

# Stand!

"Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me." (Mark 8:34)

## The world behind me... the cross before me

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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 January/February 2019

Date / Day / Time	Venue	Event
Thursday 7.30pm - 10pm (Every week except the 5 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)	170 Upper Bukit Timah Road #19-01 Bukit Timah Shopping Centre, Singapore 588179	<b>ONE TWENTY@GOSHEN</b> Ministering in Word and praying for the needs of the body of Christ.
Thursday 7.30pm - 10pm (10 <sup>th</sup> Jan & 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb)	170 Upper Bukit Timah Road #19-01 Bukit Timah Shopping Centre, Singapore 588179	<b>GOSHEN PRAYER MEETING</b> 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 7th issue of our magazine, we want to encourage you to turn away from looking at self and live a life of complete and total submission to the will of God.

*"Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me." Mark 8 : 34 (NIV)*

## Dear Valued Supporter

We are pleased to enclose our magazine STAND! for your reading

We pray that the leading of the Holy Spirit will speak to your heart. We trust that you will support us through prayer, partnership and financial giving for the persecuted and afflicted church.

Here's wishing you all a very blessed New Year.



# 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.*

Blessings!

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## DIFFUSER OF THE FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST 1

Let's read Mark 8: 27-29 together.

*Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"*

*They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."*

*"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

*Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."*

Who will you say Jesus is if this question is directed to you?

In my mind, I can imagine you shouting for joy as you declare: "**Jesus is my Savior and the LORD of my life**" Praise the Lord Hallelujah!

You have just declared Jesus as your Redeemer and the Savior of your soul and that

you will freely subject yourself to His Lordship and to the authority of His Word in your life.

Recently, a group of over 100 pastors faced the very real threat of persecution in an Asian country when they insisted on sharing the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in spite of what that might entail.

They submitted a joint letter to their government which was written in very respectful tones saying that they were willing to obey their government and the laws of their land so long as they were not forced to disobey the clear commands of God's Word, one of which enjoins Christians to lovingly share the truth of the gospel.

The pastors boldly declared that they believe the Bible to be the Word of God which has authority over all their words and actions. In their letter, they pointed out that they believe the Bible contains the message of eternal salvation.

These pastors have chosen to stand up for their faith, deny themselves and take up their crosses. By so doing, they have shown that Jesus is indeed the Lord and Savior of their lives.

My tears welled up and I felt the heartbeat of God for them. The letter was written with boldness and courage. They were like David who stood up to Goliath in facing up to the threats they faced – with the graciousness, wisdom, respect, love that only God can give in times like that. By their lives, they demonstrated their understanding of what carrying the cross means: *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me”* (Mark 8:34).

**By their testimony, they diffused the fragrance of Christ in their lives by leaning on the strength of the Lord.**

Let’s pause a while and pray for these pastors and the congregations they lead:

*“Heavenly Father, praise You for raising such an army of courageous warriors. In boldness they have declared your Godhead over their land and their life. And in spite of the danger of persecution unto death, they have chosen to step forward in the light. Oh Mighty God, Lord of Host, hide them under your eagle’ wings. Let strength arise and unity be found in this body of Christ. Watch their coming in and going out and make a way of escape for them. Be near to them. Comfort and strengthen them. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”*

If we want to continue to live in a peaceful and free land, we must not slacken in our prayers for our nation. We have to be faithful and diligent in our intercessions so that the Lord will continue to bless us with the freedoms we enjoy but which we so oftentimes take for granted.

*The Lord is searching the earth and looking for those who will stand in the gap for the nation. (Ezekiel 22:30–31).*

**We must rise up as a family of prayer warriors and not worriers.**

In Exodus 8:21-23, the Lord protected the land of Goshen where His people lived. No swarms of flies were there. He protected the land from harm and danger because His light was shining brightly there.

Let’s intercede for our nation so that like the Goshen of old, Singapore will be blessed with peace, safety, righteousness and justice, provision in abundance, freedom and truth.

*“Heavenly Father, like Goshen of old, we ask You to bless and protect Singapore with your favor, freedom and peace. We come together, our voices in one accord to pray that Singapore will not be overtaken by unrighteousness and evil. We pray that Singapore will fulfill its destiny to be the Antioch of the East and to be a voice for the poor, the weak and vulnerable. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”* 🙏

*Goshen International Ministries Ltd was so named because of the vision that Singapore will be a lighthouse that will continue to enjoy His peace, blessings, safety, provision and righteousness in an increasingly uncertain and dangerous world. In Biblical times, Goshen was a tiny land of protection for its residents and was a blessing to its neighbors. We envision Singapore to be a land of continued peace and a channel of blessing to the surrounding nations. The vision of this ministry is to serve the persecuted and afflicted church in Asia. One of the ways we intend to do this is to share with you what the persecuted/afflicted church are going through so that you can stand with them in prayer, in giving, in encouragement and where possible, in helping them to rebuild their lives and their communities through means of various forms of Christian ministry.*

*(The full article of the chairperson’s letter can be found in our Jan/Feb 2018 Stand!)*



## A LIFE TRANSFORMED

**Pastor Renier is grateful for the Singapore team that conducted the Pastor's Training in El Nido, Palawan, Philippines from 26th to 28th February 2018. Before this training, he has never heard of terms like "modalities", "fault" & "default". He never understood why some people behave or do not behave in particular set ways.**

The father of 5 recalls with regret his strained relationship with his only son. Although he loves his son very much, he does not know how to communicate with him. For many years, they avoided talking

to each other because every conversation they began would end in a heated argument. With each argument, the resentment & misunderstanding between them grew deeper. Pastor Renier does not know how to resolve this cycle of anger, resentment, and misunderstanding between his son and him.

However, after attending the El Nido's Pastors' Training, the relationship between father and son took a positive turn. By imbibing the lessons taught in the sessions, Pastor Renier learnt about different

personality types and their 'blind spots' or weaknesses. With this understanding, he realised that he and his son had the same modality/personality type which, because it was not managed properly, resulted in many conflicts between them. He also learnt the importance of allowing his son to be himself.

During the training, Pastor Renier sent his son a text message to say that he was sorry and asked his son to come home to talk things through. He ended the message with the words "I love you". He expected an immediate reply but there was none. The next morning, just when Pastor Renier thought that his son had given up on the relationship, he received a simple text message from his son, "Pa, I love you". That brought tears to his eyes and Pastor Renier resolved to mend things with his son after the training.

With a renewed understanding of his son's personality type, Pastor Renier no longer got upset when his son did or said something in a way typical of his personality type. Communication between them improved to such an extent that they are now able to enjoy each other's company. Gone were the days of heated arguments. They now agree to disagree and are more accepting of each other's faults. The relationship between father and son has never been the same again. Thanks to the El Nido Pastors' Training, Pastor Renier now plans to teach the subject on modalities to all his pastors and ministry leaders. He also plans to translate Pastor Gerard's book on Modalities into Tagalog so that others can benefit from this teaching.

## **The Power of Forgiveness**

Pastor Renier was brought up as a Roman Catholic in a family with 2 sisters and 3 brothers. His father was a mayor who was very strict with his children. He remembered being physically beaten by his father whenever he or his siblings fell short of his father's expectations which happened very often. His father also loved alcohol and was constantly drunk. As a result of the frequent beatings, Pastor Renier has been timid since young and lacked confidence.

After his marriage to Jennifer, Pastor Renier made peanut butter at home for a living which his wife would sell to restaurant owners at the wholesale market. As his peanut butter business grew, Pastor Renier started dreaming of owning a peanut butter factory.

However, God had other plans for him which was confirmed by a dream both he and his wife had one afternoon about their peanut butter being washed away by the water. In obedience, Pastor Renier gave up his peanut butter business, went to Bible school with the support of his wife and started pastoring a church. During his many years as a pastor, he often felt discouraged and wanted to give up being a pastor. But God's word in Matthew 4:19 "Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men" encouraged him to hang on.

In his 16th year as a pastor, 14 pastors from other churches joined his church. Together with these 14 pastors, they started having big dreams about having an international ministry, doing radio shows together and teaching Bible school. But one

by one these 14 pastors started resigning and leaving the church because they felt Pastor Renier to be a weak pastor who was unable to lead them into fulfilling those visions they had. Although reluctant, Pastor Renier allowed them to leave his church in the belief that God would bless their ministry if indeed they were following the Lord. But within ten years, the fellowship they started discontinued because of internal conflicts among the members.

**“WHEN THESE MEMBERS & PASTORS FIRST LEFT HIS CHURCH, PASTOR RENIER WAS VERY ANGRY. HE FELT BETRAYED BY THE PEOPLE HE TRUSTED AND INVESTED SO MUCH TIME ON..”**

Soon the resentment turned into bitterness. He started practising karate and frequently entertained thoughts of taking revenge on those who left the church. During this time, his own church was also not doing well. Many of his members fell sick & many died of physical ailments, including an 8-month old baby.

He knew then that something was not right. He prayed and asked God what was happening to his church. The Lord

revealed that his heart was not clean and that he needed to forgive those members who had left the church. Convicted by God, Pastor Renier repented and decided to make amends. He contacted that group of pastors and members who had left. He asked for their forgiveness to initiate a reconciliation. Unfortunately, the leader of the group passed away before any reconciliation could be effected.

It was after Pastor Renier's repentance and release of forgiveness that revival came to his church and the church grew in numbers. When the members of his church started fasting and praying together, they experienced the peace of God and many people were healed of physical illnesses. Pastor Renier himself was personally healed of gallbladder stones and glaucoma (increased pressure within the eyeball causing gradual loss of sight). He claimed Isaiah 53:5b, “And by His stripes we are healed” as he prayed for his own healing.

Pastor Renier soon realized that the key to revival in his church was humility before God & man and a willingness to release forgiveness to others. To date they have planted about 20 churches in different provinces in the Philippines. 🌍

***Colossians 3:13 (NIV)***

*“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”*





## PRAY FOR CENTRAL ASIA

Central Asia consists of former Soviet states such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Many restrictions have been placed on churches of some form or other. Reading the Bible & praying in public or telling others about Jesus is not allowed. As a result, many believers have had to gather secretly in houses or apartments to conduct worship services in small groups.

Last year in Kazakhstan, 30 Christians were prosecuted for sharing their beliefs. In August 2018, 10 Christians in Tajikistan were arrested & fined for handing out Christian literature.

In October 2018, a young man was attacked by a group of men while he was in his uncle's house. The attackers assaulted him and tried to force him to renounce his Christian faith. The attack left him with a concussion, several missing teeth, an eye injury and a broken jaw bone which required surgery. He was not able to speak or move his jaw for more than a month. 🙏



### Please pray for this brave, young man, Eldos:

- ❶ Pray for physical & emotional healing from the injuries & from the trauma of the attack.
- ❷ Pray that God will strengthen his body, soul & spirit and increase his resolve to keep following Christ.
- ❸ Pray that God will convict the hearts of the perpetrators to repent of their sin and that they will each come to personally know the unconditional love of Christ.

### Pray for the church in Central Asia:

- ❶ Pray that God will protect the churches in Central Asia. Pray for growth in spite of the persecution, ethnic conflicts, restrictions and economic hardships.
- ❷ Pray that God will strengthen the church in Central Asia to enable her to fulfil the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples, even those who live in the remotest of villages.
- ❸ Pray for a limitless supply of Bibles and Christian literature in the local languages so that they may study and teach others the Word of God.
- ❹ Pray that God will provide for all the needs of believers who have suffered losses or hardships due to their faith in & obedience to Christ.

(Source : Release International, ChristiansInCrisis, AnglicanInk)



## A REFUGEE'S PREDICAMENT

Every two seconds, a person somewhere is forcibly displaced by conflict or persecution. Such diasporic people groups currently number at an unprecedented figure of 68.5 million. The UNHCR says that this huge diasporic group can be sub-categorized into the following : **Internally Displaced People** (40 million), **Refugees** (25.4 million) and **Asylum Seekers** (3.1 million).

People in each of these 3 groups all go through struggles of various sorts, but the one issue that most commonly arise among them is their sense of self-worth and identity. This trauma and indignity is further exacerbated when members of the host community reject them outright. Some Christian ministries have tried to step into the gap by sharing God's love in practical ways

and in sharing the gospel to them, as a result of which many refugees embraced Jesus as their Lord and King. Notwithstanding these victories, refugees who have embraced Christ have had to face the rejection from the very communities they are a part of.

The following stories give us a glimpse of the challenges they face.

Jenny\* came from an upper middle-class family in South Africa. But she was forced to flee with her family when a campaign of ethnic cleansing broke out in the country. Her brother was killed during the atrocities. Leaving her husband behind, her family escaped to a host country to await resettlement. It was in that host country where Jenny first heard the Gospel through a Christian NGO and gave her heart to the Lord. After her conversion,

she began work with the Christian NGO as a social worker, reaching out to her community.

However, because her community is likely to reject her for becoming a Christian, Jenny remains a secret believer to this day. However, this has not dampened her enthusiasm to reach her community with the Gospel. She does this by training and supporting outsiders to reach out to her community.

John\* was a high-ranking government officer in Central Asia. That was until a change of political leadership forced him to flee with his family to a neighbouring host country where he came to know Christ through the work of a Christian NGO that taught English. Instantly, he and his family faced constant persecution from their community. They were abused by his very own people. There was even an attempt to kidnap his children so as to force him to recant the Christian faith! As a result of these ceaseless harassments, John had to close his business.

To make ends meet, he worked as a chauffeur for a local family who did not treat him very well. It was a humbling experience for John, going from a high-ranking government position back home to being a chauffeur for children. But in spite of all this, John continues to praise God! In John's way of seeing things, the best thing about becoming a refugee is that he got to know Christ, even if it meant losing everything.

As he grew in his knowledge of the faith, John was led to become the pastor of a small

fellowship of Christians from his community where he taught and nurtured the small group of believers from his community. Due to some complications, John could not follow his family into another country willing to receive them. Instead he has had to remain in his present circumstances where he devoted himself to the work of equipping next-generation Christian leaders in his church. Some years later, he was resettled into a different receiving country where he hopes to be reunited with his family. Today, he is still actively serving in his receiving country by doing radio broadcasts, bringing the gospel to his native country through the air waves.

Under the sovereign hand of the Lord, people groups which are closed and hard to reach with the gospel have found themselves needing to resettle into areas where they can be exposed to the message of Christ's salvation. Their desperation and need for help make their hearts open to the gospel which would otherwise have been closed.

Truly the harvest is plentiful among these diasporic people groups, and the Lord of the harvest is calling His people to participate in His wonderful redemptive plan. Jesus says to His disciples: "*The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.*" (Matthew 9:37-38) (ESV)

Will the church arise and be counted? 🌱

Written by Christopher Tan

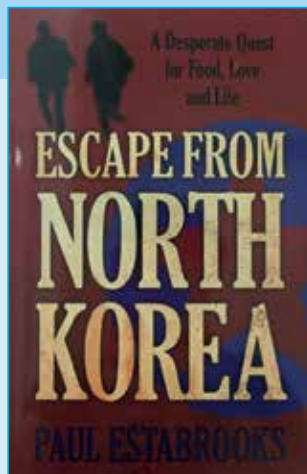
\* Names have been changed to protect the identity of the individuals.

# ESCAPE FROM NORTH KOREA

**Author: Paul Estabrooks**

*(Senior Communication Specialist, Open Doors International)*

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



**Pil Soo Kim stood half-naked in the ice-cold Tumen River. Only 30 meters separated him from China. He was shivering. His family was starving. There, on the other side of the freezing water, he could at least get some food.**

"Are the border police watching me at this moment through their binoculars?"

"What if I'm caught? They will kill me."

"What will happen to my wife, Myung Hee, and the children? They'll be locked up for 2 or 3 years, maybe 7. What if they are unlucky & get the firing squad?"

Is food worth dying for? Pil Soo felt guilty for betraying his country and crossing the border illegally. But there was no other way. This was his last resort.

Escape from North Korea is a true story that gives the reader a glimpse into what goes on behind the walls of "the Hermit Kingdom". North Korea annually tops Open Doors' World Watch List of countries that restrict Christians from practicing and sharing their faith.

The lives of Pil Soo and his family illustrate the desperate struggles of the 20 million North Koreans to get by with what little food they have. On top of that, most of them live lives devoid of love, purpose, and meaning. The book also introduces you to the many brave souls in China who are willing to risk everything to help North Korean refugees find answers to their quest for freedom, sufficiency, and peace in their lives.

## Excerpts from Chapter 13 – The Open Door

*In their cell that evening, Pill Soo whispered to Myung Hee, "Going to Pyongyang is a death sentence. Time is running out. We have to make a decision."*

*Pill Soo sat on his haunches in a far corner of the cell. He prayed softly, and with more passion than ever. He finished with these words : "God, if You help us escape from this prison, I will live for You and do Your will forever."*

*Pil Soo and Myung Hee had decided earlier that the only way out was through the window. But instead, Pil Soo now obeyed a feeling that he should check the cell door. To his astonishment the door, which has been fastened with a huge lock each night, opened with just a light nudge. There wasn't a sound from any of the guards ...* 🌀

For those who are interested to purchase this book, you may send us an email at [admin@gosheninternational.org](mailto:admin@gosheninternational.org) or contact us at 64560042.