

Stand!

"... the God we serve is able to deliver us"
(Daniel 3:17) (NIV)

**I will follow Christ,
even unto death**

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One Twenty

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 March/April 2019

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 (21 st Mar & 11 th Apr)	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 Goshen's Facebook page



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 8th issue of our magazine, we want to challenge you to examine your faith in God – can you say without a doubt *“even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You”* (Mark 14:31) (NIV).



To get a soft copy of the Stand!, just scan this QR code which will lead you directly to Goshen International Ministries' website.

Dear Valued Supporter,

We are pleased to enclose this edition of our magazine STAND!

We pray that the Lord will move your heart to stand with fellow believers who are going through the fiery ordeals of persecution and affliction in our region. We trust that you will continue to pray for the persecuted and afflicted church in our part of the world.

We also like to ask that you consider supporting this ministry financially so as to enable us to continue to minister to your fellow Christian brothers and sisters in the persecuted church.

Our hearts continue to grieve to know that the late JJ's children, in the "Save the Children" project, continue to remain in the land where they are suffering persecution and have not been able to be relocated to a safer place. There have been numerous delays and postponements in the court hearings to validate JJ's last Will and Testament. On top of that, there have been delays with respect to the processing of visas & related travel documents.

We request you pray that God will intervene in the situation. Pray that the Lord accelerate the court hearings so that they can be quickly relocated. Pray that Jesus will heal their emotions from the trauma of losing their father and that they will remain steadfast in Christ. Pray also for their safety in the midst of the uncertainties that they are faced with.

Blessings!



Stand!

Standing for The Afflicted church – Nurturing and Developing it!

1 Thessalonians 5:11
Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

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(For all donations please inform us via email to admin@gosheninternational.org or call 6456 0042 to facilitate our accountability to you.)

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

Goshen International Ministries Ltd
MCI (P) 057/08/2018
Reg No. 198204059M

All mails to be directed to:
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DIFFUSER OF THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST 2

2 COR 2:14-16

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life".

The apostle Paul was a persecutor of Christians before our Lord Jesus Christ took hold of him and asked him "Why are you persecuting me?"

Having tasted the goodness of God and having understood what true salvation is, Paul set off on a mission to share the good news to the gentiles. Along the way, he confessed that he was afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies (2 Cor 4:8-10).

Paul was a diffuser of the fragrance of Christ. He carried the fragrance of the Lord everywhere he went. He said that he was the aroma or fragrance that either brings death or life.

Wow, have you thought about what it means to smell like roses to some (life) and when, in the next moment, stink like decaying flowers to others (death).

Sharing from the persecuted and afflicted church:

Persecution and affliction of Christians in India have been increasing in unabated intensity over the last few years. Extremist groups are taking the law into their own hands to close down churches and to harass believers. Some pastors have been physically attacked and

church services have been disrupted. Many believers have had to flee for their safety.

However, the dire situation did not deter most believers from worshipping God or from sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus. They believe that God is watching over them and hiding them under His wings. While they covet our prayers, they are resolved to let nothing stop them from loving God and loving others.

For many new converts, the believers they encounter ooze with the fragrance of Christ. These new believers want the Rose of Sharon – eternal life from Christ Jesus. But to the extremist groups, the very same believers smell like decaying flowers.

Let's intercede for India:-

1. Pray that God will impart His strength to the believers as they brace themselves to face persecution and affliction and accelerate the sharing of the gospel to many.
2. Pray that church buildings will be returned and restored to persecuted believers and that there will be freedom of worship in these villages.
3. Pray that believers will be protected from the extremists. Pray that God will open the eyes and minds of these extremists and convict them of unrighteousness so that they will turn to the Lord in heartfelt repentance.



What about Singapore? Singaporeans are just too busy working hard for a better life. For some Singaporeans, life revolves around putting food on the table. While it is totally understandable, God promised in Phil 4:8 that 'My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus'. Ask Him now to meet your needs for He is a generous God.

However, I trust that you have been putting on Christ daily. He is the Godhead of our life and in doing so, you have the full blessings from Him.

I would like to encourage believers to recognize the importance of our daily conduct. We need to carry the fragrance of Christ in our lives. Our lives must be inked like a letter that is read by everyone (2 Cor 3:2).

What I am saying is that in your busyness, practice the new self that Christ has given you. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Secondly, love your neighbor as yourself as there is no commandment greater than these.

Avoid temptations that leads you into sin & unrighteousness and that may bring accusation and shame to the faith in Christ. Diffuse the fragrance of Christ in love, in forgiveness, in fairness, in goodness and in kindness, giving glory to God.

Leave your enemies to God who will fight for you. Romans 12/19 'Vengeance Is Mine, I Will Repay' Plus, didn't Proverbs 25:22 say, "You will make them (your enemies) burn with shame (when you are good to them), and the LORD will reward you.'

Today, let's encourage one another to be a diffuser of the sweet fragrance of Christ.

2 Cor 4:6

Your life must be a light that shine out of darkness. That light of knowledge of the glory of God!

2 Cor 4:7

Be a jar of clay which store treasure - showing everyone that this all-surpassing power is of God.

Blessings! 🙏



BIBLICAL AFFLICTION – THEN & NOW (1)

– by Stephen McIlroy

Since Biblical times, believers in Christ have been persecuted and afflicted for their faith. Even though Christians today enjoy greater religious freedom in a number of countries, persecution of Christians has been on the rise in other parts of the world.

Let's look at the oppression of God's people in the book of Daniel chapter 3 verses 1-30. You will find many similarities between the afflictions suffered by God's faithful saints during Biblical times with those believers in persecuted countries experience today.

AUTHORITY

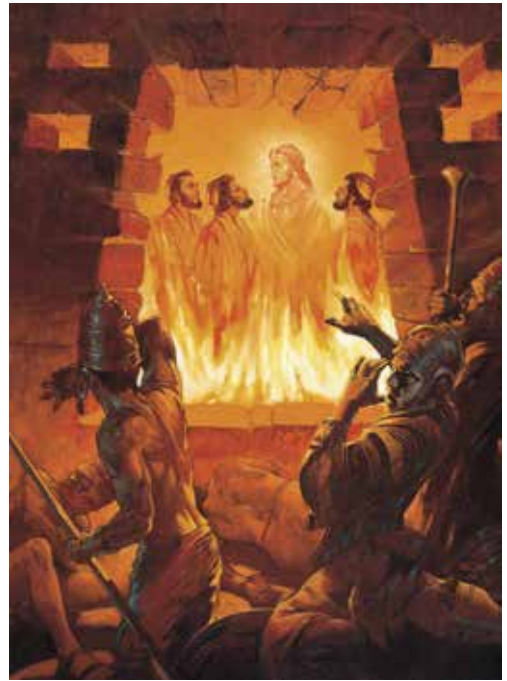
Nebuchadnezzar was an egotistical king who oppressed his subjects and who once demanded that they bow down to a statue that he had set up in the plain of Dura. He sought homage from all conquered peoples and their kings. It is possible that the last king of Judah probably bowed in submission to King Nebuchadnezzar. The weight of oppression was everywhere present in the kingdom that he ruled over. However, "God can silence a world power in the height of its insolence" (Paul Yonggi Cho).

Many believers today face similar pressures from ungodly authorities who impose unreasonable restrictions upon their religious freedoms. Some believers respond by complying with these restrictions while others make it a point to stand up for their rights and for the faith to which they hold dear. For example, there are localities in India which have introduced anti-conversion regulations which impinge upon the rights of individuals to freely choose their religion.

CONFORMITY

Nebuchadnezzar worshipped many gods, Bel being the main one. This ninety feet high image may have been one of the gods he worshiped or the image could be that of the king himself. Many scholars believe that the latter is more probably the case. He intimidated his subjects into bowing down in worship of the statue that he had set up, which most people in his kingdom did.

However, there were three godly Jewish young men who refused to comply with Nebuchadnezzar's unreasonable demand. These young men were devoted worshippers of YHWH who had internalized the command that the Living God expect His people to live by: "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3). God still His expects His people to worship Him alone and to be faithful and loyal to Him.



INTIMIDATION

Consider how "the prospect of the roasting tends to motivate" people (Dale Ralph Davis). Nebuchadnezzar's subjects no doubt keenly felt the intensity of the pressure that weighed heavy on their souls. The intimidating atmosphere was compounded by malicious accusations levelled on the three Hebrew young men. However, the strength of the Lord enabled them to stand firm in the midst of their fiery trial.

In many countries, believers in the Lord Jesus suffer unfounded accusations which in many instances lead to their imprisonment. For example, in recent times a female believer in Pakistan was falsely accused of misdeeds which she was innocent of. The accusations led to her imprisonment.

In Daniel 3:16-30, we read of how God's people chose to obey Him even in the midst of severe persecution and affliction.

OBEDIENCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE (DANIEL 3:16-18)

Wow! What a bold and solemn confession we read from the three Hebrew men. Notice their claim that YHWH alone is able to deliver them from the flames of the furnace. Like the Lord Jesus in Gethsemane, they placed their hopes completely in the Lord. Whether God would choose to deliver them from the flames of fire or whether He would take them home to be with Him, these three young Hebrew men exemplified for us what it means to trust the Lord completely. While "they were unsure of God's circumstantial will (whether they will escape or not), they were sure of God's revealed will that "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Dale Ralph Davis).

There are many pastors today on the island of Mindanao, Philippines, who are suffering afflictions of various sorts. But rather than fleeing from their afflictions, they have remained obedient to the Lord and faithful to their ministerial calling.

ONENESS OF GOD'S PEOPLE (DANIAL 3:19-30)

The three Hebrews feared YHWH more than man and were ready to die rather than lose the integrity of their faith. Such bravery can be seen on many of the pages of Scripture and is exemplified here in Babylon. As Walter Luthi puts it, that there are three

men in Nebuchadnezzar's totalitarian state who would not fall down in worship of the image that the king had set up is itself a miracle. "That the three were not devoured by the fire is no greater miracle. Suppose the fiery furnace had consumed them. The real miracle would have happened just the same" (Walter Luthi).

Neither Nebuchadnezzar, nor any ruler past or present, has any power over YHWH's people, except that which the Lord has allowed. The words of Jesus to Pilate that "you (Pilate) would have no power over Me if it were not given to you from above" (John 19: 11) attest to the spiritual truth that the Lord has ultimate authority over all things.

Together with other witnesses of incident, Nebuchadnezzar saw a fourth man in the furnace walking with the three Hebrew young men in the midst of the blazing fire. Many scholars believe this fourth man to be an instance of the pre-Incarnate visible manifestation of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

While relating their conversion experiences, many believers in persecuted lands today speak of how a man dressed in white would appear to them in a dream or in a vision. In many of these testimonies, the man in white identify Himself to them as the Lord Jesus. This would invariably lead to their turning their lives over to the Lord Jesus and trusting Him for their salvation. Like it was in the days of old, Jesus makes Himself real to those who are going through fiery ordeals. 🌿

... to be continued



HOPE IN THE WORD

“You’ll never change!” has been levelled at him umpteen times.

Heated arguments which regularly turned physical were a recurring scene at home. No amount of screaming, reasoning, persuasion could persuade Bryan into mending his ways. Even he himself never thought of abandoning his life of debauchery.

His parents were always busy working to make ends meet so there was little adult supervision at home. At a very young age, Bryan was molested by a male relative. Since then, he has been watching pornography and reading Playboy magazines. From age 11 onwards, he entered into homosexual relationships with several different men. At age 15, he was so hopelessly addicted to

alcohol that he could not sleep without first getting drunk & by age 17 he was hooked on drugs and hanging out with a gang. Bryan’s life continued spiralling downhill.

Who would have expected a responsible student with good grades to degenerate into a promiscuous teen, addicted to drugs and alcohol and constantly involved in drunken brawls?

By age 22 he has seen and done it all. Armed with only secondary education, the only job he could secure in the Philippines was as a machine operator. With nothing to look forward to in his own country, he decided to venture out to Taiwan where he worked as a machine operator for 2 years. There, he met his Filipino fiancée.

He returned to the Philippines to prepare for his wedding with whatever little savings he had. Just when Bryan thought that life would finally change for the better, he was dealt another blow - his fiancée called off the wedding as she decided to go back to her ex-boyfriend. Devastated and heart broken, Bryan went into depression and was perpetually inebriated with alcohol. He had no one to lean on to for support except for his gang members.

Is there *hope* for someone like Bryan?

“MANY A TIMES, WHEN WE ARE ENSLAVED TO WRONG AND UNHEALTHY HABITS AND ARE OVERWHELMED BY A SENSE OF HOPELESSNESS, WE THINK AND FEEL THAT LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING.”

The truth however, is that we have hope in Christ, for *“with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption”* (Psalm 130:7).

The 1st of July 2008 was a day Bryan would never forget, not because it was his 26th birthday but because he almost ended up killing a complete stranger. He felt slighted and insulted over something this stranger said, so in a fit of rage, Bryan pummelled him with his fists. He pointed a knife at him & challenged him saying, “Who is greater, me or you?”. Bryan simmered down only when the stranger knelt down in fear and said sorry to Bryan.

To all outward appearances, Bryan seemed to be a strong, brave and undefeatable man, but something within him was crying out for help. That night, as he lay awake in bed

pondering for hours over the emotional wreck of his life, Bryan decided to talk to God in his heart. At 4 in the morning, after telling God that he wanted to change his life and asking God for help, he fell asleep. He awoke the next morning to be disappointed that nothing had visibly changed. During lunchtime, Bryan repeated the same prayer to God. Again, there was no tangible or visible change in him or his circumstances. Not one to give up or give in, Bryan repeated the same prayer for the 3rd time in the evening of the same day.

Sitting alone in his living room while his mom was cooking dinner, he couldn't keep from feeling dejected & lost. All of a sudden, he felt the hair on his arms stand on end as God began to move his heart. He knew it was God, but not knowing exactly how he ought to pray, he just called on the name of Jesus several times. Instantly, he lost the desire to swear, curse, take drugs & alcohol or fight. From that day onwards, he could sleep soundly without relying on drugs or alcohol and he stopped engaging in all vices and immoral behaviour.

Bryan's grandmother used to conduct Bible studies at their house every week & Bryan would avoid going home on those days because he didn't like Christians. He thought they were all crazy and labelled them “hallelujah people”. But after that encounter with God in his living room, he had a burning desire to know more about this true God. So on the Sunday morning of that week, while walking to church, he felt goose bumps all over his arms and started crying for no apparent reason. When he reached the gate of the church, he was still crying uncontrollably and continued doing so throughout the entire worship service and sermon.

All his neighbours and friends couldn't believe the changes they saw in Bryan as he started regularly attending church, Bible study, reading the Bible and singing songs of praise to God. His gang members didn't think Bryan would stay in church for long. They taunted him endlessly and declared that he wouldn't last 3 months in church and would eventually return to his old lifestyle and habits soon. But they were wrong. Not only did Bryan not leave the church, he started sharing the gospel to his gang members and eventually led two of them to Christ. These two friends left the gang, with one of them eventually becoming a pastor. That is a work of God! *"With man this is impossible, but not God; all things are possible with God"* (Mark 10:27) (NIV).

Six months after his conversion, Bryan felt God's call for him to be a pastor. He attended Hope In The Word Church and was later appointed as Youth Pastor where he disciplined & trained young people for the work of the ministry.

His mother cried when she heard Bryan preaching the gospel in church. After Bryan's conversion, his mother decided to rededicate her life to Christ and his father accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour just before he died of illness in 2015.

God continues to amaze Bryan at every stage of his life. Besides coming to know Christ in a real and personal way, Bryan was also miraculously healed of diabetes and high blood pressure. The healings were confirmed by his doctor after Bryan had gone through



a series of blood tests. He is now happily married with four lovely children. When he proposed to his then girlfriend, now his wife, he had only 750 pesos (ie. SGD \$15) in his possession but God provided the rest of the finances for his wedding.

Isaiah 44 : 2

"This is what the Lord says – He who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen".

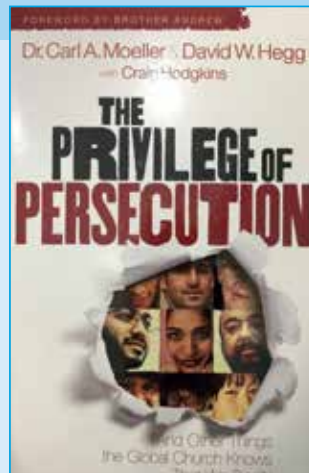
The promise in **Isaiah 44:2** is the anchor that keeps Bryan firmly and persistently grounded in the Lord.

There is **hope** in the Lord Jesus. There is **hope** in His Word. 🌍

THE PRIVILEGE OF PERSECUTION

*Authors: Dr Carl A. Moeller & David W. Hegg with Craig Hodgkins
(Foreword by Brother Andrew)*

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



For millions of Christians around the world, following Christ can be painful – even deadly. Yet the church continues to thrive in the most difficult places.

- What can we learn from these oppressed believers?
- How do they pray for those in authority?
- What is their attitude toward government and political power?
- What does “worship” mean to them?
- Where do they find their strength and joy?

Dr. Carl Moeller and Pastor David Hegg explore the attitudes and disciplines of persecuted believers around the world. Drawing on real-life stories and key Scriptures, they discover a surprising reality : the faith of the suffering church is vibrant, sacrificial and communal – and much healthier than that of the Western church.

You will be challenged and refreshed by those in the global church : their uncompromising approach to Scripture, worship, prayer, community, leadership and giving. The Privilege of Persecution reveals the beauty and power of Christ and His body. 🙏

For those who are interested to purchase this book, you may send us an email at admin@gosheninternational.org.