

MAY – JUN 2026

STAND!

by Goshen International Ministries



For the Lord is
the Spirit, and
wherever the Spirit
of the Lord is,
there is freedom.

(2 Cor 3:17)

**Freed from
Darkness by
the Living
Word**

**Project –
Relief for
Victims
of Anti-
Christian
Acts of
Violence
in Burkina
Faso**

04

09

Dear Friends,

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it (John 1:5).

A sudden burst of light in a pitch-black room is like a razor-sharp knife cutting through the gloom. The immediate reaction - acute physical pain in the eyes and head. As permanently dilated pupils adjust to the abrupt and unwelcomed intrusion of light, one may even experience temporary blindness.

The gospel is like that burst of light, shining into and exposing the darkness of the world that we live in. It is, therefore, no surprise that this can at times spark discriminatory responses from some people who are living in spiritual darkness.

So do not be dispirited if you lack a sense of belonging in this world because ultimately, we belong to God and to the light, and are not of this world (John 15: 18-19).

Be encouraged by the story on page 4 of this issue of Stand! Magazine, where a man and his family received freedom from spiritual darkness through the light of God's Word.

Ephesians 5:30

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones (Eph 5:30).

Blessings!



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(For all love gifts, please e-mail admin@gosheninternational.org or WhatsApp 9788 0457 to facilitate our accountability to you. If you are giving towards a specific project or cause, please indicate the name of the project or cause in your e-mail. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions with respect to the projects that we are undertaking in support of the persecuted church. Many blessings to you in the Name of the Lord!)

How we can serve you:

We will love the opportunity to visit your church or small group to raise awareness of Persecuted Christians among those in your circle of influence. We can share in your services or meetings, run mission booths and conduct interesting activities for people of all ages. By inviting us, you may be playing an important part to support our persecuted brethren.

WhatsApp us at **9788-0457** or email: **admin@gosheninternational.org** for more information.



Scan the QR code for a soft copy of the Stand!



Paul Robinson (CEO-RI)

“If you stand for Christ and His truths, you will inevitably face opposition, because the truth of the gospel highlights ungodliness. It will highlight things in the law and the way that people live their lives that are inconsistent with the Bible,” says Paul Robinson, CEO of Release International.

Persecution, as opposed to difficulties in daily life, challenges your faith at a higher level. Persecution forces you to broach the question, “If I choose to live for Jesus, what price am I willing to pay?”

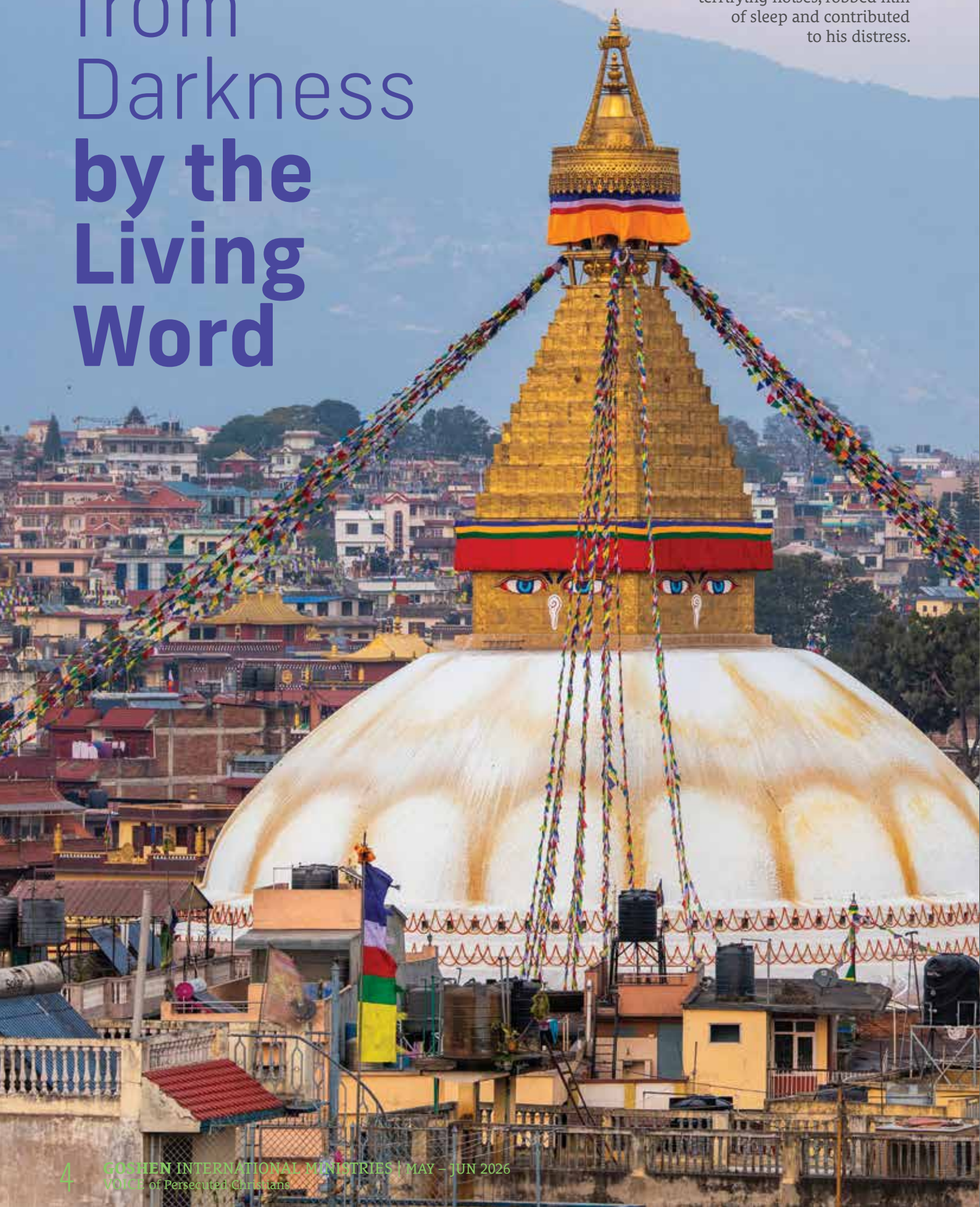
Will you still choose to follow Jesus if it meant losing everything that is dear to you?

Jesus said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it but if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”

Matt 16:24-26

Freed from Darkness by the Living Word

Mahesh said that while he was experiencing demonic oppression, the sounds coming from a nearby temple mingled with other terrifying noises, robbed him of sleep and contributed to his distress.





A search for Jesus led a Nepalese man from demonic madness to courageous gospel ministry.

Pastor Mahesh Mukhiya projects a calm presence and a quiet intensity about him. He loves to read God's Word and is passionately eager for the people of his district in Nepal to hear the gospel and to have a local church where they can attend services on a regular basis. This recent peaceful demeanor is a far cry from the nightmarish existence he and his family endured before they encountered Christ.

Mahesh's younger brother suffered from mental distress that is not due to a medical or neurological condition. When he touched other people in the family, the same spirit of madness would infect them as well.

Mahesh and his brother could not sleep or rest, even with strong medications.

When infected, his mother too would laugh out loudly and uncontrollably at night.

When they heard the regular sound of rituals at a nearby temple, the demonic spirits in their home would sometimes make noises. Mahesh often heard horrible shrieking and scuffling sounds all the time. The voices of these spirits told him that his family was doomed.

"The spirit that was in me told me, 'I am going to finish this family,'" Mahesh recalled. He said these demon-gods gave him the power to see the spirits of strangers and read their past, present and future without even knowing them.

The family wept and cried out to their gods for relief but nothing changed. Concerned relatives invited a witch doctor to Mahesh's home, to try and exorcise the spirits or at least find the reason why this evil presence was afflicting the family. But when the witch doctor

came and saw them, he got scared instead and ran away. He would not go near them at all.

Besides the fits of demonic madness, the family was known to be negative and argumentative. They quarreled with anyone who would approach them. Their neighbours called them cursed and left them to deal with their own madness and discord.

But freedom was not far off.

The Word Opens the Way

Mahesh's sister Alisha, though afflicted like the rest of them, had married and moved away. She heard the gospel one day, believed in Jesus Christ and was subsequently set free from the dark thoughts that had bound her. She recognised immediately that the madness was spiritual in nature and that her family could only be rescued from it in the same way she had been. She visited her family, intent on sharing the gospel.

Up till that time, Mahesh did not know who Jesus Christ was. All he knew was that Jesus was one of the gods whom the foreigners believed in.

Alisha eagerly shared her faith with Mahesh, explaining how Jesus could free and heal him but Mahesh was skeptical about believing in somebody else's God. He felt that his gods were far better than her Christian god. So, he forbade his sister from sharing any further and began to eject her from the house.

Undaunted, Alisha visited Mahesh and her family for a few days the following month and spent much time praying alone for her family. Her father questioned and mocked Alisha about her prayers and then evicted her again. But before she left, Alisha put a gospel tract and a small New Testament Bible in Mahesh's room.

That evening, the madness came upon Mahesh's brother like never before. This time, he turned murderous – attempting to throw his 3-year-old son into the fire. This behaviour shocked Mahesh and left him shaken.

When Mahesh went to his room, he saw the gospel tract and the New Testament Bible his sister had left behind. He remembered how his sister preached to him about Jesus. Out of curiosity, he decided to read the tract to better understand what his sister was talking about. He kept the tract to read but tucked the New Testament Bible under his brother's pillow, thinking it would act as a good luck charm. He didn't know then that real change would come to his life through that little Bible.

His brother was completely healed in the middle of the night and from that day on, Mahesh started searching for Jesus.

Rest for the Weary

Mahesh and his brother visited Alisha on a Thursday to find out more about Jesus. Alisha's church members usually gathered in church for a time of prayer and fasting every Friday, so she invited her brothers to church to meet the pastor. The pastor listened to their story carefully and offered to pray for them.

"How much will it cost for my brother and me to get healed?" Mahesh asked the pastor. The pastor assured them there was no cost and then proceeded to pray for them.

On Saturday, the day Nepalese Christians usually gather, the brothers attended a worship service at the church. Mahesh knew right away that something had changed.

That Sunday when Mahesh returned to his own house, he did not hear any strange sounds. In fact, he slept peacefully with no disturbance. He enjoyed the sleep and rest that night. When he woke up on Monday morning, he searched the Bible and websites for information about Jesus Christ. Before he even knew what it meant to fully submit his life to Christ, he found himself sharing to his community about the goodness of Jesus.

As the pastor disciplined him, Mahesh came to saving faith in Jesus Christ, along with 15 members of his family. Eight months later, he was baptised. Soon after, he went to Bible school to become a pastor and church planter.

An Assault at Home

When he finished his studies, Mahesh started a home fellowship with just 15 members - the new believers in his family. Soon, other people joined them, so Mahesh rented a bigger space to accommodate the growing congregation. He also trained others to share the gospel alongside him. Through their outreach in the town, the church grew to about 120 members.

By late 2023, this increase caught the attention of a group of thugs. Extremist acts in India are mostly coordinated and funded by established organizations in the country. Earlier that year, a well-known group, known to be very vocal and committed to a religious form of nationalism, conducted a series of rallies in Nepal to garner support for their version of religious purity. These rallies triggered a wave of anti-Christian violence across Nepal.

Mahesh's church felt the after-effects of that violence - 20 gangsters threatened to make things difficult for the landlord if she continued to rent her property to



the church. Frightened, the landlord served an eviction notice on the church.

Mahesh later discovered that the same group also threatened other local building owners against renting their premises to the church. As such, church members were forced to move the church's equipment and supplies into the second floor of Mahesh's house to resume worship services in tighter quarters.

Then on 15 June 2024, as Mahesh was leading worship, hundreds of people surrounded and stormed the house. They recorded the encounter and posted it on social media. Surprised at their brashness but determined to keep the peace, Mahesh invited these people to sit down and wait for the service to end. Instead, the group berated and argued with the Christians. A leader of the group confronted Mahesh, yelling, "Why have you left our ancestors' religion? Before only your family was Christian, but now hundreds of people have converted!"

The yelling and pushing escalated until one man physically assaulted Mahesh while another struck Mahesh's mother in the face, breaking her teeth. Others smashed instruments and equipment. Police arrived

after 10 minutes, arrested some of the assailants and sent the rest away. Mahesh and some of the church leaders went to the station as well.

Because of the size of the crowd and the risk of escalating violence, officials suggested to Mahesh that he should not pursue any charges against the perpetrators of the violence.

Mahesh was prepared to forgive and not pursue any legal action against them.

However, the angry crowd was not satisfied. They demanded that Mahesh and the other Christians not be permitted to go on preaching and evangelising. Then someone suddenly asked a question that made Mahesh's heart rejoice – "Why and how did he become a Christian?"

Elated by that question, Mahesh grabbed the opportunity to share the gospel and the reason for his hope with the belligerent crowd. After that incident, one man came to faith in Christ and was welcomed into the church.



Hundreds of angry people surrounded Mahesh's house church. Some entered the building, physically assaulted Mahesh and his mother, and smashed church equipment. Authorities took Mahesh as well as the attackers to the police station.

Divided but Devoted

A community leader later met Mahesh and proposed a compromise – meet as smaller house fellowships instead. So now, the church meets in smaller groups, coming together only once a month for a larger combined fellowship time. Although scattered into smaller gatherings, the church continued to grow in this town.

With this new arrangement and in the aftermath of the attack, the church would worship quietly with no loud music for two to three months. But now that everyone in town knows that there is a church and Mahesh is the pastor, they can sing loudly and play music again. Police officers and the local government representatives will visit them, not with a negative intention, but for the purpose of protecting them from any further attacks.

Mahesh has, on several occasions, encountered the man who injured him. “Sometimes when we meet on the way, he cannot look me in the face, but my head is always up,” Mahesh said. “I have forgiven him and

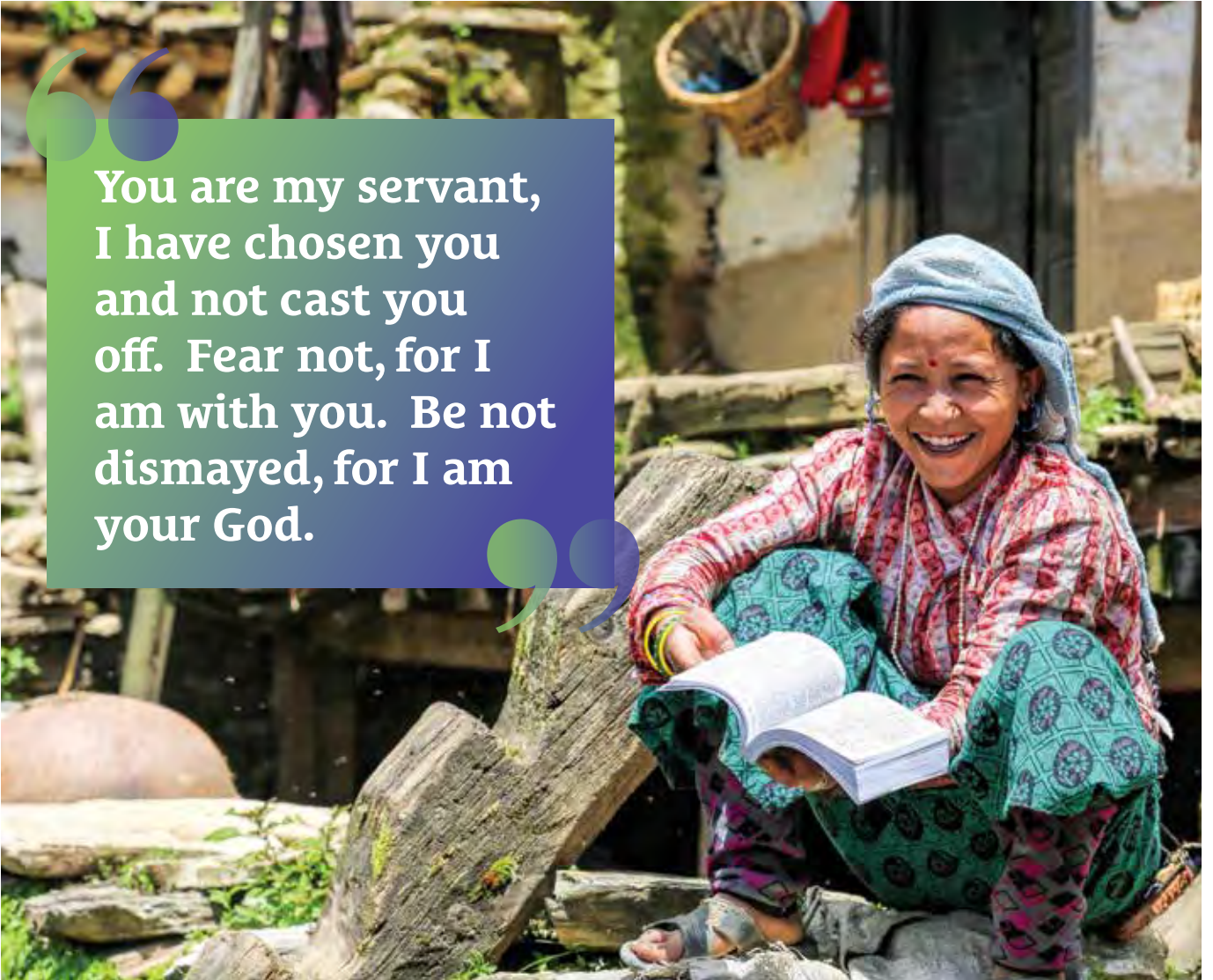
I really feel pity for him. I pray a lot for the men who attacked us.”

Persecution, however, is not over. Mahesh received death threats from the same group of thugs. Less than two months after the first attack, one of the house churches was disbanded and eight families in the church were expelled from their community.

Mahesh encouraged his family and church from God’s Word, teaching them that suffering for righteousness is a form of fellowship with the Lord. He is convinced of the truth in Isaiah 41:9-10 which says, ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off. Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God.’

The ongoing threat has not changed Mahesh’s vision to keep praising the God who called him out of the darkness of demonic oppression into His marvelous light, and to bring others into the Light as well.

There is a total of 22 wards in the district that Mahesh lives in. His desire is to have a church in each one of those 22 wards. It is clear that the gospel is advancing in the areas around where Mahesh is ministering in.

A photograph of a woman in traditional Indian attire, including a blue headscarf and a colorful patterned shawl, sitting on a large log. She is smiling and reading an open book. The background shows a rustic outdoor setting with wooden logs and a basket hanging on a wall.

**You are my servant,
I have chosen you
and not cast you
off. Fear not, for I
am with you. Be not
dismayed, for I am
your God.**



Dear Heavenly Father,

We rejoice that You have called Nepalis like Mahesh, Nagenndra, Anu and Prakash out of spiritual darkness and into Your marvelous light. We praise You for taking people from every tribe or caste as Your own possession and adding them to Your household of faith.

For sons like Prakash, who are torn between honouring their parents and following You, give them strength to lovingly proclaim the hope they have in You to their parents and family members.

For husbands like Nagenndra, who are praying for their wives to come to faith in You, may each man's witness draw his spouse to You.

For front-line workers like Mahesh, who are faithfully advancing Your gospel despite the opposition, lead them divinely to those who are ready to receive Your truth.

*May Your name be glorified throughout Nepal.
In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

(Article by The Voice of the Martyrs as adapted by Goshen)



Displaced children waiting for distribution of educational supplies.

PROJECT- Relief for Victims of Anti-Christian Acts of Violence in Burkina Faso

Children and youths should not have their childhood marred by violence, bloodshed, displacement, hunger and long-term suffering.

These young ones should have been living happy and carefree lives, worrying only about their grades and schoolwork.

Yet, these displaced Christian children are deprived of an innocent childhood because of the violence perpetrated by radical groups targeting Christians in Burkina Faso, a country in the Western part of Africa.

Goshen is participating in The Voice of the Martyrs' project to provide educational opportunities for about

1,138 displaced Christian children in Burkina Faso by subsidising the cost of school fees, uniforms and supplies, and at least one meal a day for an entire year.

Many of these children are :

- orphaned with no surviving relatives who can help care for them;
- physically injured and/or emotionally traumatised;
- children of widows and pastors.

Uneducated children and youths are easy prey for exploitation by those with evil intent.

If you feel led by the Lord to help these precious children and youths in Burkina Faso, please see the details below for the ways through you can send your gift.



Widow, Anna, and the house she rents.



Displaced Christian woman reading the Bible and praying.



Displaced Pastor and his wife praying.

Gifts towards our current project can be made payable to:
GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED

OCBC Bank Code : 7339
Account : 508-308962-001 (for Fund Transfer)

Pay Now : UEN No. 198204059M

For a direct deposit into our bank account, please email us at admin@gosheninternational.org or WhatsApp **9788 0457** to facilitate our accountability to you.

(In your e-mail to us, please indicate your name and contact number and the specific project you wish to give to.

In the event the target fund is reached, any excess will be channelled to the general fund which goes towards assisting persecuted Christians.)



GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES OUR PURPOSE

We aim to actively serve the Lord and our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ around the world by praying for them, standing with them, encouraging them, helping them in practical ways and learning lessons of true discipleship from them.

*Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.
Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies (Ps 119:98).*

Persecuted Christians pay an extremely heavy price to keep following Jesus. They constantly battle with discrimination, ex-communication, false allegations, imprisonment or life-endangering situations that may cost them their lives or injuries leading to permanent scars and disfigurement.

Their journey would have been arduous without God and His Word guiding, strengthening, comforting and encouraging them.

Continue to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ – that they will have the courage, divine wisdom and discernment to know what to say or do in a difficult or dangerous situation.

If you feel led by the Lord to financially support these persecuted believers, you may forward your gifts to
GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED via:

**Bank Transfer, OCBC Bank Code: 7339, Account: 508-308962-001, or
PayNow: UEN No. 198204059M**

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