a telephone call from a friend in

the middle of the night. This friend needed his help to perform some rituals at the altar, but he turned him down because of his new-found conviction as a believer in Christ. His friend relented and said, "Since you can't help with the ritual, you just give me a ride to the place where the rituals take place". At the insistence of his friend and out of kindness, he gave his friend a lift in his motorbike. He then waited at the void deck for that friend to complete his ritual.

What a shock this brother received when that friend came back to tell him, "Wow my god knows that you have become a disciple of Christ".

The spirit world knows who the disciples of Christ really are. They know Who Jesus is – the Son of the living God. You are a disciple if you are a Christian, period.

Sharing the Gospel

Forcing people to become Christian is unbiblical. It is the Holy Spirit Who convinces people Who Christ really Is and Who draws them to Him.

1 Cor 3:16

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.

There are many ways to share Christ. We can share our testimony of God's goodness -- of how His unconditional love transformed our lives in such a way that we willingly gave up our old undesirable lifestyles. We can also share how God touched and healed our wounds and set us free. We can ask for permission to pray for and bless others if

they are sick or in pain. I believe there are many creative ways to share Christ in ways that are appealing and non-pressurizing.

What paves the way for people to become open to hearing the sharing of His truth is the way we conduct our lives. When people see the peace, joy, contentment, happiness, love, and the power of God working in us, they will want to know more about why you are the way you are. That will give us occasion to graciously share the reconciling love of the Lord with them.

We can reach out to help the poor and the needy. If we see a poor person, we can offer to buy them a meal or we can help them apply for social funds like CHAS if you discover they have not already done so. At times, all they need is a listening ear – just sit and listen, empathise with them when they share their woes. Show compassion to them by just being there with them. They will feel the love of God ooze out of you as the Holy Spirit begin to work in their lives.

In this issue, we feature some testimonies from volunteers who went out to pray for those who are sick or in pain. Their love has touched many hearts resulting in a number of salvations. People were touched by the demonstration of God's love and power as groups of believers ministered in accordance with the leading of the Lord.

"Don't shine so others can see you. Shine so that, through you, others can see HIM."

Quote from Woman of Faith.

Our God is alive, active and powerful.

We give all glory to Him. Enjoy reading. 🌍



ORDINARY PEOPLE, ORDINARY PLACES

A few of us went out with only one thing in mind – to obey Jesus' command to share the Good News (*Matthew 28:18-20*). We had neither experience nor training. All we had was faith that God will be with us as He had promised in *Matthew 28:20*.

We prayed for boldness and courage and set out with just our Bibles and water bottles in hand.

Interestingly, miracles started happening month after month. Strangers opened up to us. Although we prayed simple prayers with their approval, those whom we prayed for said that they felt tangible reductions in symptoms of physical ailments they have been suffering from for a long period of time. After prayer, we shared Jesus with them and some willingly accepted Christ as their personal Saviour.

God's love prompted us to bless and pray for people in the neighbourhood. Each time we went out into the streets, God never failed to show up and many lives have been touched by His love. Here are some of the stories of what God has been doing through **ORDINARY PEOPLE** in **ORDINARY PLACES** over the past 5 months.

Melissa

I recently met a 70-year old lady, Ah Chen, who was seated on a motorized bike. I approached her and asked if she needed any help and we started a conversation. She told me that her nerves were damaged due to complications from a left knee surgery a few years ago. As a result, she suffered persistent pain in her lower back and numbness from the left knee all the way down to her left foot. At times the pain was so unbearable that she had to take pain killers.

I told her I was a Christian and that Jesus loves everyone, including her. I asked if she would allow me to say a simple prayer of healing for her and to my delight she said "okay".

After the 1st prayer, Ah Chen told me that the tightness in her back was loosened and she felt a warm sensation over her back but the numbness in her left leg did not go away. I decided to pray again. Although she was in a hurry to meet a friend, she allowed me to pray for her a 2nd time. After the 2nd prayer, Ah Chen was all smiles when she told me she also felt the warm sensation in her left leg. Since the operation a few years ago

she lost all sensation in her left leg until she was prayed for. All Glory to God for His miracle.

Susan

Whilst eating at a hawker centre, during our regular outreach weekend, I felt prompted by the Lord to speak to a 64-year old lady sitting nearby. Found out from her that the entire left side of her body, starting from her face to her feet has been numb for the past 15 years. Due to financial constraints and the lack of awareness she did not seek any treatment and just endured the discomfort. I prayed a very simple prayer for physical healing in Jesus' Name over this lady. Almost immediately after the prayer, she exclaimed in exuberance that the sensation of numbness had disappeared. In the past, she had visited several churches but never gave her life to Jesus. After experiencing God's touch, she told me that she would want to reconnect back to church life again. How wonderful. Praise the Lord!

Lim Li & Jenny

Mdm Tan was walking slowly with a slight limp. We approached her and introduced ourselves as Christians and offered to pray for her which she promptly agreed to. She shared with us that she is currently under treatment for thyroid problems as well as for several benign cysts around the collar bone area. However, what really bothered her was the swelling around her right knee which made every step she took heavy and tight. After praying for her, Mdm Tan experienced a loosening of the tightness around her right knee. She also felt a lightness in her step.

Not satisfied with the results, we asked Mdm Tan to sit down and we offered to pray for complete restoration of her right knee. After the 2nd prayer, Mdm Tan got up and started walking around briskly. She was no longer limping around. Afraid that she would overstrain herself,

we asked her to slow down her pace but instead she was walking faster than us! Her last words before we parted ways were, "Thank you Jesus" in Mandarin.

Jin

I felt a sense of not knowing how or who to reach out to among the sea of faces. "Lord, without You I can do nothing" was the cry of my heart. I had a desire to see people healed and restored to wholeness. The Lord honoured that desire by directing me to the people in need at the right time.

As I was walking and praying in my heart, I chanced upon an elderly lady sitting all by herself near KFC. Sensing the loneliness in her, I sat down beside her and we chatted for a while. I felt the Holy Spirit within me say, "*Buy her food*". When I offered to buy her food to eat, she shyly refused initially but finally agreed. I shared the love of God with her. She listened intently and was moved to tears at the mention of His sacrifice on the cross for our redemption. She eventually gave her heart to Jesus willingly that afternoon.

Would she have given her heart to Jesus or allowed me to share the love of God with her if I had not bought her a meal? I do not know. All I know is that the simple act of obedience to God's prompting touched her heart in a deep and profound way.

In my own human wisdom, I would not have thought of buying her a meal. I just obeyed the Lord's prompting. ***God's ways are higher than my ways.*** I can do nothing without God but He is able to lead me when I acknowledge His Lordship in every situation. Thank you, Lord Jesus for this precious addition into Your Kingdom.

The harvest is truly great, but labourers are few. Therefore pray to the Lord of Harvest to bring forth labourers for His harvest (Luke 10:2).

Let's partner with God to bring in His great harvest. 🌱

**Names have been changed to protect the identity of the individuals.*

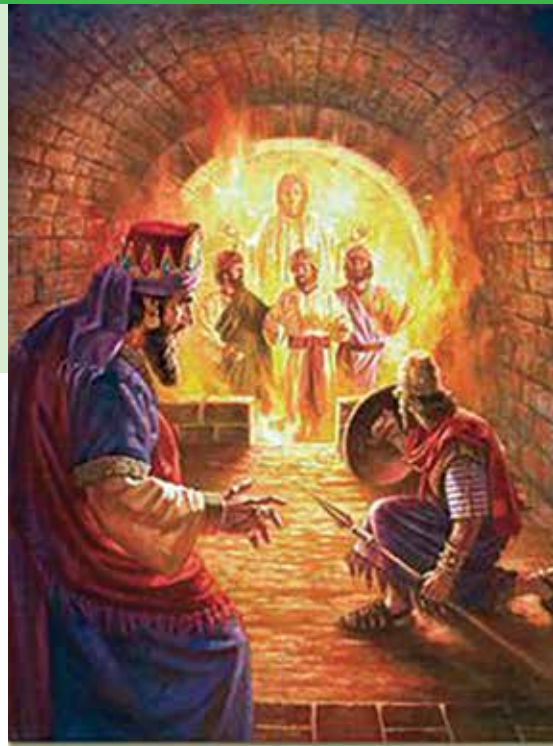
LOVE HIS WORD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

In the book of Daniel chapter 3 we read of how 3 Hebrew friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to disobey God's Word. We all know how the story ended --- God delivered them out of their difficult situation and they walked out of that furnace totally unscathed.

These 3 young people loved God's Word and His righteousness more than they feared for their own lives. The King of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar, made a big golden statue of himself and decreed that people of every nation and language should bow before his statute and worship him under the pain of going through a fiery death.

But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew what the Lord had said in His Word, and they were resolved to keep it no matter the cost. They knew that faithful obedience to His Word can sometimes mean that they would have to pay a price, but they were determined to honour the Lord in all circumstances, including difficult ones.

Can you imagine what was running through their minds the night before they were summoned before the King, the night before their decision to remain faithful to the Lord would be publicly played out before the whole world.



Would they be cowering in fear?

Would they be entertaining thoughts of denying their faith in order to escape a painful death or brainstorming for ways to avoid the inevitable punishment?

Would they be hugging and comforting each other or praying unceasingly for God's deliverance?

They knew there was no escape and they were completely at the mercy of the Babylonians who couldn't wait to see them perish.

We all know now that they did not let fear rule their hearts, neither did they allow even the thought of compromise to enter their minds.

Instead, they braced themselves to do what they knew in their hearts to be the right thing to do.

And so told the King in one accord:-

"King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if He does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

LOVE HIS WORD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND RESOLVE TO OBEY HIM RIGHT TO THE END

What will this generation of Christians do if we were to be one day faced with the same dilemma?

Maybe some will say, "It's okay, we will compromise. Although we don't agree with what our persecutors want us to believe, we will still go through the motions because we think that God will understand the circumstances we are in."

I remembered what a friend told me about an incident she went through.

"I attended a relative's wake. I was asked to offer a basket of flowers in honour of the dead relative. I didn't know the significance of this act. In my innocence I thought this offer of flowers was just a form of showing love and respect to the departed. Since family had already paid the price for the basket of flowers, I agreed to participate."

It was only later that I realised that the names of all my family members were written on a card attached to the basket of flowers. There were many baskets of flowers representing the different families

who were related to the deceased. I was later told I would have to bow before my deceased relative's photo when offering the basket of flowers to him.

All my relatives were looking at me and expecting me to oblige. I could feel all eyes on me and I cringed at the thought of being admonished if I refused to obey. The thoughts, "It's just a bow – not worship" crossed my mind.

However, I finally decided to say "No, I cannot bow before the deceased's photograph at the altar. I'm glad I stood firm because I've learnt that obedience is better than sacrifice."

WHAT CAN WE DO WHEN OUR BRETHEN SUFFERS IN SILENCE?

Obedying the Lord can mean that we have to pay a price. Sometimes, the price can be a small one, but sometimes it can also entail a heft sacrifice on our part. It may "cost an arm and a leg" but **obedience is better than sacrifice** (1 Samuel 15:22).

Persecution and affliction is very much alive in our day and age.

For generations, pastors, believers and missionaries have been harassed, ostracised, discriminated against, tortured, kidnapped and even killed for their faith in and obedience to God. New converts were beaten and forced to renounce their faith. Many were thrown into prison simply because they professed faith in Christ. These brethren did not compromise nor wavered in their faith even in the face of death.

When our present-day brethren are undergoing the fires of persecution and affliction, what can we do to encourage them?

At another meeting, the brother who shared the same passage from out of Daniel 3 shared with us an incident that he had witnessed. This brother is serving the persecuted and afflicted church in another country.

A man was arrested and thrown into prison –he is a Christian Pastor doing good deeds, loving and shepherding his flock.

While suffering and crying out in prison and suffering the pangs of loneliness, one night, at the lowest point of his pain, he asked God quietly: "Does anyone know I am in prison?"

A few weeks later, he received a stack of letters of encouragement. A Christian organisation serving the persecuted and afflicted church have been asking Christians back home to write letters of encouragement to this pastor, as a result of which the many who had heard about his plight responded by writing cards and letters to him.

"IN TEARS, HE WAS COMFORTED BY THESE LETTERS. HIS FAITH WAS LIFTED HIGHER AND HE WAS ABLE TO RISE ABOVE HIS DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES."

Thus uplifted, he counted all the pain he was going through worth the while for the cost of gaining more of Christ. Joy filled his heart and revived his soul!

This story touched the core of my heart very deeply. Many times, this magazine have appealed for you to write a card or a letter to encourage brethren working in the mission field or those currently being persecuted or afflicted for their faith. Sadly, the response to our call to encourage the suffering church has not met with a great response.

I pray that that this true story will touch your heart too. A simple card or letter with some words of encouragement or a verse can go a long way to lift up the hearts of those who need uplifting.

Your encouragement brings assurance, comfort and hope that can help sustain their faith in the midst of their very difficult and trying circumstances. Your letters are a vital connecting link between them and the Christian world outside. Through your letters, they will feel that there are fellow believers out there in the world somewhere who care enough for them to pray for them on a regular basis, and who are concerned about their plight to want to do something to help relieve or alleviate their pains and to bring them refreshing words of encouragement from the Lord.

In the next page, we are re-featuring this aspect of our ministry. In this issue, we would like you to encourage sister Marisol who is fearlessly ploughing in the mission field. Will you pray and write? 🙏



LET US ENCOURAGE SISTER MARISOL AND HER TEAM AS THEY GIVE THEIR ALL TO SERVE, MANY TIMES IN TEARS.

For the story of sister Marisol you can read about in our May – Jun 2018 issue of Stand!

How to write a letter or card to encourage our persecuted and afflicted brethren.

We've made it easy for you! Here are some guidelines.

- Start off your letter by introducing yourself a little bit – where you live, what the area is like, your family, your hobbies, and so on.
- Pray and ask the Lord if He has a specific word of encouragement for your readers.
- You can use an encouraging Bible verse and or some Christian greetings such as 'God bless you' and 'May the Lord be with you'.
- The very act of having received your letter will encourage and assure them that they're not forgotten and that someone is praying for them.
- We will be mailing out the letters/cards received from you by end of August 2018. If you wish to receive a reply to your encouragement letter or card, you may provide us with your name and address so that we can forward such replies to you. Many people have developed rewarding relationships in this way, hearing from people who suffer because of their faith. 📧

Happy writing

pray without ceasing



PRAY FOR KACHIN, MYAMMAR

MAY 2018 – Bombing of Kachin Baptist Mission School in Bawmwang village, northern Kachin State near the territory occupied by the Kachin Independence Army's ("KIA")

Although no casualties were reported from this bombing, school buildings were destroyed. Civilian areas near KIA military posts, including religious centres, have not escaped bombardments as the war between the KIA and the Burmese military escalated in April 2018. Air strikes and heavy artillery shelling have set homes on fire, forcing many to flee into nearby churches or jungle areas.

Civilians are living in constant fear as combatants have reportedly used rape as a weapon of war. Camps for the displaced have not been spared. Entire congregations have also been interrogated.

Since the conflict erupted, many civilians have lost their lives, families have been torn apart, and thousands have been displaced. With no phone connections, most people seeking refuge in the displacement centres and churches remain in a state of isolation, not knowing whether their loved ones & friends are alive or dead. Many others (mainly children, women and elderly) remain trapped in the conflict zone with little or no access to food or clean water. 🌍

(Source : CSW, RI. Photo Credits : RFA)



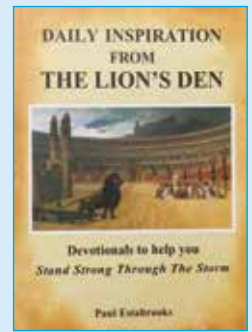
Pray:-

- ❶ Pray for a peaceful resolution of the conflict; pray that the Lord's peace will reign in the state of Kachin and in Myanmar.
- ❷ Pray that the relevant authorities will allow and facilitate the movement of IDPs and other civilians to leave the conflict zones so that they can move to safer and more secure locations where they can receive humanitarian aid.
- ❸ Pray that external international humanitarian groups will be able to gain access and bring in the necessary food supplies, clothes, medical treatment and supplies for IDPs and civilians living in displacement centres or churches.
- ❹ Pray for protection for those seeking refuge in displacement centres and churches. Protect the young, the elderly, the women and pregnant mothers from sickness and disease. Pray that the Lord protect them from rape or abuse from other IDPs living in the overcrowded centres or from the military or KIA.
- ❺ Pray that our Christian brothers and sisters here will remain focused and rooted deeply in the Lord. May they find comfort and strength in God their rock, their fortress and deliverer. Pray that they will be able to show love to their fellow countrymen despite the harsh and uncertain conditions they are living in, and in so doing bring glory to God.

DAILY INSPIRATION FROM THE LION'S DEN

Author: Paul Estabrooks (Senior Communication Specialist, Open Doors International)

Book Review Rating: **Highly Recommended** ★★★★★



Living in constant fear for their lives and those of their families'.

Every knock on the door brings a shiver down their spine together with questions ringing in their heads. Questions like, "Are they coming to arrest me?"

Gathering with fellow believers in secret and having to pray and praise God in whispers.

Memorizing the Word of God in their hearts in case the only Bibles and Christian Literature they have in their possession are confiscated by the authorities.

These are some of the circumstances most believers in persecuted zones are living in on a daily basis.

Most of the stories and illustrations featured in this book come directly from true life situations of individuals from the Persecuted Church in different parts of the world. It tells of how believers are being

subject to harassment, ridicule, torment, discrimination, imprisonment and even murder.

Yet these believers did not give in to fear but continued to fix their eyes on Jesus and to trust Him. These collection of true stories were compiled out of interviews conducted by Open Doors' "field communicators" around the world.

The daily devotionals in this book are Scripturally inspired. They are also derived from Open Doors' global training program called "Standing Strong Through The Storm (SSTS)". SSTS is an Open Doors book which sets out the basic curriculum of three-day seminars taught around the world, often in areas of conflict.

The author's prayer is that these daily glimpses into the application of the Word of God will strengthen and encourage you to stand strong too! 🙏

Excerpts from "Day January 19 titled One Big Family In Christ"

Andre's father, Bishop Haik Hovsepian, mysteriously disappeared en route to the airport. Days later his dead body with multiple stab wounds was identified. Bishop Hovsepian was a brave and humble man who was much loved and respected by the church. He courageously spoke out against the persecution of Christians, campaigned for the release of Rev. Dibaj from prison and took care of Rev. Dibaj's 4 children, during Rev. Dibaj's imprisonment. This he did in spite of the fact that he had also to care for own 4 children.

Andre testified that God used the love and support of the body of Christ to bring his family courage during the dark days following his father's murder. He said, "It meant a lot to me that someone I didn't know from another country was praying for me and was caring for me."