

MAY – JUN 2024

STAND!

by Goshen International Ministries



“Don’t be afraid
for I am with you.
Don’t be discouraged
for I am your God.
I will strengthen
you and help you.
I will hold you up
with my victorious
right hand”

(Isa 41:10)

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Dear Friends,

But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection (Heb 11:35b).

Many ordinary believers around the world have been subjected to all forms of oppression at the hands of those who vehemently oppose the Gospel.

Simply because they refuse to turn away from the Lord.

Our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ choose to bring the gospel to places where few would dare go because of the perils lurking in these places. They are contented to quietly follow the Lord and faithfully serve Him even if their sacrifices and acts of service do not garner accolades or recognition from man.

There are many such unsung heroes who have plowed the ground faithfully, remaining faceless and nameless, only to pave the way for others to harvest the fruit of their labors.



Pastor Yogesh is one such believer. He has been faithfully serving the Lord in places where there is a death sentence hanging over his head.

He has resolved to not allow fear to cripple him from reaching out to those who are lost and in need of a Saviour. Find out more of Pastor Yogesh's story on page 4 of our Stand! Magazine.

Goshen is commencing a new project to support Pastor Yogesh and his ministry to the Persecuted Church in India.

If you feel led by the Lord to support these unsung heroes of the faith, details of how you can give can be found below.

Ephesians 5:30

**For we are members of His body,
of His flesh and of His bones.**

Blessings!



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!



**Give a
LOVE
Offering**

For gifts to GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED :

- 1) Bank Transfer to OCBC Bank Code: 7339 Account: 508-308962-001
- 2) PayNow: UEN No. 198204059M
- 3) By Cheque issued in favour of GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED
Please mail cheque to: My Mail Box (Business) No. 880228, Singapore 919191

(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!)

Silencing The Fear

He knew that trouble was brewing when he saw a group of mean-looking thugs approach him from a distance.

A sudden wave of intense fear crept up and threatened to consume him as recognition dawned upon him that this group was known in the area to be extremely dangerous, merciless and violent.

They glared angrily at him as they stomped towards him. When they were close enough, they spat vehemence and rage out with loud and shrill cries: *“The next time you come here, you will **NOT** be able to go home!”*

The thought of running for his life and never setting foot in this village again fled across Pastor Yogesh’s mind. Yet he could not move an inch. He stood motionless as a momentary fear enveloped him. Cold sweat trickled down his brow and his heart pounded in his ears.

This group hated Christians and blatantly opposed the gospel. They would not hesitate to torture or kill believers. They have disrupted many worship services and prayer meetings, and falsified criminal charges against pastors and church members just to get the authorities to arrest and interrogate these believers at length. Their avowed aim is to intimidate, frustrate and exhaust believers to the point that they will willingly concede defeat and recant their faith in Christ.

To be identified and marked by such a group as a pastor and follower of Jesus Christ was akin to having a death sentence hanging over one’s head.

Despite knowing all this, Pastor Yogesh chose to silence his fear. He plucked up the courage to share the gospel and pray for the man that he had originally arranged to meet up with in that particular village. Praise the Lord, nothing bad happened to Pastor Yogesh or the man he met.

Emboldened by this incident, Pastor Yogesh decided to make it a personal challenge to bring the gospel to more people in this village. After all, one of the three house churches founded by his father was in this same village.

To be identified and marked by such a group as a pastor and follower of Jesus Christ was akin to having a death sentence hanging over one’s head.





Pastor Yogesh (1st from left) & Family

The Power of One Man's Testimony

He fondly remembered how the church in this village was birthed, beginning with the salvation of just one convert in 1993 -- Bande Ram Gota ("Gota").

When Pastor Yogesh's father first visited this village, there were no Christians or churches in the village. His father shared the gospel with Gota, the village head, but Gota did not immediately believe the gospel message.

One week later, however, Gota approached Pastor Yogesh's father for help. Gota's wife had been seriously ill for the past one year. Her illness caused her entire body to swell to the extent that she could no longer get up and walk. She was confined to bed and needed assistance for her daily activities. Gota and his wife sought treatment from many doctors but no amount of treatment or medicine was able to cure her. Gota also prayed to the different gods in many places for healing for his wife – with no success whatsoever.

A chance encounter with Pastor Yogesh's father brought renewed hope to Gota. He remembered the pastor's kind words and demeanor. So, he humbled himself and asked Pastor Yogesh's father to pray for healing for his wife even though the prospect of recovery seemed virtually impossible.

However, against all odds, Gota's wife recovered completely within one month after Pastor Yogesh's

father prayed for her. Grateful for her healing and convinced that God is real, Gota and his entire family decided to follow Jesus.

This act of believing the gospel message enraged the entire village. Gota was the village head and it was his responsibility to look after the villagers' needs, including arranging and performing religious rites for them on a regular basis. But since he became a Christian, Gota no longer participated in any of these religious rites.

Angry villagers, who viewed Gota's conversion as a form of rejection, beat and tortured Gota to pressurize him to recant his Christian faith. However, Gota's faith did not waver even once. In fact, it spurred him on to share the gospel to his neighbors and friends in the village.

Many people in the village believed in the Lord Jesus Christ through Gota's faithful witness and testimony. At first, seven families came to faith in Christ. These believers started gathering every week for worship in the home of one of the believers. Later, another five families attended this house church and received salvation.

By December 2022, opposing villagers could no longer tolerate the growth of the church and Gota's evangelistic activities. They had to take action. So, they beat up, tortured and pressurized these twelve Christian families to renounce Christ and stop going to church. When that did not work, opposing villagers offered these Christians the freedom to farm the land in peace and collect their monthly allocation of free rice from the government using their government-issued ration cards if they renounced their faith.

Losing Everything

But these twelve resilient families, made up of young and old, did not cave in to the pressure and physical torture. How could they stop following Jesus when He had showered them with so many blessings and healed and delivered them from oppression and illness?

These believers stood firm in their faith and bore the brunt of the torture without fighting back. In the end, they were chased out of their home and village. They even had their government-issued ration cards confiscated by opposing villagers.

Unfortunately, Gota did not survive the beatings and torture. He was eventually beheaded by opposing villagers. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Overnight, these faithful Christians lost their homes, land, belongings and source of livelihood. But they did not despair because they were deeply convinced that everything they lost because of these attacks cannot be compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ (Phil 3:8).

When the authorities failed to take any action after a police report was made, these believers filed a complaint to the Collectoral Office, which oversaw all administrative matters in that district. Again, no action was taken against the assailants.

Pastor Yogesh's church then stepped in to help these twelve families. The church, with its limited resources, helped to pay for their medical treatment, provided food and found rental premises for them to stay in temporarily.

Some of these believers are today able to secure jobs as manual laborers, earning a meagre daily allowance that is not enough to feed the entire family, let alone pay for the rental of their homes in Bijapur. These believers are also having difficulties applying for new ration cards that allows them to collect a 50kg bag of rice free every month from the government.

Despite the struggles they are facing in this new place, they are both terrified and reluctant to return to their own homes in the village for fear that opposing villagers would kill them, like they did to Gota.





Bande Ram Gota (2nd from left) and his family



PRAY:



For protection and provision for these twelve persecuted families and for the church members who are helping them.



For a miraculous multiplication of whatever limited provisions and resources they have, just like the feeding of the five thousand with just two fish and five loaves in Luke 9:13-17.



For Pastor Yogesh's safety and protection as he continues his ministry in a volatile and hostile region. Pray that the house churches he oversees will grow and flourish and many more people in the different villages will come to believe in the Lord and receive salvation.



Pray that the young people that Pastor Yogesh is discipling will have a very powerful personal encounter with the Lord that will propel them into their God-given destiny and be effective witnesses for Christ.



In light of the above situation, Goshen is commencing a new project '**Project Save the Family**' to financially support these 12 persecuted families for a period of 6 months. If you would like to support our suffering brothers and sisters-in-Christ in India, the details of how you can give can be found below.

Gifts towards '**Project Save the Family**' can be made payable to:

GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED

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

PayNow: UEN No. 198204059M

Cheque made payable to **GOSHEN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES LIMITED**
Mail to: My Mailbox (Business) No. 880228 Singapore 919191

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

Pastor and Son Brutally Beaten for Christian Worship

On 19 February 2023, a group of about 80 Christians gathered for worship in their church.



(Photo: The Voice of the Martyrs)

During the service, a mob of thugs interrupted the service, demanding that the believers show proof that they had the necessary permission to be there.

The gangsters then proceeded to ransack the church and physically attack believers. Two men were kicked, punched and beaten with a microphone stand until they bled and became unconscious. Other members of the congregation were also injured during the attack.

When the assailants attacked Pastor Zahir, his son Ashok tried to come to his defense, but he himself was subjected to the attack. Pastor Zahir was detained and questioned by the authorities but his report against the assailants was dismissed.

Both Pastor Zahir and Ashok have recovered physically, though Ashok continues to experience pain due to his injuries.

PRAY for INDIA

PRAY:



For the wellbeing and protection of Pastor Zahir, his family and the congregation. Pray that their commitment to Christ will not waver because of this incident.



That the church in India will be filled with spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him and bearing fruit in every good work (Col 1:9-10).



That many people will believe and receive salvation in Christ when they hear the gospel message and the testimonies of believers.

(Source : The Voice of the Martyrs)

Goshen's Ongoing Projects



Project – Farsi Bibles for Iran

aims to print and distribute Bibles in the local Farsi language. Help us bring the Word of God to Iran so that our Iranian brothers and sisters-in-Christ can receive spiritual feeding.

Projects for children living in restricted communities where religious freedom is seriously threatened.

Project Advancing the Great Commission – Indonesia (Hub Destiny) aims to educate children and youths in basic English, Math and Life Skills.



Project Philippines (Sponsor a Child) aims to support children and youths for one year with basic necessities like rice, snacks, school and transport fees for only \$280 per child.



If you are led by the Lord to give, please see the details below for the ways you can send your gift.

Gifts towards our projects can be made payable to:
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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.
For Project Philippines (Sponsor a Child), please indicate the number of children and the age group(s)
(5-8 yr-olds, 9-13 yr-olds or 14-20 yr-olds) you wish to sponsor.*

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

Volunteer With Us



JOIN US

We would like to call upon brothers and sisters to help us at our events and activities as and when we need help. For example, on occasions we need volunteers to help us man our book tables at special events or things of that nature.

We are also looking for champions to help us do research, organise things, distribute Goshen's bi-monthly magazines to different churches and to share with others about what Goshen is about.

If you are able and willing to help us as and when we need help or if you feel called to serve as Goshen's champions, WhatsApp us at **9788 0457** or email us at **admin@gosheninternational.org** for more details. We would love to meet up with you and discuss further how you may be deployed to help us!

●
LEGAL ADVICE

●
WEB DESIGN

●
CHAMPION

●
ADMIN

●
MISSIONARY

●
**EVENTS /
ACTIVITIES**

●
PHOTOGRAPHER

●
**LOGISTICS /
TRANSPORT**

**WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU**



If you have been persecuted - mistreated, victimised, oppressed, discriminated against or harassed - because of your faith in Christ, we would like to feature your story in our bi-monthly magazine so that we can encourage others in the same situation not to give up hope.

WhatsApp us at 9788 0457 or email us at **admin@gosheninternational.org** for more details.

Scan this QR code and complete the Google registration form if you wish to volunteer with us.



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.

Share your food with the hungry and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them and do not hide from relatives who need your help. (Isa 58:7)

The needs of our persecuted family members in Christ are innumerable and varied. They have sacrificed and endured much suffering simply because they chose to follow Jesus.

Will you partner with us to help, support and pray for our beloved brothers and sisters-in-Christ who are undergoing persecution because of their faith?

Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GoshenSG> or website: www.gosheninternational.org to find out how you can share your love, send aid and a message of hope to the persecuted Church.

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We are partners with
The Voice of the Martyrs and a member of
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This magazine is published bi-monthly and distributed free of charge by:

Goshen International Ministries Ltd
MCI (P) 056/08/2023
Reg No. 198204059M

All mails to be directed to:
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