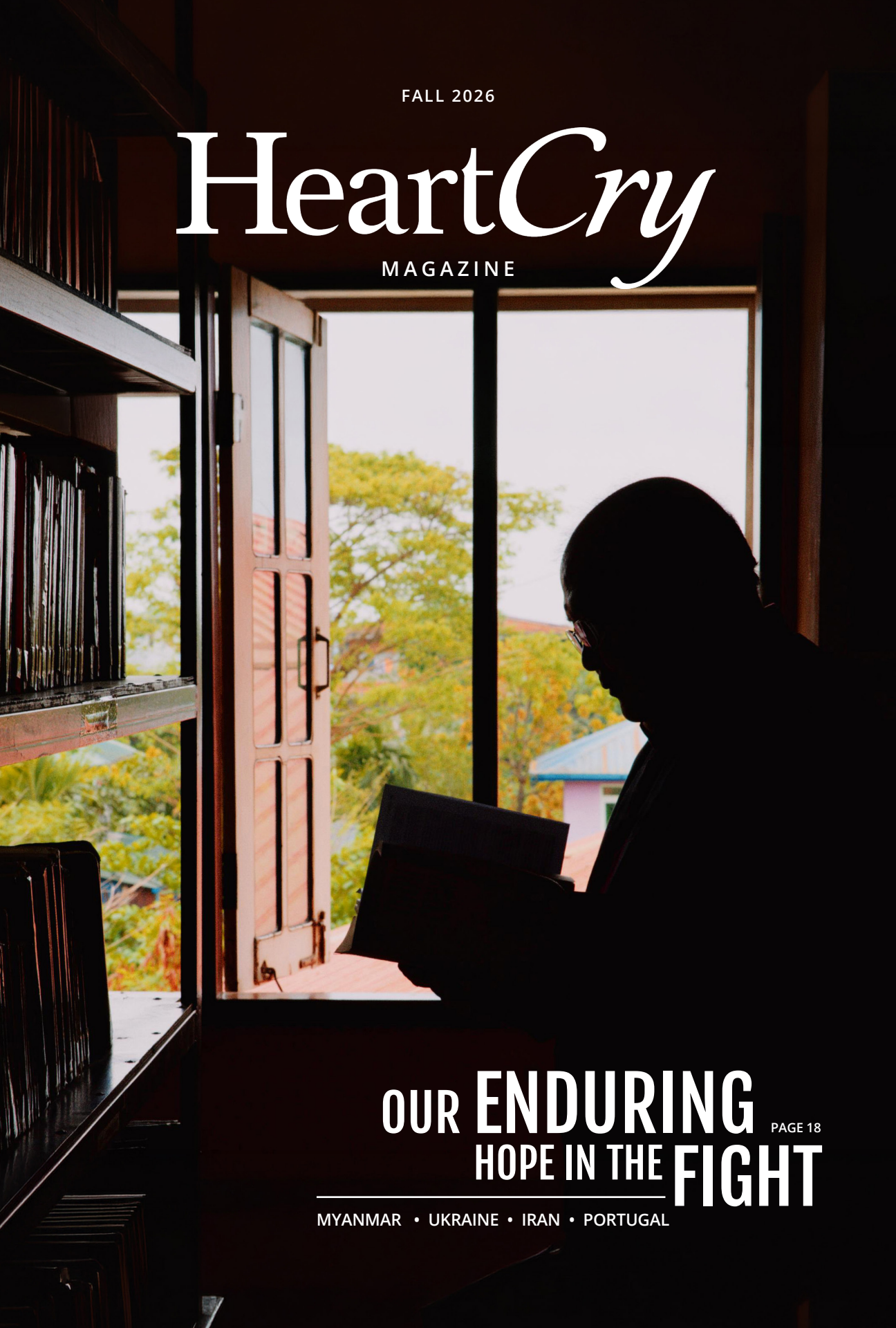
FALL 2026

HeartCry

MAGAZINE



OUR ENDURING HOPE IN THE FIGHT

PAGE 18

MYANMAR • UKRAINE • IRAN • PORTUGAL

Greetings

The Christian life is marked by rest and struggle at once. Though these two states seem contradictory, in Christ, the believer must both quietly rest and faithfully battle. God calls His people to and aids them in both endeavors. We learn to rest in the sovereignty, power, and purposes of our God, and we remain vigilant and alert so that we might fight hell in God's strength (Mark 13:33). On the one hand, the victory is won and our eternity is secure. On the other hand, enemies attack from every side. We are harassed, threatened, and, at times, even pressed to the dust (2 Cor 4:8-9), yet we may abide in the safety of His presence.

While this is true for all Christians, it is intensified for those who have a unique call of God upon their life to evangelize the lost, plant churches, and pastor congregations. Those laborers sent into the harvest are under constant and determined attack from the flesh, the world, and the Devil (Gal 5:16; 1 John 2:15; 1 Pet 5:8). These foes conspire against them to lead them into joy-destroying, testimony-ruining, communion-killing discouragement and sin.

Yet they are not left to contend with their enemies in their own strength and might (Zech 4:6). They have resources at their disposal to overcome and advance (Eph 6:11). The Holy Spirit dwells within them (1 Cor 3:16). Prayer is ever a breath away (Eph 6:18). The Lord trains the missionary's hands for war and his fingers for battle. He cannot defeat these fiends by his own strength or cunning—apart from Christ he can do nothing (John 15:5), but he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him (Phil 4:13). God is the missionary's rock and fortress. Thus, his battle plan is to wage war against his enemies by simultaneously deploying the weapons at his disposal and taking refuge in the Lord. He is like

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ON THE COVER: HeartCry Missionary D.T. has translated the Bible into the Chin language, and is currently translating new theological works for the benefit of Chin speakers in the country of Myanmar.

the child who, upon seeing the threatening hound, hastily runs to hide behind his father while hurling rocks at the beast. The laborers you will read about in this magazine are strong because of the strength of His might (Eph 6:20). This is where your strength comes from as well, beloved.

Laborers on the field are not only upheld by God's mighty hand, but also the prayers of the saints—your prayers. Indeed, in His wisdom, God employs the intercession of His people to bless and bolster those who have been sent out into the harvest fields. Paul assured the church at Philippi, "for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance" (Phil 1:19). Though you may not be able to see how your prayers for these laborers support and strengthen your brothers, one day you will, and your only regret will be that you did not come more often before the throne of grace on their behalf.

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

– Psalm 121:1-2

Therefore, dear believer, be bold in God! Pray unceasingly and rejoice abundantly! Be faithful in the trenches and wield the weapons He has afforded you. Even now, in the presence of their enemies, Christians across the world are banqueting (Ps 23:5). They are lifting their eyes to the hills! From where does their help come? Their help comes from the Lord—the Maker of heaven and earth (Pss 121:1-2), and He is using your prayers for their good!

Soli Deo Gloria
The Staff at HeartCry Missionary Society

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

"FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN TO ITS SETTING THE NAME OF THE LORD IS TO BE PRAISED."

PSALM 113:3



Children's Outreach in Nigeria

OTU OLUWAGBEMIGA, NIGERIA | "We have been engaged in several outreach efforts. We distributed many gospel booklets and tracts in the two institutions we are evangelizing. We also had the opportunity to engage with the students, share the gospel with them, and press the urgency of the salvation of their souls.

Additionally, we continue our Bible study in Itoku. This month, we received positive feedback from the proprietor of the primary school there. He said the teaching is a blessing to the school, and he would like us to engage with the students more, even beyond the school assembly ground.

The attendance in our children's Bible club meetings has also been encouraging. On one occasion, the Lord allowed us to reach some of the children playing around before the Bible class commenced. Many of these children are either Muslims or adherents to the African Traditional Religion. We shared the gospel with several teenagers and preteens, and two of them joined us for Bible class that same day. We have taught the children who attend about the doctrines of God, Scripture, and Christ. We are currently going through the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Alongside this doctrinal teaching, we continue catechizing them. Our prayer is that God will draw these children to Himself through our feeble efforts." •••

ABOVE: Otu O. is the pastor of Grace Reformed Baptist Church. In addition to his pastoral duties, Otu has a passion for preaching the gospel to and translating sound literature for people who speak the Yoruba language.

IN THIS SECTION: NIGERIA (4), ROMANIA (5), PERU (5, 14–15), NIGERIA (6–7), SOUTH ASIA (8), SOUTH SUDAN (9), SPAIN (9), CANADA (10), SERBIA (11), VIRGINIA (12–13)

Baptisms in Budesti

MARIAN NAE, ROMANIA | Marian Nae was privileged to preach at a baptism service in the Baptist Church of Budesti. He reflects on the service: "We celebrated a significant milestone with the baptism of several new believers in Budesti. The joy of seeing them publicly declare their faith was overwhelming. It is a powerful testament to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in their lives." •••

For the last 20 years, Marian Nae has served as pastor of Holy Trinity Baptist Church in Glina, Romania. In addition to his pastoral duties in Glina, his ministry work includes church planting in Frumusanii, prison ministry in Rahova, and outreach to Roma communities.





A Ministry of Prayer

PERU | Rosa Antonia is 96 years old and has been a Christian since the 1930s. She is no longer able to leave her home, so elders from Good Shepherd Baptist Church frequently visit her to teach and encourage her. Despite her increasing physical weakness, she has taken upon herself a ministry of prayer for her brothers and sisters in Christ. Though feeble in body, she prays daily for the saints. As she faithfully intercedes in quiet dependence on the Lord, Rosa demonstrates that every believer can participate in the advance of the gospel. •••



Fifteen Baptisms in Nigeria

OSINACHI NWOKO, NIGERIA | Fifteen people were recently baptized and added to Heart-Cry missionary Osinachi Nwoko's church in Nigeria. Osinachi writes:

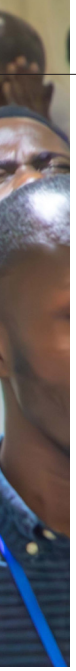
"One of the great highlights of serving the Lord in the ministry of His gospel is seeing in real time the conviction that grips some hearers. It is a joy to hear people confess how blessed they have been by the plain preaching of the gospel of our blessed God.

One such testimony is that of a young man by the name of Matthew. He recounts his testimony of conversion: 'I was born into a Muslim family, but I have no memories of ever going to a mosque. However, I have many memories of going to church as a young child. Even though I attended church, I knew nothing of the saving grace of God.

While preparing to write university admission exams, I came across a Charles Spurgeon quote on Facebook. I cannot remember the exact words of the quotation, but I do vividly remember how Spurgeon's words struck me. They stood in stark contrast to everything I had ever learned as a "Christian."

As I was exposed to more of Spurgeon's quotes, I was dumbfounded by the man's message. I wanted to learn more about him, so I downloaded numerous sermons. In those sermons, Spurgeon would mention names like Luther, Calvin, Whitefield, and other faithful men. I started reading about them too.

Even though I read Spurgeon voraciously, I was still unconverted and still wallowing in sin as a sophomore student in the university. But one night, I was convicted of my sins as I read a Spurgeon sermon. My eyes were opened, my sins were laid bare before me, and I saw my great need for the Savior. I dropped to my knees and pleaded that God might save a wretched sinner like me. And blessed be God, He saved me!'" •••



"My eyes were opened, my sins were laid bare before me, and I saw my great need for the Savior. I dropped to my knees and pleaded that God might save a wretched sinner like me."











Baptisms In South Asia

PROTECTED MISSIONARY, SOUTH ASIA | "We are experiencing God's faithfulness as He helps us to grow and live gloriously for Him.

Recently, we held a special fasting and prayer program for five days. God graciously helped individuals, families, and the congregation to examine themselves and turn toward Him. The fasting and prayers were greatly blessed by God — personally for me, for my family, and for the church. Two people who participated responded to the gospel, were saved by God's grace, and were baptized. Please pray for the spiritual growth of these two new believers.

Please also pray for our church — that we would grow in faithfulness, apply what we have learned in our daily personal, family, and church life, and serve the Lord with greater consistency and faithfulness." •••



Commentaries to South Sudan

BENSON NKAASU, SOUTH SUDAN | What began as a small congregation gathering under a tree in South Sudan has now grown into a church of more than 200 members. However, as Pastor David Jong and his fellow elder sought to shepherd this growing congregation, they had no access to biblical literature or even a study Bible to assist them in their personal studies, teaching, and preaching.

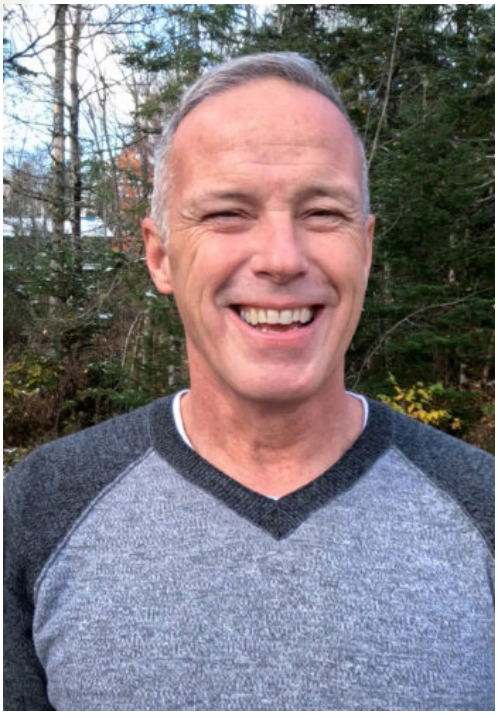
In response to this need, HeartCry purchased commentaries for Pastor David and his church. In this picture, HeartCry missionary Benson Nkaasu presents Pastor David with these new resources.

Like Pastor David, many indigenous missionaries and pastors on the field do not have access to sound literature to aid them in their study of Scripture. Through your prayers, generosity, and partnership, we are able to provide Bibles, theological training, and biblical resources to brothers laboring in difficult places around the world. •••



Eleven Baptisms in Oviedo, Spain

CHRISTIAN ULLOA, SPAIN | "We had the privilege of seeing 11 people go through the waters of baptism, publicly testifying to their faith in Christ. It was a deeply joyful and solemn time, where we could see the faithfulness of the Lord in continuing to call and save sinners. This fruit is also the result of consistent work in evangelism, discipleship, and faithful teaching of the Word. It encourages us to see how the Lord continues to build up His church and transform lives through the gospel." •••





From HeartCry Support to Church Support

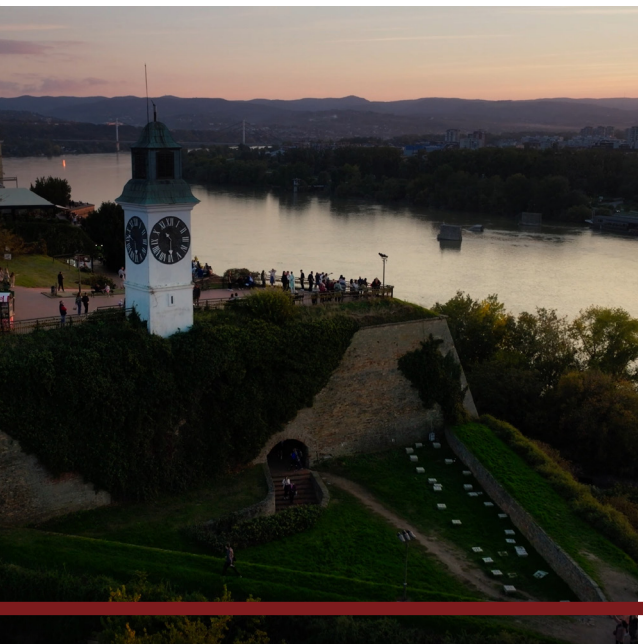
NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA | In 2026, Chris Sippley and Dave Storey became fully supported by their local churches, transitioning off HeartCry's financial support. Both pastor churches in New Brunswick, Canada. Chris is the pastor of Cornerstone Church Richibucto, and Dave is the pastor of Miramichi Valley Church. •••

Pastors' Wives Conference

TORONTO, CANADA | Ministry can oftentimes be difficult for pastors, but also for pastors' wives. Pastors' wives can also be discouraged. They can have a hard time in ministry and experience deep loneliness. Because of this, HeartCry invited a select group of pastors' wives from Canada to gather just outside of Toronto in order for them to have refreshment, to have fellowship with other pastors' wives, and to be encouraged from the Word. As these women go back to their local churches, their families, and their pastor husbands, we pray they will be encouraged to continue to be faithful. •••







Project Timothy: Sound Literature for Serbia

RISTE MICEV, SERBIA | Project Timothy has translated and published 72 books since 2015. Led by HeartCry missionary Riste, Project Timothy's goal is to provide sound biblical literature and resources across Serbia. Among the books that Riste and his team have been able to print is Paul Washer's *The Gospel of Jesus Christ*.

He explains: "We didn't have anything like it that explains the gospel as well as this book. We wanted people to be able to share this on the street, and it can always be kept in your pocket, since it's smaller. But I can say it's very powerful. Was there anything like that in Serbian before? Not like that. Not like that. It's easy reading for every context, for understanding what the message of the gospel is. And it is an encouragement to me."

In a land where biblical resources are scarce, Project Timothy is clearly explaining and proclaiming the gospel throughout Serbia and even into neighboring countries. They have received numerous testimonies of the impact of their work from people both in and around Serbia. As these stories continue to come in, Riste and the Project Timothy team faithfully look toward their next project. •••

Watch Online

Learn more about brother Riste and Project Timothy in the video "Good Books Can Change Lives."

Watch on heartcrymissionary.com/stories







Not Laboring Alone

HEARTCRY OFFICE, VIRGINIA | HeartCry had the privilege to host a few brothers and sisters from Asia at our headquarters in Virginia. Our mission coordinators spent a month teaching and training them in a wide range of topics, with a particular focus on church planting and practical ministry.

Reflecting on the training, these brothers and sisters shared:

"I have been so encouraged to know that I am not laboring alone in Southeast Asia... This time has shown me that ministry is not about the big buildings, big platforms, large numbers, or impressive programs. It is about faithfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ and our daily communion with God."

"I'm so thankful to have come to the HeartCry office and participate in this training. Through the lessons as well as the lives of brothers and sisters here, I have been encouraged to remain faithful to the Lord in small things. I have learned how to truthfully fulfill the role that God has given me as a woman."

"My first and most important plan is to return to Southeast Asia to be in deeper communion with God, to be more prayerful, and to spend more time with Him... This training has given me a much clearer biblical lens for ministry." •••

The training these young brothers and sisters received equipped and strengthened them to return to some of the most unreached regions of Asia.







2026 HeartCry Weekender

HEARTCRY OFFICE, VIRGINIA | In the summer of 2026, HeartCry hosted a conference for missionaries serving in Portugal, Ireland, and Spain. Brother Paul Washer taught from Scriptures, and the men had many opportunities to pray together and fellowship. Please pray that the Lord would encourage and equip these men to faithfully serve their families, churches, and communities. •••



Church Construction in Iquitos

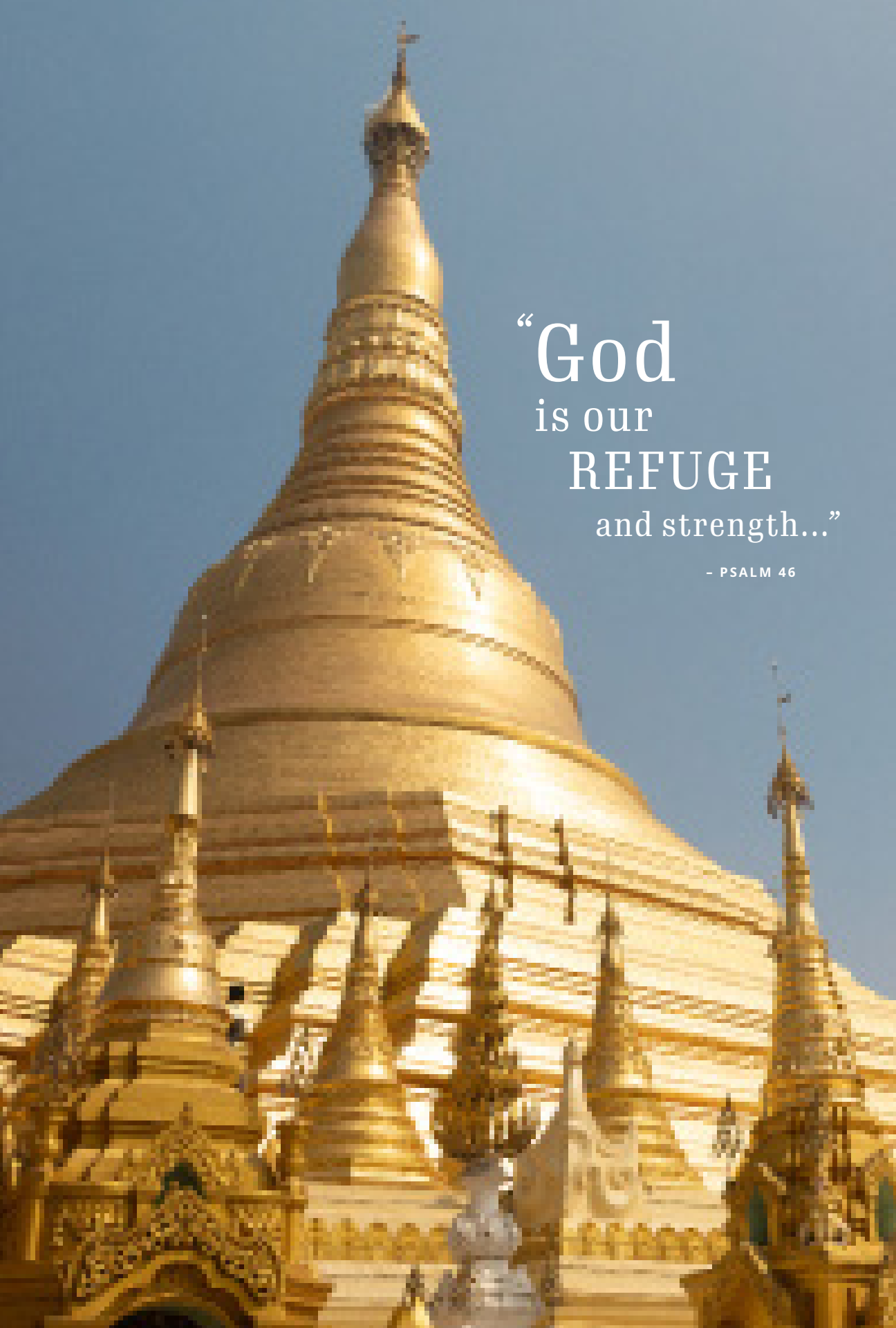
MARIO FLORES, PERU | Mario Flores is working to establish Iglesia Biblica Gracia Verdadera (True Grace Bible Church) in the flood-prone community of Iquitos, Peru. Because the river frequently floods the region, buildings must be constructed on stilts. However, the government offers this land at little to no cost if recipients commit to developing it. Recently, the church secured four lots where they could begin to build a permanent gathering place.

The congregation did much of the construction themselves, and HeartCry was privileged to help them purchase building materials. HeartCry also provided funds for them to install electricity. They have already started using the facility for some activities. Please pray for Mario and Iglesia Biblica Gracia Verdadera as they complete construction and use this building as a space for worship, children's ministry, family outreach, evangelism, discipleship, and prayer. Pray that it would be a useful tool in advancing the gospel in Iquitos. •••





Although Mario's primary ministry task is to help plant Iglesia Biblica Gracia Verdadera, he is also involved in discipleship for churches in the surrounding areas and providing theological training for pastors in the Amazon.


“God
is our
REFUGE
and strength...”
– PSALM 46

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Myanmar

OUR ENDURING HOPE IN THE FIGHT



"It's getting worse now. There is fighting every day. Many Christians have left the country. Now that this kind of political situation has arisen, there are many difficulties. There is difficulty in making a living. Transportation and mobility are also difficult. You cannot go where you want to go."

A dear co-laborer with HeartCry for a decade, D.T. is well-acquainted with the turbulent history of his country both physically and spiritually. Ongoing armed conflicts rage across Myanmar (also known as Burma), fueling instability and civil unrest. Beneath the perpetual violence, the spiritual landscape of the country has long been plagued by Buddhism, and Myanmar's "Christianity" is tangled with liberal and nominal distortions of the gospel. While true believers are persecuted and even kicked out of their homes, nominal Christians are accepted.



Trusting God's Provision

"We trust completely in the Lord for our needs. We believe that He will provide for us. God has His own people here in Myanmar, as He does in every country. God is a wonderful and mighty God. When we look back at our past, it gives us boldness, seeing that the Lord has provided everything we have needed—food, buildings, and the power of the Holy Spirit."

D.T. continues: "The situation is hopeless. That is the human perspective. But, for us, the born-again Christians, there is hope in God." D.T. has been propelled by this enduring hope since he first heard the gospel as a young man living in a small village in Chin State.

Hope in Salvation

Growing up, D.T. was taught that the way to heaven was by being a good person and keeping the Ten Commandments. When he was 15, an evangelist traveled through his village teaching the true gospel. D.T. recalls the moment the message of salvation struck his heart:

"He [the evangelist] started teaching the doctrine of sin and the doctrine of salvation. I came to see salvation is free. Yes, Christ did everything for me. The only thing that I have to do is trust in Him. I accepted that good news, and I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord."

Embodying the words of his Savior to forsake all else for the sake of Christ's Name (Matthew 19:29), D.T. immediately surrendered his life to the Lord's service. He recounts: "I fully sacrificed my life. I dedicated my life. I left my house, my home. I left my parents. I left my family."

Equipped with the hope of the true gospel, D.T. joined evangelistic teams and set out to proclaim the good news. Within two and a half years, he had visited 153 villages on foot.

Hope in the Word



As D.T. traveled and evangelized across Myanmar, the need for the gospel was evident. But the Lord brought another need to his attention: many people groups still lacked a written Bible in their native language.

D.T. grew up among people who spoke the Chin language, and the only Bible available to him as a young believer was a paraphrased version derived from a poor English translation.

Sensing the urgent need among his people, D.T. began to pray. Every day, he tearfully pleaded, "Lord, raise someone who can translate the Bible from English to the Chin language." After many years of prayer, he received an unexpected answer to his petitions.

He recounts: "One day, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart, 'Why not you?' I immediately replied, 'No, no, no, Lord, I am not qualified, and it is very hard work.'"



The next day, D.T. received a call from a coordinator for Bibles International in Myanmar. The coordinator invited him to attend a Bible translators' training. Eventually, D.T. submitted to the Holy Spirit's call, attended the training, and began the long process of translating the Bible into the Chin language. After 18 years of labor, he completed the final translation in 2018.

However, D.T. was then met with another challenge: there were not enough funds to print the translated work. With no inkling of where the money would come from, D.T. again found himself tearfully praying that the Lord would provide.

Once more, the Lord answered. D.T. remembers: "One night just before I went to bed, I received a very brief email that read 'HeartCry Missionary Society approved to send the needed funds for the Chin Bible Publication to Bibles International.' I jumped up and shouted 'Hallelujah!' My wife was surprised and said, 'What?' I said, 'It is complete now!' We both knelt and gave thanks to God. The next day, I received lovely news from the Projects Manager of Bibles International, saying that the funds were now full."

When hope seemed lost, the Lord provided a way for His Word to reach the Chin people. By God's sustaining grace, D.T. now oversees a dozen other translation projects, extending the hope of God's Word to even more unreached regions across Myanmar.





Pictured (Above and Below): D.T.'s 18 years of labor to translate the Word of God into the Chin language came to joyful fruition. Bibles were distributed to many grateful recipients in the Chin region of Myanmar.



Translating God's Word

In 1813, Adoniram Judson, the first Protestant missionary from America, arrived in Myanmar. He quickly set out to learn and translate the Bible into Burmese, the common language of the country. Though he faced persecution and hardship, Judson completed the translation. Despite this monumental accomplishment, there remained many people groups across the country that did not have a proper translation in their regional language.







Hope for the Next Generations

Though Myanmar's greatest need is for God's Word, decades of conflict have destabilized the country's infrastructure, making it difficult for children to obtain a good education. After much prayer, the Lord put it on D.T.'s heart to begin a school. He explains, "The idea is, if we give a good education to our children, there is hope in their future." Thus, he began an international English school for young children, and this school currently serves 500 students.

But D.T.'s desire for the next generation was not merely for them to obtain an academic education. As with the desire behind his translation efforts, his primary desire was to bring the hope of the gospel to Myanmar. So the Lord led him to also start a Bible school:

"The vision is: we will invite God's young people and train them. We will give them sound doctrine. We will give them

Since the year 2000, these students have gone out to plant over 780 small local churches in unreached areas of Myanmar and 121 local churches in the Chin state.



a mission mind and an evangelistic mind, then send them back to their own people group, sent by the church and sent to the mission field, to plant and support churches across the country. By God's grace, we have graduated 898 students. Out of these 898 graduates, 98% are involved in different kinds of ministries."

Upon graduation, many of these students return to the regions of the country where the fighting and violence are most severe. But equipped with the armor of God, they are waging spiritual warfare as they proclaim the message of the gospel to the furthest reaches of Myanmar.

Hope Endures

Though the human perspective is often hopeless, true hope endures in Myanmar. Propelled by God's hand of providence, D.T. and believers in Myanmar find peace and fruitfulness amidst persecution and violence.

Hope endures as the Word of God is diligently translated into more native languages. Hope endures as hundreds of children receive a Christian education. Hope endures as students graduate from a local Bible school and are sent out to bring the gospel to regions torn by conflict and violence. Hope endures as churches are planted and the gospel is proclaimed to the furthest reaches of Myanmar.

In God's providence, the gospel is advancing. Believers in Myanmar daily live out Adoniram Judson's hopeful declaration from many years ago: "In spite of sorrow, loss, and pain, our course be onward still; we sow on Burma's barren plain, we reap on Zion's hill." •••





The Religious Landscape of Myanmar

Situated in Mainland Southeast Asia as the largest country by area in the region, Myanmar stands out as difficult and needy mission field. There is constant political and civil unrest due to corruption, poor infrastructure, and armed conflicts. Besides this physical instability, Myanmar's spiritual instability is strikingly evident, as the country is blinded by Buddhism. Religious persecution on non-Buddhists is constant. Christians are targeted frequently and are often forced to flee the country. Despite this raging persecution, God is working in Myanmar through faithful Christians who remain steadfast through the hope of Christ.



UKRAINE

OUR REFUGE ON THE FRONTLINES

February of 2026 marked four years since the beginning of the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Though it has largely disappeared from Western headlines, it remains a perpetual reality for the people living in these countries. HeartCry missionary Vitalli Rusnak paints a picture of day-to-day life in Ukraine:

"Every day our country is bombarded and many civilians die, especially lately. Even now as I write, today Kyiv was bombed again, and there are over 30 dead... Many men are dying on the frontlines, and those who have not enlisted voluntarily are now being taken from the streets and forced to fight. Because of this, more doors are closed, and it is harder to visit people... Some have not left their homes for more than three years, living under this heavy burden. As you pass through the village, you see mostly elderly people and children—men are increasingly rare. It is a tense situation, and even those in the church are going through these struggles. I have spoken with several who confess they can no longer live under the weight of fear and uncertainty."

"Now is the time for the church to get fully involved; the door of the gospel is open, we must make use of this moment of ministry and service."

– Ion Gireada



> "We have been able to distribute **hundreds of thousands** of tracts to those who have neither **seen nor heard** of the gospel."
>
> – Ion Gireada

Surrounded by death and uncertainty, HeartCry missionaries Ion Gireada and Vitalli Rusnak seek to minister in Ukraine. Though often bewildered as to why God allows such destruction to prevail, Ion and Vitalli have seen God use these events to open unexpected doors for evangelism, especially among soldiers. And as these soldiers are daily confronted with their mortality, the message of hope has found fertile soil.

Ministry to Soldiers on the Frontlines and Hospitals

Eighteen months after the fighting began, a Romanian believer was bringing aid to refugees in the eastern part of Ukraine, and he observed many cars with mobilized soldiers. He was struck by the realization that the refugees were receiving care, but no one was bringing the gospel to these soldiers headed to the frontlines. Thus, the idea came about to go to intersections where there is a large concentration of soldiers, prepare a hot meal for them, pray with them, and present them with the gospel.

These efforts have allowed countless soldiers to see God's love in action and hear the message of the gospel. Ion recounts: "The soldiers are deeply moved by a hot meal, spiritual counsel, and

Top left: The violence has left buildings across Ukraine in ruins, and many people, especially those closest to the frontlines, live without electricity and water.

prayer... I was able to tell them about this God who sent us to show them His love by serving and feeding them for free. This shocked them greatly, and they repeatedly thanked us. Some said that to come 1,200 km into a dangerous area and feed people for free means you must truly have a living and real God. We pray that God will reveal Himself to them and bring them to salvation, even in the last moments of their lives... Though these times are devastating, we see beauty in these gospel opportunities."

In addition to this ministry to soldiers on the front lines, the Lord has also opened doors for Ion and several other local pastors to minister to wounded soldiers. Ion describes this ministry: "We found out that there were many soldiers in nearby hospitals, and we took the initiative. We approached the doctors, and they gave us permission to visit them as long as we brought necessary items for the wounded (hygiene products, bandages, fruit, even wheelchairs). Some are severely wounded—without hands, without legs, some without eyes.

When we visit, we bring a small gift, then we listen to them so they can tell us their stories and unburden themselves. Then we give them a New Testament if they do not have one and tell them about the Lord Jesus. After that, we pray. Most are not opposed to us praying for them. We also write down the needs they have so that we can help them later."

In 2025 alone, God used these efforts to bring His gospel to nearly 25,000 soldiers, both on the frontlines and in hospitals. Reflecting on these ministry opportunities, Ion writes: "The Lord is good and miraculous, always carrying us in His chariot of victory in the work of preaching the gospel. He has opened doors for us to preach the Word to those who have never heard of Christ or the gospel, and many of them have returned to the Lord with repentance. We have been able to distribute hundreds of thousands of tracts to those who have neither seen nor heard of the gospel. This is an even greater miracle. This is how the Lord found a way for the gospel to be preached through suffering and the death, and for people to listen without resisting. We pray that those whom the Lord has sown will bring forth fruit in the time He has appointed."

"Some said that to come 1,200 km into a dangerous area and feed people for free means you must truly have a living and real God."

A Word of Thanks

"I want to thank the donors and prayer partners from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful and great work they are doing by supporting the ministry of preaching the gospel in our country, both through prayer and financially. You are a great source of joy and thanksgiving to God for all the good you do for the spread of the gospel. Be blessed by the Lord and remain available to God so He can use you for His glory and the expansion of His kingdom."

– Ion Gireada





Top: Ion (fifth from the right) often brings a team of youth with him when he visits soldiers in the hospital. In addition to helping distribute the supplies, the youth spend time singing with and praying for the wounded. Pray that despite the fatigue, churches and pastors in Ukraine would not grow weary in doing good, using any door God opens for evangelism and relief. Pray that the Lord would give them passion and zeal to serve people with the gospel.

Left: Ion presents a soldier with a New Testament. Most of the soldiers are tired, far from their loved ones, and working in very difficult conditions. Pray that the Lord would have mercy on these men and give them saving faith. Pray that the gospel they have heard will bear fruit in their lives.




RENAULT

"Come, behold the works of the Lord... He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire. Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Psalm 46:8-10

Left: To reach the frontlines, Ion and Vitalli must travel over 1000km each way. When they arrive, they spend three days providing meals for thousands of soldiers. Despite the danger, the cost, and the energy needed to carry out this task, they go almost every month.

Peace and Rest in our Sovereign Lord

Though these evangelistic opportunities have borne much fruit, Vitalli and Ion confess that their souls are still often weighed down by despair and uncertainty. But as they seek to be faithful in the work the Lord has placed before them, the ministry itself is not what sustains or propels them. While the violence rages around them, they ultimately find refuge, rest, and hope in the knowledge that God's kingdom will prevail.

Vitalli reflects: "Since the armed conflict began in my country, I have been living in this constant tension between the kingdom of evil that seeks to destroy and the comfort of belonging to the kingdom of God. Psalm 46 has become foundational for me and my family during this time. We are truly living in times where God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we do not fear, even though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. God is our unshakable refuge, firm and steadfast. Amid the flood of discouraging news, we are learning to stop and remember to be still and know that He is God.

The Lord continues to provide everything we need, both materially and spiritually. He is the One who has given us true rest in Christ, refreshing our souls. Even in times of hardship, we rest in Him. Our Good Shepherd leads us through these valleys and deep ravines, assuring us of His presence. Even when we see the shadow of death, the shadow cannot kill us. We rejoice in His protection and presence.

In His providence, God has placed us in this country for such a time as this—to serve Him and spread the fragrance of the knowledge of Him among people who are discouraged and disoriented, who feel that everything is collapsing and have no anchor of hope. Though we live in a world where everything is shaking and constantly changing, He does not shake. God the King is on His throne." •••

Iran & the Middle East

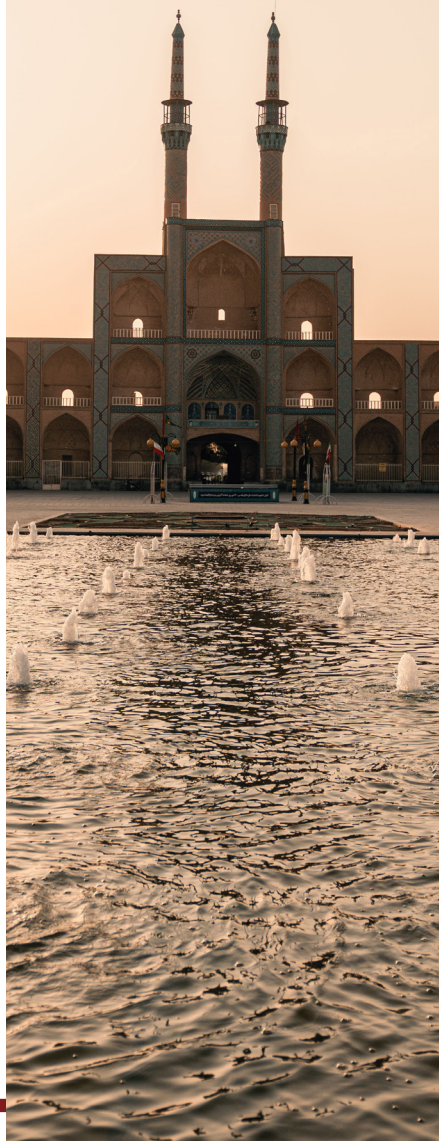
OUR SOVEREIGN IN THE STORM



For HeartCry missionaries in the Middle East, this year's conflict in and around Iran has upended daily life and ministry. At the height of the violence, they spent days sheltered indoors, put church activities on hold, and many did not know when they would be able to see their loved ones again. Yet as battles rage around them, they cling to the truths of Psalm 46, and they find rest knowing the King is on His throne. Below is one missionary's reflection on God's sovereignty in the midst of these events.

"The sirens have been going off several times a day. Missiles and drones have passed through our country's airspace, and fragments have fallen in different parts of the country. On multiple occasions, we have watched interceptions and explosions in the sky. By God's grace, we are doing well and are safe. We remain in place, prayerful and watchful, trusting the Lord's care.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling." (Psalm 46:1-3)



These days remind us how quickly stability can feel uncertain. What appears solid can tremble in a moment, and what felt distant can suddenly press close. Yet Scripture refuses to let us interpret the world by what we see alone. 'Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases' (Psalm 115:3). The throne is not shaken when nations rage (Psalm 2:1–4). The Lord is not reacting to unfolding events or adjusting His purposes under pressure. He 'removes kings and establishes kings' (Daniel 2:21), and 'works all things according to the counsel of His will' (Ephesians 1:11). **The storm is real, but it is not sovereign.**

And we know the character of this rule because we have seen it most clearly at the cross. What appeared to be chaos and the triumph of evil was, in truth, 'delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God' (Acts 2:23). The darkest hour in history unfolded under His wise and holy hand for the salvation of His people. If He governed that day for the brightest good, then we may trust Him in this one. **Christ is not pacing in heaven.** He is seated at the right hand of God (Romans 8:34), reigning until all His enemies are placed under His feet (1 Corinthians 15:25), and He 'always lives to make intercession' for His people (Hebrews 7:25). His sovereignty is not cold force, but purposeful love. The King who rules the nations also keeps His church, and not one purpose of His can fail (Job 42:2).

We are also especially burdened for the church in Iran. Many believers already live under significant pressure. In times of national crisis, suspicion increases and vulnerability deepens. Please pray for their safety, for boldness, and for steadfast faith. Pray that they would stand firm, remembering that 'our struggle is not against flesh and blood' (Ephesians 6:12). Pray that the Lord would grant them endurance and joy in believing (Romans 15:13).

Pray that God would raise up and send many faithful servants to Iran—men and women who love Christ deeply, who are rooted in sound theology, and who will teach God's Word with truth and humility, so that His church in Iran would be built on a strong and lasting foundation.

Pray that the gospel of Jesus Christ would go forth with power, gentleness, and clarity. That many broken hearts would turn to Him in repentance and faith. And that even in darkness, Iranians would see the light of His Kingdom shining.

Please continue to pray for wisdom for leaders (1 Timothy 2:1–2) and protection for civilians. And pray for us, that we would serve faithfully, think clearly, and rest deeply in the sovereignty of God. We are grateful for your partnership and prayers. **The road may feel uncertain, but His throne is not."** •••



Right: Just as the Alborz Mountains surround and tower over the city of Tehran, the fortress of Islam towers over Christians across Iran and the Middle East.



Notes From Protected Missionaries In the Middle East

"The last couple of days have been quite hectic with the conflict in our region. Our schedules have abruptly changed, and even church and other related activities have been put on hold. We are reminded more and more that God is seated on His throne, in full control over the situation."

"As things began to escalate, our hearts were exposed to reveal our love of control and comfort. But even in exposing us, He is kind. He has reminded us that in this world, safety is mere shadow. Nowhere is safe except the arms of our Lord. His words are more powerful than the explosions we hear. He is closer to us than any danger. His rule is supreme."

"By God's grace, we have continued to gather regularly—for prayer, for reading the Word, and for encouraging one another. These times have become even more meaningful as we cling to the truth that God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. We are learning what it means to trust God not only in word, but in silence... not only in clarity, but in uncertainty. Even without answers, we are holding on to His promises and choosing to believe that He is at work—both in us and beyond what we can see. Though circumstances feel unstable, we are reminded daily that He remains unchanging and faithful."



OUR REST IN THE TOIL

"This is what the Lord has placed in our hands, and we hope and ask for prayer that we would be faithful in all of it."

– Mario Pina

From the outside, Miratejo Baptist Church appears to be a machine of constant activity. As a multicultural church of over 200 congregants, they are involved in church revitalization and church planting, and they facilitate a lively homeschool ministry. In 2023, they helped launch a local seminary to train Portuguese ministry leaders, welcoming their fourth class of students this fall. There was a season when Pastor Mario Pina would have measured faithfulness and success in ministry by this busyness and output. But over the last decade, the Lord has taught him to strive towards something quieter.

BUSYNESS TO FAITHFULNESS

Mario reflects, "Our church had many activities. Something was happening every day. But there was a lack of fruit. I was not seeing men grow in their faith. I was not seeing families become stronger. I was not seeing children show greater interest in God's Word. As I listened to sermons from men such as Voddie Baucham, Kevin Swanson, and others, and as I discussed these concerns with my fellow leaders, we realized that we needed change.

We stopped many meetings and focused on preaching, prayer, teaching men to lead their families, and helping them reach others with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We wanted to train men in the Scriptures and call them to lead their households. We began to teach them to read the Bible with their families, to pray with them, and to disciple them. We focused more on God's Kingdom and His righteousness, trusting that He would care for us.

Over time, we saw a significant change in the church. We began to see families grow. We also began to see maturity among men, wives, and young people. For a pastor, that was a great joy: to go to the pulpit and preach to a church that wanted to listen to God's Word and practice it. Eventually, other families were attracted to the church, and the church began to grow. Over the last ten years, we have almost doubled in size. I praise God for His guidance and grace."

TOP: As Miratejo Baptist matured, the church began to emphasize families worshiping together. The parents desired for their children to see how they practiced their faith, how they worshipped God, and how they lived before God in every part of life.

MIDDLE: Every morning, Mario's family gathers for family worship. After singing together, Mario gives a short devotional.

BOTTOM: Mario desires to cultivate fellowship among men serving in ministry and frequently hosts them for discipleship at his house.

ACTIVITY TO REST

The shift has also impacted Mario's personal walk with the Lord and his approach to ministry: "As the church moved from activity, this change exposed my heart. Before, I think many of those activities existed because I wanted people to see me. I wanted people to see that I was busy. But over time, my heart became dark. I lacked a life of prayer. I did not read the Scriptures or meditate on them as I should have. I lacked spiritual growth. I was empty and vulnerable to sin. I was frequently stressed, and my heart would pound at night for no clear reason.

The Lord confronted me through sermons, especially from HeartCry and Paul Washer. Paul would speak to young pastors like me and ask, 'How is your prayer life? How is your reading of the Scriptures? Why are you so focused on showing yourself? Why do you not go to your room, open the Bible, pray, and call upon God to show Himself to you?'

Those words were like a knife in my heart. I needed to change the way I was doing ministry. I needed to stop trying to show myself to people. I needed to stop doing things simply to be seen. Instead, I needed to go to my room alone and pray. I needed to pray for myself, for my family, and for the church. I needed to open my Bible, study it, see God in the Scriptures, turn to God, and be amazed by Him.

God was merciful and gracious to me, and over the years, He helped me change. I needed that change. Because of that, I began to rest. Now I rest, trusting the Lord. This is His church. This is His work. My task is to focus on what He is asking me to do."

THE LORD WILL RAISE HIS CHURCH

Though Miratejo Baptist has almost doubled in size over the last decade and appears even busier than before, its foundation has shifted. The focus is no longer busyness for its own sake or activity to be seen by others. Rather, the focus is on cultivating a quiet dependence on the Lord and His Word in the midst of whatever ministry opportunities He provides. "Our responsibility is to be faithful," Mario says, "faithful to read and explain the Scriptures, faithful to pray to God for the people who hear the Scriptures, and faithful to wait on God. The Lord will raise His church. The Lord will save His people. He will bring the growth that the church needs. He will take care of everything." •••







Miratejo Demographics

Miratejo has a population of around 22,000 people. Over the years, this area became a community with a large immigrant population. There are many people from different parts of Brazil, India, Pakistan, Cape Verde, Angola, Mozambique, Bangladesh, among others. With only a small number of Portuguese members, this is the make-up of Miratejo Baptist Church.



HOW YOU CAN PRAY

1 Portugal is a very Catholic country, and this has made it difficult for the gospel to spread. Pray for the church in Portugal. Pray for pastors. Pray that they would share the gospel with boldness and that they would train new men for ministry and for church planting.

2 There is much spiritual warfare in Miratejo. There are Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Catholics, prosperity churches, and charismatic churches. There is much confusion about the true gospel and the Scriptures. Please pray for Mario and teh church as they go out, preach the gospel, and share Jesus Christ with their neighbors.

3 Pray that Mario and Miratejo Baptist would steward the many opportunities the Lord has given them for ministry: teaching the Word, church planting, church revitalization, homeschool and family ministry, training men at the seminary, and training African pastors.





LOOK TO THE FIELD

EGYPT

Egypt has been a monumental theater of the providence of God. It was a land of refuge for Abraham during a time of famine, the place where the family of Jacob grew into a nation, and the country out of which Moses led the people of Israel toward the Promised Land.

As one of the earliest centers of the Christian Church, Egypt was also the home of many church fathers like Athanasius, who defended the deity of Christ and was instrumental in forming the Nicene Creed. For many centuries, Egypt remained a Christian nation. Over time, however, the gospel was gradually overshadowed. Among a population of 120 million, evangelical Christians only make up ~1.5%. Today, Islam is the national religion.

But the challenges for Christians extend beyond their minority status. To preach against Islam is a crime of religious intolerance punishable by years of imprisonment and hard labor. Furthermore, a vast majority of Egyptians—even professing Christians—hold entrenched beliefs that the Bible is corrupted, Christ is not truly God, and the Trinity is a lie. Biblical Christians who hold to Scripture as the inerrant Word of God are considered infidels and heretics.

These obstacles often misguide many believers throughout the country and leave them spiritually stagnant. There is an immense need for the deep truths of Scripture. Yet the same sovereign God who raised up Moses and led His people out of Egypt can today call His people in Egypt out of spiritual darkness and into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Look to the Field is an episodic series designed to present the spiritual condition of specific countries and regions, highlighting both the challenges to gospel work and the need for prayer. Each episode provides a snapshot of the religious landscape, cultural barriers, and the reality that Christians face on the ground.

Watch on heartcrymissionary.com/stories

RIGHT: Built between 1830 and 1848 by order of Muhammad Ali Pasha, the "Alabaster Mosque" is a monument to the dominance of Islam in Egypt.



A HeartCry mission coordinator for the Middle East described this tension between opposition and hope. He explains that though Egyptian Christians are "under attack from different religions and cults, there is a real hunger in the country. Churches desire to grow. They desire to know more of the truth." Today, in meeting places across the country, faithful followers of Christ gather to worship every week. Despite great risk, some mark themselves with the symbol of the cross to show that they belong wholly to Him.

These Christians are not forgotten or left to themselves. Just as God did not forget Joseph while he was unjustly imprisoned by Pharaoh, to this day He is sovereignly preserving and maturing Egyptian believers. And like the Thessalonian church of the first century, they have hope in the God of peace who will sustain and grow them until our Lord comes again: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass" (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

Consider then how to pray for Egypt: Pray that the Lord would raise up pastors who are devoted to the Word and prayer and who boldly preach the entire counsel of God. Pray that believers would mature in their faith through the knowledge of Christ. Pray that believers would be emboldened by the gospel to be living sacrifices to God. •••



The Dominance of Islam In Egypt

120M

Population of Egypt

90%

of Egypt's population identifies as Muslim

~1.5%

Identify as Evangelical Christian

MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT:

IVOR WALKER

Tyrells Baptist Church · Antigua



Testimony of Conversion

I often joke with people that I was brought to the knowledge of Christ at the cost of 25 cents.

I grew up in the Roman Catholic Church. I was an active altar boy, a "very dedicated" Catholic, and I also attended a Catholic school. In the fifth grade, however, I was expelled for being rowdy and not paying attention. As a result, I attended a different school for the last year of my primary education.

That year, my new school hosted a used book sale, and I bought a book there for 25 cents. I did not really investigate what the book was; I just bought it as a way to contribute. When I got home, I realized I had purchased a Bible. Several pages were missing, but I remember reading Exodus 20. It was written in relatively modern language, and for the first time in my life, I read that you should not make any graven image of things in heaven, things on the earth, or things beneath the earth. Being a Roman Catholic, a conflict developed in my mind. I went to the priest and asked him about those verses, but he did not give me a satisfactory answer.

At this time, I also started attending confirmation classes. Confession was a regular part of this process. During confession, I found myself telling lies. I did not want the priest to know what mischief I was up to; after all, I was a "very dedicated" altar boy. But then it dawned on me that I was sinning while going through a process that was designed for me to seek forgiveness for my sins. In response to this realization and the inadequate answer from the priest, I developed a rebellious attitude towards the Roman Catholic Church. I began skipping church, and I eventually stopped going.

Ivor Walker serves as pastor of Tyrells Baptist Church in Antigua, having retired from the military after 35 years.



"I often joke with people that I was brought to the knowledge of Christ at the cost of $0.25."

In my early teenage years, my mother struggled with employment, so we moved to a small house and I took on a part-time job. I remember coming home from work one evening, and our neighbor saw me coming home and called out to me. I realized that she knew me from a long time ago. Eventually, she invited me to her church, Central Baptist Church. I went to church with her, and then she invited me to the visitors' night at a Christian camp. There, for the first time in my life, somebody witnessed to me about Christ and gave me a gospel tract.

My mother noticed that I was taking an interest in church again and decided to buy me a new pair of trousers. The Saturday morning before Easter, she told me to prepare to go to the store with her. As I was waiting for her, I sat in our living room and began reading the tract. As I was reading, the Lord moved in my heart, and I came to a saving knowledge of Him. It was April of 1975.

Call to Ministry

As a teenager, I had a desire to preach, and a few people encouraged me in it. I was given opportunities to teach Sunday School, and the pastor allowed me to preach on several occasions. Even though I had these opportunities, I was not given much guidance in my teenage years. Thus, I went on with my life and joined any activity that permitted me to teach or preach.

I signed up for the military when I graduated high school. My intention was to stay for three years and then go study electronics, but I ended up staying for 35 years. During this time, I put this idea of being called to ministry behind me. As my military career developed, however, I was given a more comfortable post, and this allowed me to be in church more frequently. If I was not on duty, I was at church. If I was not overseas, I was at church. Eventually, I was encouraged to get involved in church leadership, and in the late 80s, I was ordained as a deacon.

As I took on more teaching responsibilities, the pastor challenged me and reminded me about my calling as a teenager. I could not deny that call, but I doubted I was the right man for the task. As it happened, it was a challenge the Lord would not allow me to refuse. I was ordained as a gospel minister in 1991. Even though I was not a full-time minister during the years that followed, my time was always concentrated on the work of the ministry.

Today, I serve the Lord as a pastor at Tyrells Baptist Church in Antigua, having retired from the military after 35 years. Looking back on my military career, I see how God has prepared me to minister, and looking forward to the next challenge in ministry, I know He will equip me for the task. I never imagined this would have happened, but here I am. That is how He works. •••



How You Can Pray

1 We are very "religious" people in the Caribbean. 90% of the time you go to evangelize someone, you will quote Scripture to them, and they will finish it for you. Many believe they are going to heaven because they keep the Sabbath. Pray that the people of Antigua will see their need for repentance, not religion.

2 We have very few men in church. People will gladly send their children, especially to vacation Bible school or any other small church activities like that. But we would really like to have more men in the church. Pray that the Lord would raise up godly men in Tyrells.

3 Another thing that burdens me is that many people see coming to church as something to make them feel good, forgetting that we come to worship an audience of One. Pray that we will remain faithful in our proclamation of the Word. No gimmicks, no theatrics, just the plain Word of God.



OUR ARMOR FOR THE BATTLE

WRITTEN BY RYAN BUSH
HEARTCRY COORDINATOR FOR LATIN AMERICA

"Take up the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day."
– EPHESIANS 6:13

"Fear is of the flesh and panic is of the Devil."

A constant battle between faith and fear rages in the heart of all followers of Christ. Even those who have walked the pilgrim way for decades and who have a growing faith still face fear-inducing circumstances. There is a surplus of reasons to be afraid in this fallen world, and no one can escape their onslaught. But the beloved children of God must not give in. "Fear is of the flesh and panic is of the Devil" (A. W. Tozer). In one sense, it is reasonable for Christians to be afraid because they are truly weak, and their enemies are strong. Consider the testimonies of the laborers in Myanmar, Ukraine, and the Middle East. On what basis can they find courage if they look inward for strength (Isa 50:11)? Their position is indefensible. Truly, their faith and hope in the face of such peril must be anchored in some external source if it is to endure the buffeting of those crashing waves and violent winds.

The foundation of faith and hope for all believers is God's Word (Ps 119:114). His Word is an extension of His character, and He would sooner betray Himself than He would betray His Word. Not a single syllable that has proceeded from His mouth will fall to the ground (Isa 55:10-11; Matt 5:18; Jer 1:12). God promises to keep His promises (Ps 12:7)! He does not call back His words (Isa 31:2). The Lord attends to His words and sees them through to the end.

Christians need this reminder and support for their souls in this chaotic world. Because we are quite unaccustomed to dealings with someone who is utterly faithful to his word, we must be careful not to let our relations with fallible men become the template for our reliance on God. Christians must be gullible, unsuspecting, innocent, and fully trusting when their Heavenly Father speaks. He is not like a man that He would lie, and every one of His good promises come to pass (Titus 1:2; Num 23:19; Josh 21:45).

This wholehearted trust is the key to overcoming fear. The fierce lion will frighten us if we forget he is hemmed in by iron bars made of stronger stuff than his teeth can tear. To trust in the Lord in the face of a fearful thing means we refuse to let the reality of that object of dread eclipse the person and promises of our God.

So then, what trustworthy words has God given for His children engaged in battle? "Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day" (Eph 6:13). His promise to us is that we will be strengthened to stand firm against our enemies when we are dressed in the armor He has provided. While this is especially critical for missionaries laboring in the field, the King has commanded all of His people to suit up. But the call to put on this armor is not some theoretical abstraction detached from the rigors of the Christian life. Mario Pina fastened on the belt of truth when he began listening to faithful Bible teaching, which resulted in critical insight and clarity that allowed him to address the deficiencies of his heart. With the helmet of salvation firmly placed, D.T. was strengthened to labor for the Lord despite the hopelessness that surrounded him. Missionaries in the Middle East and Ukraine stood firm as missiles streaked across the sky because the shield of faith quenched the fiery darts of the enemy's lies.

HIS WORD IS AN EXTENSION OF HIS CHARACTER, AND HE WOULD SOONER BETRAY HIMSELF THAN HE WOULD BETRAY HIS WORD.

Missionaries often grow weary of grappling with their enemies and wish for an end to the struggle, asking the Lord, "How long?" They often feel as though they will soon be overwhelmed and overcome, as Christian did when Apollyon lit upon him in the Valley of Humiliation. You have felt this as well, dear believer. Yet we must all put on the armor once again, remembering it is the Lord who goes before us; He will be with us, He will not fail us, and He will not forsake us (Deut 31:8)!

We must remember three critical truths. Firstly, the war we wage is fitting us for heaven—it is of great benefit to us (Rom 5:3-5). Secondly, though we must strain and toil, the victory does not depend upon our strength but on the Lord's, and the victory is certain (John 15:5; Prov 21:31). Finally, the battle will come to an end, and heavenly rest awaits. Jesus Christ has prepared a room for His servants in His Father's house, and He will get them safely to His many-mansioned country (John 14:2-3). Neither length of days nor decays of nature will diminish our heavenly dwelling. We will rejoice greatly and dwell peacefully in that good land. We would do well to heed Samuel Rutherford's exhortation, "Mind your country above." And as you keep heaven in view, keep your armor on. •••



Strength for the Fight

Even in the midst of armed conflicts, for the born again Christians, we continue to have faith in God. We pray even in the midst of real fighting and battle. We pray. And the Lord protects us and He will protect us. We have God who is in control.

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