

STAND!

by Goshen International Ministries

MAY-JUN 2022

"I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."

(Phil 3:14)

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Project "Advancing The Great Commission"

A bi-monthly publication by Goshen International Ministries


Goshen
Singapore, the Goshen of Asia
VOICE of Persecuted Christians

Word from Goshen International Ministries



Dear Beloved Supporters,

In recent years, devastating news of wars and its accompanying atrocities, occurrences of natural disasters and deadly pestilences has been increasing in frequency and intensity all over the world. Consequently, many lives have been lost and many more have been adversely affected by the harsh vicissitudes of life.

In addition to the travails of the current world order, Christians in various parts of the world have been subjected to the indignities and pains of being persecuted for their faith. It is a sad fact of our times that persecution against our fellow brothers and sisters seem to be on the rise as the forces of prejudice and discrimination rear their ugly heads in different parts of the world.

As a result, our brothers and sisters in the Lord have had to draw strength from the Lord to overcome the challenges and sufferings that persecution brings while at the same time holding out hope, truth and life to the people around them.

Against this backdrop, we pray that you will join us to bring some form of relief to the persecuted church through a new project called "Advancing the Great Commission". This project aims to provide children of persecuted Christians with an opportunity to acquire basic quality education so that they can break out of the recurring cycle of poverty and begin to fulfil their God-given destinies.

In addition to this new project, we also have two other ongoing projects that aim to minister to the people of North Korea. One of the projects involves distributing Bibles in North Korea. Another project aims to bring some support to the heavily-persecuted North Korean underground church. Find out more on pages 8 to 10 of this May-June 2022 issue of our Stand! Magazine.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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

Blessings!

Give a Love Offering



For gifts to **GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED:**

- 1) Bank Transfer to OCBC Bank Code : 7339 Account : 508-308962-001
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(For all love gifts please e-mail admin@gosheninternational.org or call 6456 0042 to facilitate our accountability to you. If you are giving towards a specific project, please indicate the name of the project 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!)



We will love the opportunity to visit your church or small group to raise awareness of the plight 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.

Contact us at **6456-0042**
or email:

admin@gosheninternational.org
for more information.



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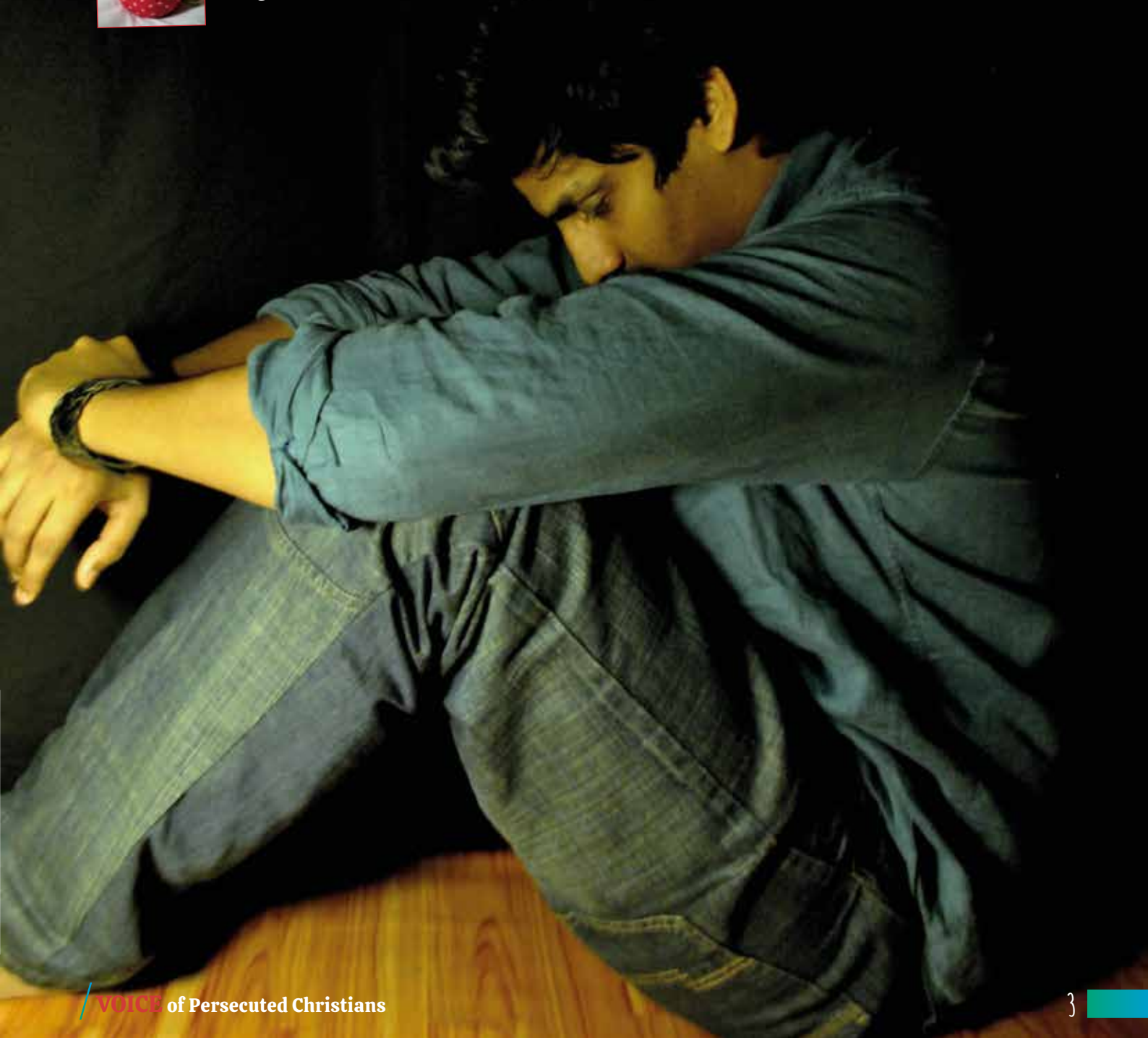
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How Long, Lord?

From Our
Heart



Roly Poly Tilting Dolls, also called 不倒翁 in Chinese, are dolls made to look like a person. In reality though, they have a hollow shell on the inside of them. These dolls look hugely imbalanced because they have a small head and a huge, round, solid and heavier bottom.



I enjoyed playing with these dolls as a young child because I could punch it real hard, watch it tilt heavily to one side and then see it bounce back up into its original position almost immediately.

It amused me to no end to see something that is hollow on the inside and proportionally imbalanced prove to be extremely stable and reliable by bouncing back every single time it is put to the test.

I realized that the special design of the doll coupled with a low center of gravity is what made it bounce right back up after an external force is applied, then removed from it.

CENTRE OF GRAVITY

Looking at the doll, I ask myself today - "What is my centre of gravity?" Am I stable and resilient like the Roly Poly doll – able to bounce back after every crisis, hardship, challenge and tragedy or do I give up and call it quits after a misfortune?

How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me? (Ps 13:1-2).

Just like David in the Scriptures, I have oftentimes asked myself the same question as David did when I encounter setbacks or go through a trying time. It is especially hard to endure when I realize that there is absolutely nothing I could have done to resolve the problem or to make it go away. It feels as if I am sucked into a vacuum where I am all alone and where God seems to be far away. In spite of my repeated prayers, all I hear is silence. And I have to wrestle with the negative thoughts, the sadness, anxiety and worries all on my own.

When David wrote *Psalm 13*, he was on the run from King Saul who was jealous of his popularity and had been trying for years to kill him. David, who was innocent of any wrongdoing, must have felt aggrieved, maligned, misunderstood, forgotten and abandoned by God all those years, which explains why he said he had sorrow in his heart.

The fact that he asked God "how long?" four times, gives us a hint of the intensity of the suffering he had to live through. With each passing day, the stress and anxiety looked as though it was going to stretch David to his limit, threatening even to cause him to snap. To make things worse, there oftentimes seemed to be no end in sight to his anguish and his troubles.

The Lord gives us a peek into David's most baneful and painful experiences to encourage us with the truth that no matter what happens to us in life, the Lord will never abandon or forget us, the way people oftentimes do. He promised in *Deut 31:6* that He will go with us and He will never leave or forsake us and He is a God who does not go back on His promises. God says what He means and He always does what He says.

David's feelings were real and legitimate given the protracted suffering he had to endure at the hands of King Saul. Yet, he did not keep dwelling on his negative feelings. Even though he could not feel God's presence, he persisted in crying out to God for help and baring his soul before the Lord. David did not mince his words and was brutally honest with his feelings. There is no point hiding from God since He already knows what we are going to say even before we say it (*Ps 139:4*).



LOOKING THROUGH GOD'S LENSES

Instead of praying for God to take down his enemies or remove the challenges he was facing, David asked God to 'give light to his eyes' and to help him see things from God's perspective. He knew that problems are no match for a God who is all-knowing and all-mighty and who knows the beginning and the end of every situation.



Someone once said, “if you keep looking at the problem, the problem will seem bigger than it actually is.” How true that is!

After asking God to ‘give light to his eyes’, David began to declare his trust in God’s unfailing love and remembered that the Lord had always been good and faithful to him. Although there was no immediate change in the circumstances surrounding him - after all, his enemies were still seeking his life and he was still on the run - David found himself now able to rejoice in his heart and sing praises to the Lord (*Ps 13:5-6*). He took his eyes off the problem and started looking to God instead and at the situation through God’s lenses.

The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with His hand.
(*Ps 37:23-24*)

The key to being resilient is to know God’s character, to know what we mean to Him and to have faith in Him. To know God, we need to continually read and meditate on His Word and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth (*John 16:13*). The Word existed in the beginning, the Word was with God and the Word was God (*John 1:1*). So, as we read and meditate on the Word of God, we are soaking and lingering in His presence which cleanses,

refreshes and renews our mind. Then we will be able to see things from His perspective, and the insurmountable ‘mountain’ that we saw previously will become like a mole hill instead.

In *2 Kings 6:14-17*, the King of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to war against Israel. When Elisha’s servant saw the enemy’s troops, horses and chariots everywhere, he was filled with fear. But Elisha calmly told him not to be afraid before praying that God would open the eyes of the servant and let him see. In response to Elisha’s prayer, the Lord opened the young man’s eyes and he began to see that the hillsides around Elisha was filled with heavenly horses and chariots of fire that outnumbered whatever troops the King of Aram could muster.

Are you looking at your challenging circumstances through your own limited human vision and wisdom? Or are you looking at them through the Lord’s perspective?

May I invite you to pray and ask God to show you how He sees your specific situation? Then put on God’s lenses and take another look at the same situation. You will be amazed and maybe even pleasantly surprised when You see what He sees, just like Elisha’s servant in *2 Kings 6:17*. [🔗](#)

Standing Strong in Central Asia

Despite continuing restrictions and the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, your gifts and prayers are helping Christians in Central Asia to remain strong in their faith, writes our Release partner 'Pavel'.

Throughout Central Asia freedom of religion exists only in theory. While the situation on the ground in each country (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) varies somewhat depending on local contexts, the common thread that weaves through them all is that the church in all these countries experience some degree of persecution.

In general, at the central and local levels, there are restrictions and discriminatory bureaucratic procedures that prevent churches from obtaining permits. These restrictions are most heavily applied to Pentecostal and charismatic groups, which tend to be the fastest-growing churches in the region.

'We pray for a revival in the face of the pandemic, so that people will turn to God.'

There have even been sporadic incidents of violence against churches and individuals. But even if they are reported to law enforcement agencies, justice is oftentimes hard to come by. Most often, these incidents are viewed as criminal cases unrelated to attempts by certain groups of malicious actors out to make life difficult for the church to carry out its ministries.

Christian converts are usually viewed as 'traitors', evangelical Christians as American spies and agents of Western imperialism.

In the post-Soviet era, all Christians in Central Asia face these common restrictions:

- Open preaching of the gospel (proselytism) is oftentimes prohibited by law.



- Christians who want to hold Christian meetings are oftentimes required to obtain a permit to do so.
- The distribution of Christian literature outside church buildings are oftentimes prohibited.
- Onerous regulations for the registration of churches. In Kyrgyzstan, for example, the signatures of 200 local Christians are required before a church can be allowed to be registered.
- Churches are required to provide comprehensive data about the profiles of their members. Churches fear that giving these details about their church members puts them at risk of being further persecuted.
- In places like Tajikistan, parents are often not allowed by the authorities to take their children to church services.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

Despite these continuing pressures, my wife and I, and our team of dedicated Christian workers, have seen a number of encouraging signs. For example, while the pandemic has caused many severe problems, it has actually reduced persecution – at least temporarily. The authorities of these countries are busy coping with many government issues, and so have less time and capacity to be engaged in persecution.

In addition, we gladly report:

- It has become easier for Christians to live and work in Uzbekistan and for some churches to be registered.
- Some of our co-workers from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan were able to come to see us – a real miracle from the Lord.
- In Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, some Bible teaching sessions were held by local leaders who are growing in strength and vision.

One pastor in Turkmenistan wrote to me recently: *“The Lord is still working in our country. We pray for a revival in the face of the pandemic so that people will turn to God and trust more in Him than in people. We hope that this disease will decline soon. We know that God has everything under control.”*

We appreciate all your gifts and prayers very much indeed. May the Lord bless you richly and reward all of you abundantly in every possible way.

Our Release partner ‘Pavel’ (not his real name) leads a team of Christian workers who provide support, training and pastoral care to underground believers throughout the region. 🌐

Article by Release International as adapted by Goshen.

Completed
Project
Update

Emergency Project – Relief for Victims of Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Since the start of the war on 24th February 2022, more than 2.7 million Ukrainian refugees have fled to neighboring Poland. Some have escaped to Moldova and other Eastern European countries.

More than ninety percent of these refugees are mostly women and children who have been deeply traumatized by the horrific experiences they were confronted with.



At the peak of the conflict, border officials had to cope with about 150,000 refugees crossing over from Ukraine into Poland. The daily wave of refugees is now much lower at around 20,000 to 30,000.

Many Evangelical Churches and Non-Governmental Organizations (“NGOs”) in Poland and Moldova have been caring for these refugees. They provided shelter in church buildings, food, transportation, medicine, basic needs like washing their clothes and spiritual/pastoral care.



The Voice of the Martyrs Poland who are supporting these churches and NGOs in Poland and Moldova have also sponsored the publication of 5,000 copies of the Gospel of John in the Ukrainian language and distributed to these refugees within 2 days.

Thank you to all who have generously given to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters-in-Christ. Even as the war rages on and the needs continue to mount, do remember them in prayer. 🙏



Project
"Advancing
the Great
Commission"

Projects

New Project:

Advancing the Great Commission

Target Funds Needed:
S\$471,155

There are Christians in different parts of the world who are experiencing biases, discrimination and abuses from their families and communities simply because they profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The effects of such persecutions almost always trickle down to the next generation. Because of ongoing persecution, children of these Christian communities are often denied quality educational opportunities. This has been a longstanding bugbear of persecuted Christians in different lands and there are few indications that the situation is becoming better any time soon.

One of the areas of life which persecuted Christians in some of these countries have had to endure is the denial of a basic education that will prepare their children to be ready to take on meaningful employment when they grow up. Education helps eradicate the poverty cycle and empower people to stand up for their rights and beliefs, and yet the children of persecuted Christians in many parts of Asia are denied this most basic service.

Goshen aims to work with churches and other non-profit organizations to set up e-learning hubs in the villages of persecuted Christian communities that are equipped with learning devices. The learning devices, which can function on and offline, will be loaded with intuitive and interactive educational content to improve the literacy, numeracy, and life

skills of the offspring of our brothers and sisters who are undergoing persecution. Through these resources, we will be able to provide children and the young people of these communities with the opportunity to acquire basic quality education.

Funds raised from this project will be used to cover expenses related to the following:

- onboarding users
- technical maintenance
- tablet devices and protection accessories
- postage of resources
- equipment for hub
- expenses for community leaders
- travel expenses for Goshen members

With a budget of **SGD \$471,155**, we aim to reach approximately 5,000 children and young people in persecuted Christian communities in Asia. The countries of interest include Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and China.

Would you prayerfully consider giving towards Project "Advancing the Great Commission"? If you are able to sow into this project, you will play a crucial role in helping children and youths in persecuted Christian communities to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty and empower them to not only stand up for their rights and beliefs, but to also fulfill their God-given destiny.

Project
Update

Project Love North Korea

Bible Distribution

Target Funds Needed:

\$37,400

Shortfall as at 25 Apr 2022:

\$31,575

Aim of Project :

To distribute 29,400 copies of the Bible, in digital and/or printed version, into North Korea via air, sea and land and to explore new and more secure, efficient, and effective ways to deliver the Bibles into North Korea.

Support for the Underground Church

Target Funds Needed:

\$25,700

Shortfall as at 25 Apr 2022:

\$19,725

Aim of Project :

To identify former underground North Korean Christians and their descendants, especially new arrivals, who are now living in South Korea, for the purpose of :

- *distributing Bibles to them.*
- *recording and publishing their testimonies so that believers, all around the world, can be encouraged.*
- *to minister to them and connect them to local churches in South Korea so that they can be properly integrated into the life of the church in South Korea and continue to grow and mature in the faith and become firmly established in the Lord.*

Gifts towards 'Project – Love North Korea' 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 call 6456 0042 to facilitate our accountability to you.

Alternatively, you may mail your cheque to our address :
My Mailbox (Business) No. 880228 Singapore 919191

(In your e-mail to us, please indicate the name of the specific project: (1) Project Advancing the Great Commission, (2) Project Love North Korea – Bible Distribution, or (3) Project Love North Korea – Support for the Underground Church. In the event the target fund is reached, any excess will be channeled to the general fund towards Persecuted Christians)

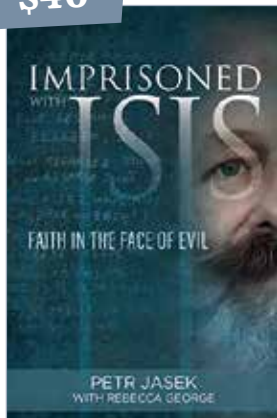
May the Lord bless you abundantly for giving generously!

NEW BOOKS JUST IN

Check out some of our new and exciting books for sale.
Visit our Facebook page for the complete list of books and DVDs :
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/GoshenSG/shop/>

New Books
Just In

\$40



IMPRISONED WITH ISIS

A four-day visit to Khartoum, Sudan, for ministry work and meetings with local pastors and Christians turned into a 445-day nightmare.

In December 2015, Petr Jasek was arrested and charged with espionage, waging war against the state and undermining the constitution. He was sentenced to life in prison and locked up with ISIS fighters.

Imprisoned With ISIS documents Petr's harrowing but inspiring story of how God sustained his strength and courage throughout his ordeal before opening the prison doors for him to go free.

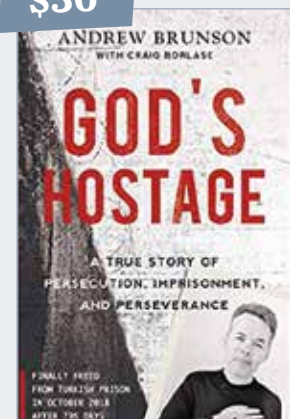
GOD'S HOSTAGE

God's Hostage is the true story of Andrew Brunson, who moved to Turkey in 1993 together with his wife, Norine, to serve as a missionary.

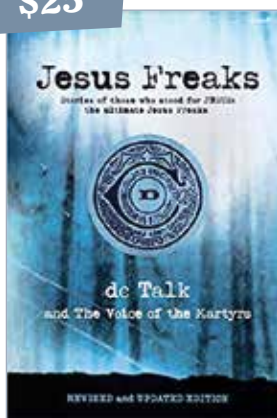
Because of their ministry work with Syrian refugees, Andrew and his wife were arrested in 2016. Norine was released but Andrew was imprisoned and accused of being a spy who participated in an attempted coup against the government.

God's Hostage is an inspiring story of Andrew's imprisonment, his brokenness, his faithfulness ... and his freedom.

\$30



\$25



JESUS FREAKS

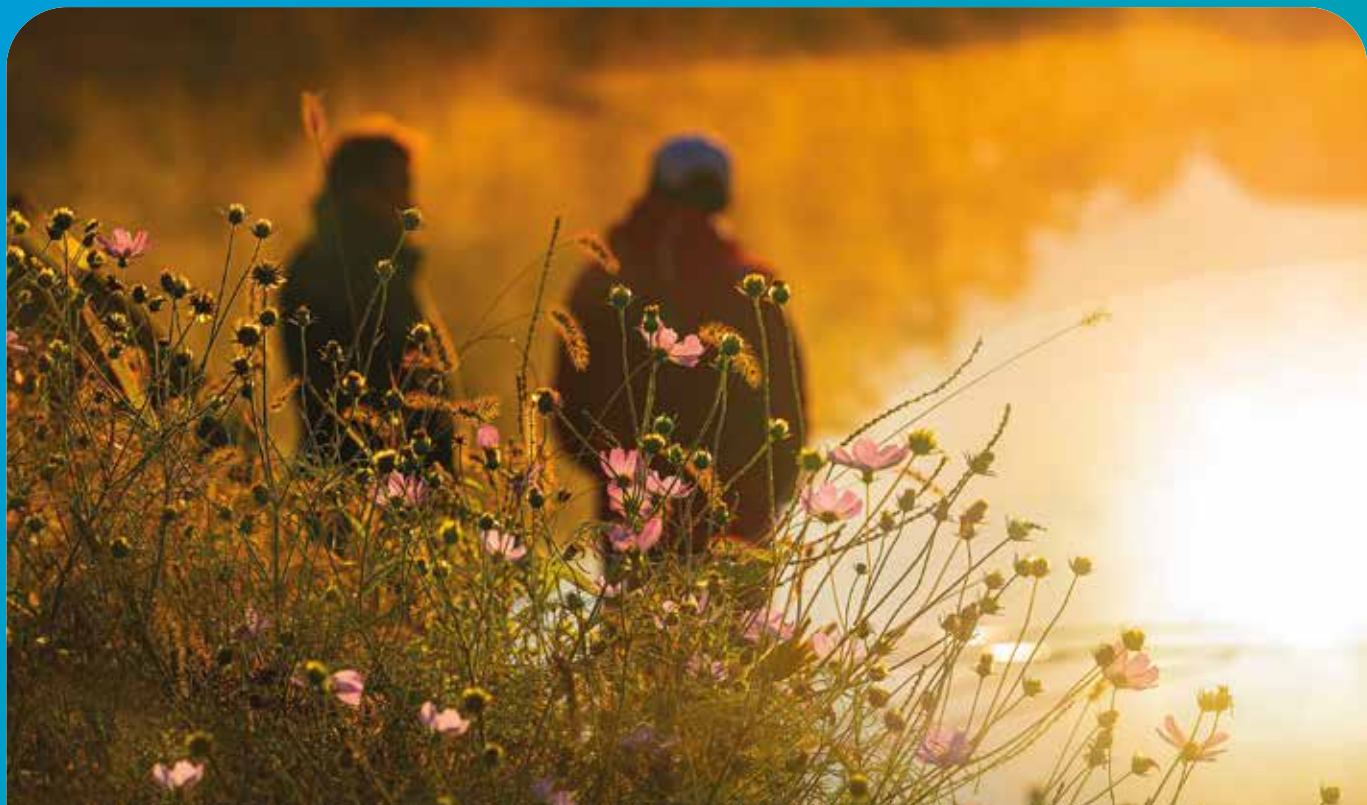
Jesus Freaks features true stories – including new and recent stories – of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been imprisoned, mistreated, or killed because they chose to follow Jesus Christ and boldly proclaim His name.

Their stories inspire each of us to examine our heart and consider where we are in our own personal walk with Christ. They all point to the questions we have to ask ourselves - “How far am I willing to go in order to advance Christ's Kingdom in my neighbourhood? My city? My world?”

Is Jesus worth the sacrifices that I have to make in order to reach out to the lost with His gospel of love and hope?”

For those who are interested to purchase our books and/or DVDs,
you may send us an email at admin@gosheninternational.org or contact us at tel : 6456-0042.

(The prices listed above are not inclusive of charges for postage and bubble wrap).



Goshen International Ministries' Purposes

We aim to actively engage with our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ, in Asia and beyond - through praying for them, standing with them, helping them in practical ways and learning lessons of true discipleship from them.

Goshen Prayer Meetings in May/June 2022

Date/Day/Time	Venue	Event
Tuesday 8pm – 10pm (10 th May & 14 th Jun)	Online and by invitation only	GOSHEN PRAYER MEETING for Persecuted Christians.

In the event of any changes after distribution of this issue, you will be notified via email.



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