

Stand!

"Those who know Your name trust in You, for You Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You."

(Psalm 9 : 10) (NIV)

Persecuted - But Not Forsaken

INSIDE:

03 | This Is How We Fight Our Battles

06 | Thrown From A Moving Train

08 | Restoring The Broken – Sri Lanka

10 | More Than Enough



Dear Valued Supporter,

We are pleased to enclose the 11th edition of our magazine STAND!

Why STAND! By the power of His strength, we aspire to stand firmly through the storms that are sweeping through Asia and the world.

Recent reports indicate that Christians have, by far, been the most persecuted group in the world today. Yet many are either ignorant of their plight or too reticent about discussing Christian persecution.

One of the great privileges of being called a child of God are the opportunities that the Lord gives to us to do good by the power of the Holy Spirit. As the apostle Paul admonishes us: "... as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). Blessing those who are persecuted for the faith is precious to the heart of the One Who feels keenly the pain of those who suffer for His sake (Acts 9:4). As members of the same Body of Christ as those who are undergoing persecution, we must not allow inertia to bog us down from stretching out a helping hand to them.

We can do our part either by way of prayer, financial support to fund relief work, or bringing words of comfort and encouragement to them. As you do so, the Lord sees the love that you have for all the saints and great will be your reward.

Please join us then to pray without ceasing for the persecuted around the world.

You may also consider financially supporting our current project, "**Restoring the Broken – Sri Lanka**" to bring relief and aid to your fellow Christian brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka.

STAND!

Standing for Persecuted Christians!

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Blessings!

For donations to **GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED :-**

Bank Transfer to OCBC Bank Code : 7339 Account : 508-308962-001 Pay Now : UEN No. 198204059M

By Cheque issued in favour of **GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED**

mail to My Mail Box (Business) No. 880228, Singapore 919191

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

What we can do for Churches:

We are able to conduct talks and hold booths and activities to help raise awareness of the plight of persecuted Christians. Contact us at 6456-0042 or email: admin@gosheninternational.org for more information.



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



THIS IS HOW WE FIGHT OUR BATTLES

I pondered and mused over the Hong Kong Anti-extradition Bill protests in June this year. Millions of residents swarmed the streets. What I heard was a distinctive loud corporate voice as they put their feet down for what they deemed just and right.

In the series of protests, they marched down in unison – depicting a sea of black! They came out from their homes dressed in black to send an unmistakable message: “We are united and we are serious about this matter. Do not try to undermine us and we will not be moved till you act on it.” Persistency!

I asked the Lord whether there are spiritual truths that we can glean from this historical moment in Hong Kong.

I am most definitely not suggesting that we march down the streets in protest at whatever cause might ache us. Our country is blessed in that we have official channels by which we are able to give our feedback, ideas, and inputs to our authorities.

But looking beyond the political into the spiritual, are there truths that we can glean from what we have observed in Hong Kong that might teach us something about the daily spiritual battles that we are engaged in with the enemy of our souls -- Satan which is, the devil himself.

Ephesians 6:12 is clear that our real battles are fought in the spiritual realm ~ For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this world's darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Since our real battles are spiritual in nature, how do we wage battles against the adversary of our souls and his hordes of demonic powers?

Let's hear what the Lord says.

Acts 12:1-5

Herod the king stretched forth his hands. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

In the book of Acts, James was killed. For political reasons, Herod also decided to put Peter under arrest even though he knew full well that Peter was innocent.

(Herod's actions against James and Peter recalls for us the many reports that we must have read about the many pastors and believers in some parts of the world who were abducted and imprisoned for their faith. Such unjust deeds extend to acts of arson against church buildings and the dwellings of believers, leaving in their wake suffering families and even lost lives)

The early church understood the power of prayer. While Peter was kept in prison, the church began to **PRAY WITHOUT CEASING** unto God.

Firstly, the church came together in one place to pray for Peter's release. They did not just pray individually, they came together in corporate prayer as well, believing that there is something to corporate prayer that will accelerate the answer to their prayers. They prayed with fervency and with humility.

Secondly, they prayed without ceasing unto God. They didn't stop praying until God acted.

Can you imagine the strong and powerful corporate voices rising in unison to God?

They understood that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective and they understood that GOD is their help in times of trouble.

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16).

"Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them from their distress." (Psalms 107:13)

They believed it wholeheartedly and they kept praying.

True enough, according to His Mighty Name, God sent an angel to rescue Peter!

Acts 12:7-10

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up... When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

Read again what Peter exclaimed when he finally came to this realisation. He said, **Now I know of a surety, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews (Acts 12:11)**



GOD acts when His saints pray! Hallelujah, Praise God!

The early Church has let us in on the mystery of the power of corporate prayer. They talked and lived out their faith even when they were faced with opposition because they know Who their GOD is.

We need to quickly understand spiritual truths and come together frequently to intercede for what burdens the heart of God. Crying out for mercy for the sins of our land, for the nations, for salvation for our loved ones and for the churches to rise up in these last days.

Our prayers are like incense before the throne of GOD. If we intercede with this conviction of knowing who our God is, we will surely experience victory in CHRIST.

This is how we fight our battles. 🌿



PRAYING TOGETHER

Goshen International Ministries Limited is committed to corporately praying for Persecuted Christians in Asia and beyond.

4 On the last page of our STAND! magazine, you will find a weekly prayer calendar. We ask that you to keep the leaflet in your Bible so you can pray alongside with us.

2 At our Goshen's Facebook page, we regularly post prayer needs of the nations around us. 'Like' our page and pray with us.



3 Lastly, we would like to invite you to our monthly prayer meeting. Join us as we corporately pray as a body of Christ. Check out the venue and time at our event page. Email admin@gosheninternational.org if you are keen to join us.



THROWN FROM A MOVING TRAIN

Pastor Suryadev climbed aboard the crowded train with a rucksack that felt awkward and heavy. It was full of Gideon's Bibles and he was on his way to a meeting to distribute them.

As passengers jostled for space, the zip on his bag broke and several Bibles fell to the carriage floor. A few people picked up copies and asked him what they were. Enthusiastically he replied, "They are good news! If you want to, you can keep one!"

Although some did, there were some others on the train who, when they realised what the Bibles were, began shouting angrily, "This man is a Christian!"

They then proceeded to violently throw Pastor Suryadev out of the train which had already begun to move. He

fell on the concrete platform and became unconscious. He suffered a fractured skull, shoulder bone and ankle while also losing several teeth in the fall.

Release International staff met up with Pastor Suryadev several months after this traumatic incident. Although he can remember little about what happened after being thrown out of the moving train, he said, *"The Lord saved my life. My Lord was with me; he is the reason I am alive now."*

Notwithstanding this traumatic episode, Pastor Suryadev continues to minister the gospel in several villages. Even though opposition from extremists is constant, he bravely soldiers on. *"Many people are coming to church – but they are afraid," he said. "But when you give your life to the*

Lord, He is with you. He is in control of our lives."

Many pastors in the region he ministers in have testified to the fact that they have been intimidated and falsely accused of forcing people to turn to the Lord. They have witnessed church buildings being vandalised. In some cases, they have even been prevented from returning to their homes and churches. Although these false accusations of pastors forcibly converting, inducing, coercing or bribing people to become Christians may not lead to convictions in a court of law, they nevertheless constitute a major hindrance to the spread of the gospel. In addition, these faithful workers of the Lord have had to put up with the constant threat of physical assaults.

"But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened'. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander" (1 Peter 3:14-16) (NIV).

In spite of all these oppositions, we are heartened that God has promised in *Isaiah 41:10b*, that He will strengthen us and help us and uphold us with His righteous right hand.

(Article shared by Release International)



Please join us in praying for our brothers and sisters in the persecuted parts of India.

- Pray for Christians there to draw strength and courage from the Lord and to stand firm in their faith in Christ even while they may be undergoing trials, tribulations, afflictions and persecution.
- Pray that they will not be discouraged or tempted to renounce Christ even when it means that they may have to lay down their lives for the Lord. Matthew 16:25 ~ "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it."
- Pray that God will bring recompense to His children in these affected parts whatever was wrongfully taken away from them. 🙏



RESTORING THE BROKEN – SRI LANKA

TARGET FUNDS TO BE RAISED: **\$13,000.00**

(PRIORITY: URGENT)

On Easter Sunday this year, a number of Sri Lankan churches were subjected to mindless attacks from unknown attackers.

A number of victims lost their lives, while several hundred others suffered various degrees of injuries. Many of the surviving victims are calling upon the outside world, including Christians from outside the country, to pray for them and, if possible, help them in practical ways.

DEFEND

the weak
and the fatherless;

UPHOLD

the cause of the poor
and the oppressed.

RESCUE

the weak
and the needy;
deliver them from the
hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4



This ministry would like to play a small part in the overall global effort to help with the expenses that can provide for the restoration of some normalcy in the lives of the victims and the churches. In addition, we would also like to provide some financial support to the children of persecuted pastors from around the country.



Your gift could provide:

- Assistance and finances to reconstruct and repair churches that were destroyed and burned out in the explosions.
- Pay for rental of temporary premises so that congregations with no church buildings can continue to meet for worship and not walk away from their faith in Christ.
- Emergency assistance, medical interventions and access to counselling for Pastors and their families in the affected churches so that they can continue with their ministries and be a blessing to the Christian community in Sri Lanka.
- Help for children affected by persecution to know that they are not alone. To equip them to stand strong in the face of suffering and without wavering in their faith.
- Finances to gather children of persecuted pastors from all over Sri Lanka so as to provide an opportunity for the next generation of believers to forge friendships and create their own informal Christian support groups. 🌍

Gifts can be made payable to: **GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED**

Bank Transfer to OCBC Bank Code : 7339 Account : 508-308962-001

For a direct deposit into our bank account, please inform us via email to admin@gosheninternational.org or call **6456 0042** to facilitate our accountability to you.

Alternatively you may mail your cheque to our address:

My Mail Box (Business) No. 880228, Singapore 919191

(In the event the target fund is reached, any excess will be channelled to the general fund towards persecuted Christians)

Thank you for your gifts of love and may the Lord bless you because of your generosity.



MORE THAN ENOUGH

One can of sardines, which costs S\$0.40, feeds 9 people.

That is the only thing Minn could afford to buy for dinner as his monthly full-time missionary/church planter allowance was only 4,000 pesos (equivalent to S\$100) a month. Despite the meagre allowance, he was able to support his wife, 11-month old son, 4 Bible school students and 2 high school students for 5 years. Minn took in the 2 high school students, out of compassion, because their parents were too poor to support or educate them.

Life was tough in the poor and remote village in the Philippines where God called Minn to plant a church. Houses had no supply of electricity and they had to make do with candles and kerosene lamps for light in their house at night. Most of the townsfolk were uneducated and survived mainly by fishing or farming.

Minn supplemented his meagre allowance by planting fruits and vegetables for their own consumption. The sold what little excess they had to church members in the city. Minn's wife also made and sold papaya salad and beaded bracelets in the market. In order to stretch the dollar, they had to change their 11-month old son's brand of milk to the cheapest brand available.

Due to a prolonged period of poor nutrition and heavy manual labour, Minn's wife developed Goitre, an abnormal swelling of the thyroid gland, which required treatment and long-term medication which they could not afford. When they ran out of money, they had to stop taking the medication and rely on God for healing.

What made Minn and his wife sacrifice so much just so that people would have a chance to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ?

It could only be because they know that Christ is **more than enough**.

"Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ" (Philippians 3:8).

Undaunted by his personal challenges and sparse living conditions, Minn personally raised 4 pastors from this group of uneducated and illiterate townspeople. He spent many hours and days reading the Bible aloud to help them memorize Scripture since they could neither read nor write on their own.

Minn was born into a middle-income Christian family and worked as a seafarer. During his pre-ministry days, he made quite a sizeable annual income. His wife had a stable and lucrative career in a bank. They could have easily continued living a comfortable life raising their kids, buying a home & going on yearly holidays abroad just like most other people. But they did not because they heard the call of God. *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37) (NIV).*

Minn and his family decided that they would go wherever God called them.

When Minn first set foot in Cambodia, he had neither friends nor connections and he could not understand the Khmer language. However, within 4 months of arriving in Cambodia, he mastered the language and was able to understand and converse fluently in Khmer.

The Lord also blessed Minn and his family. Every church that he planted, grew and flourished in a short span of a few years. He even succeeded in planting 5 churches in 5 different villages in a region where no missionary would dare to go to because of the vehement oppression and the antagonistic attitude of the townsfolk towards Christians.

It was in a town like this that Minn started a school in an old rented house, to teach English to teenage Cambodian children. There were more than 10 registered children studying in the school and they enjoyed the lessons tremendously. However, the fact that they used Bible verses and



Bible stories in their curriculum angered some people in the community so much so that they tried to frighten Minn into closing the school.

One hot sunny afternoon, as was his usual daily routine, Minn went out of his house to collect water from a communal tap with government-supplied water outside the house. Just when he started closing the front door, the sound of a loud bang stopped him in his tracks. He turned around to find his front door badly dented, 3 huge stones lying on the ground and several men running away. It was a near miss. If he had closed the door a second later, the stones would have hit him instead of the door. God had protected him indeed.

After this incident, parents withdrew their children from the school. Eventually Minn had to close the school, but in the midst of this trial, one of the students accepted Christ whilst studying in the school. This student eventually became a pastor. Minn converted the school's premises into a church and he began to hold services there instead.

Minn is unfazed by the threat of intimidation and rejection from the very people he is reaching out to because he knows that he is called to be a church planter. He continues to preach the gospel wherever God calls him.

Is Christ more than enough for you?

"But seek you first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). 📖

Goshen International Ministries' Purposes

We aim to actively engage with our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ in Asia and beyond : praying with them, standing with them, helping them and learning lessons of true discipleship with them.

Goshen Events in September/October 2019

Date / Day / Time	Venue	Event
Thursday 7.30pm - 10pm (12 th Sept & 10 th Oct)	170 Upper Bukit Timah Road 11 th Floor Rhema Hall, Bukit Timah Shopping Centre Singapore 588179	GOSHEN PRAYER MEETING for Persecuted Christians.

In the event of any changes after distribution of this issue, kindly look out for updates on Goshen's Facebook page

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.

© Goshen International Ministries Ltd
The material contained in this publication cannot be reproduced in any form without permission. You may request for permission by emailing us at admin@gosheninternational.org.

To unsubscribe from STAND!, please email admin@gosheninternational.org or call 64560042.

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

Goshen International Ministries Ltd
MCI (P) 014/08/2019
Reg No. 198204059M

All mails to be directed to:
Goshen International Ministries Ltd
My Mailbox (Business) No. 880228
Singapore 919191
Tel: (65)64560042 / (65)64560423
Email: admin@gosheninternational.org
www.gosheninternational.org