



GLOBAL PRAYER

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Ugandan convert to Christianity flees country -- A convert to Christianity who was formerly a member of a Muslim extremist group has fled Uganda and is in hiding in Kenya. **Hassan Sharif Lubenga**, 54, was a sheikh and a member of a violent Islamist group. In June 2011, after dreams and visions in which Jesus appeared to him, Hassan made a full commitment to follow Christ. Extremists have been threatening Hassan since 2007, when he first began to speak of dreams and visions of Christ. Dangers peaked when Muslims saw him visiting a church. By April 2010, one of his four wives poisoned him because of his budding faith in Christ, leaving him unconscious. Due to increasing hostility, Hassan fled to Kenya in July 2011. Upon returning to Uganda in September, he learned that extremists and his former colleagues were threatening to kill him. When Hassan felt like giving up on his new faith, he received a call from Bishop Umar Mulinde, his former pastor who was later attacked by Muslim militants. Umar told him the church was praying for him, and Hassan was deeply heartened. Hassan has since fled again to Kenya, where his movements are severely restricted.

Pastor released from prison in Vietnam -- Y Wo Nie, a Vietnamese pastor who was arrested in August 2004, has been released from prison. Y Wo Nie was given a nine-year prison sentence for leading a demonstration demanding more religious freedom and the release of property confiscated by the Vietnamese government. He was released in December 2011. At last report, he had been spending time with his family and was planning to have a medical check-up to assess his health after more than seven years in prison. While Y Wo Nie was imprisoned, his wife told VOM partners, "I'm worried for my husband but God gives me His comfort that He is always with us though we have to face sickness or hard situations; He will help me to overcome my hard times."

Christian convert sentenced to two years in prison in Iran -- Leila Mohammadi, a Christian convert from Islam, has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment after enduring five months of uncertainty in Iran's notorious Evin prison. Her trial was held on January 18, where she was charged with "collaboration with foreign-dependent groups, broad anti-Islamic propaganda, deceiving citizens by formation of what is called a house church, insulting sacred figures and action against national security." She was acquitted only of collaboration with foreign-dependent groups because the judge believed she had done that unintentionally. Leila was arrested after a number of security agents raided her home on July 30, 2011, in Kianshahr town, east of Tehran. The agents thoroughly searched her house and also confiscated some of her belongings.

Another Christian, Parviz G, was freed after spending three days in the Evin custody centre. Apparently his arrest was related to the Christian activities of his wife, who was linked to the case of Leila.

Extremists in Somalia arrest man whose sons converted to Christianity -- On January 14, Somali Muslim extremists arrested a Muslim man after two of his teenage children converted to Christianity in Kismayo. The two teenage sons of Mo'alim Mohamud Aw-Omar converted to Christianity in late 2011. They fled their home following their conversion. Members of the radical Islamic group, al-Shabaab, accused Aw-Omar of "failing to raise his sons as good Muslims" because "good Muslims cannot convert to Christianity." Aw-Omar, who is still a Muslim, insisted that his sons had memorized the Qur'an, fasted and prayed regularly, and therefore he should not be accused of failing his duties. According to sources on the ground, the Islamists have refused to release Aw-Omar until his two sons return to Kismayo. This is unlikely to happen because the young men will be killed if they return. According to the strict interpretation of the Islamic law that al-Shabaab follows, leaving Islam is a crime punishable by death. Radical Islamists have killed a number of Christian converts in Somalia. This is the first confirmed case of a parent being arrested for the conversion of children.

Update: House church leader released from prison in China -- Shi Enhao, a house church pastor and vice president of the Chinese House Church Alliance, was unexpectedly released from a labor camp on January 20. At last report, the legal basis for his early release was not yet known. Pastor Shi was sentenced to two years of "re-education through labor" in July 2011 for "illegal meetings and illegal organizing of venues for religious meetings". Following his arrest, police ordered Pastor Shi's house church, which has several thousand members and meets in various locations, to stop gathering. They also confiscated instruments, choir robes, a car, and 140,000 Yuan (approximately \$20,900 CAD) in donations from the church.

PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES

Canaan Community Church



Mike and Renee Delorenzo – Kenya

Jonathan, Jodi, Jessica, Joshua, Joseph & Josiah Thars – Taiwan

The Sterns – Argentina via International Teams

C&MA: Carolyn Thorson & Karen Fitch – Gabon; The Wendels & Westergrens – Spain; Cheryl P – North Africa; The Arndts – Russia, Brian W – Malaysia; The Iversons – Taiwan

The Muhotas in Kenya

The Churo School

OTHER MISSIONARY FRIENDS OF CANAAN

Beryl J. Pierce, Major, Salvation Army (Kinzi Wass Pierce's mother-in-law) – Zambia

Kirk & Janis Reynolds, Navigators (Kowalski) – Chicago Regional Ethnic Ministry

Jon & Pam Sharp who are missionaries with Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) and are hoping to find funding to return to Chile. They were members in Indy for 32 years and are currently pastoring in Illinois.

Vincent Mekubo pastor & teacher of orphans in Nairobi.



Christian & Missionary Alliance

D and C in North Africa:



Preface: *Work has been completed on a facility to take care of the needs of families in the area. These are highlights of the first week in operation:* I was so anxious to have the first week over and feel like we were in some kind of groove and now it's been 3 weeks and we've survived! After 2 weeks I had to fire the kitchen helper because he was stressing me out to the max. I was proud of how I was able to handle it very calmly and not get emotional at all. We had a huge show-down the day before and I knew he was furious at me. I became very bold and would not let him intimidate me. ☺ He left and a huge burden was lifted. A few days later I got a wonderful young girl that I just love. We've already had some great conversations in the kitchen and I look forward to the day she will accept our message. Over all, I would have to declare that it's been a good 3 weeks. We spend an average of 69 hours a week at [name removed for the safety of our missionaries]. That's 13 hours Monday-Friday and 4 hours on Saturday. That's the minimum that we spend; usually a bit more than that! It is demanding to be sure but not overwhelming. There are hours during the day when we have no one and I can work on the jigsaw puzzle or write papers for my online courses or sit and read. Saturday mornings are proving to be very popular with our American breakfasts served from 8-11AM. You should have seen three of us flying around the kitchen this week, doing an amazing job of multitasking. At one time I had all five burners going with pancakes, French toast and 2 omelets. Quite a few local friends came this week and that makes it a lot more fun. Our short-term couple is really a huge help and we couldn't do this without them. Sure wish someone else would step up to the plate and come help us out through July until our team arrives here. We have one single gal coming but she will not be able to handle everything. We're just taking a day at a time and know that God will provide in the nick of time. The preschool is going so well and I hope to train my kitchen help well enough that she can keep things going in the cafe during the morning hours and I can help up there with the kids. I'll attach a couple of pictures of the preschool. I wanted to take some on Saturday when the place was packed for breakfast but I couldn't leave the stove for a minute. The Fitness Center is hopping and that is our weakest link as far as people to sit up there and keep track of who comes and goes. We're getting a hidden camera added up there this week which will help a little. It's a lot for just a few of us to handle but we do what we can and have to leave the rest. We know this is just for a season so we press on, looking forward to the day when we're not so tied down! An older couple with prophetic gifts came by [name removed for the safety of our missionaries] this week and were very encouraging about what they believe God is going to do through this place. Just after they told me that the name God gave them for our place was "the Shalom Zone", a neighbor lady came by to use the internet and have a cup of coffee. As she was leaving, 3 other women came in and she said "you've never been in such a peaceful place; you're going to love it." Bring it on!!

CANAAN COMMUNITY CHURCH PRAYER CONCERNS FEB. 5, 2012

SPOTLIGHT FAMILIES FOR WEEK FEBRUARY 5 – FEBRUARY 11, 2012

Pray for one another.....

Beth Strube, Casey, Cheyanna & Delilah ☩ Pastor Kevin & Kathy ☩ Jim & Shelley Thorn
☩ Recent Visitor: Marissa Weakly

PRAISES

Praise God we're averaging 18 youth in Youth Church!

COMMUNITY PRAYER LIST

Jim Thorn will begin using his wrist so pray the pain is minimal. **Rich Roth** had injections in his back, treatment for sciatic pain. **Becky Greenlee** a mother of 3 year old twins from Greencastle suffered a massive heart attack and was on life support but is starting to respond. Mickey Roberts brother, **Don Cadwell** (86??), is now in rehab. Brenda Davidson's brother, **Alvin Probasco**, is enduring his chemo & maintaining his weight. **Patti Raley** had her appointment and will begin a supplement regimen to build up her immune system prior to surgery. Amy Ballard's nephew, **Randy** (48) is home and on antibiotics for the MRSA. Tracey Holtane's sister is struggling with head pain that is being caused by a birth defect in her brain. She is waiting for treatment options. Brian Holtane's **Uncle Dick** waiting for heart & lung transplant. **Health concerns: Jack Schabel, Susan Dailey; Patti Raley; Mike Todd**, Kim Redman's brother; **Kathy Thompson; Marilee Skillern; Pastor Tim McNamee**, Cityview; **Pastor Buddy Goss**, New Winchester Baptist, (diabetes & heart problems), his wife, **Phyllis**; her father **Hoover Godsey** & her nephew, **Joey** – severe burns (he has gone into rehab); Tracey Holtane's grandfather, **Elmer Schaub**; Carmen Sims parents, **Chuck & Carolyn Frund; Dave Wooden; Mike & Delva Tearman**, Shelley Thorn's parents; **Ann Nesbitt; The Lisbys; Pastor Kevin's mom; Ernie Davidson. Dealing with pain: Jim Thorn; Teresa Brouhard; Susan Deyo; Claudia Wooden; Kathy Thompson; Rich Roth & Sarah Bryan** (Kowalski's niece).

FROM OUR WEBSITE: Alex in the Ukraine reports that the Lord has restored his father, Alexander and their family and blessed their work!

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Rob Skillern—Iraq
Robbie Skillern—Afghanistan
Sam Houser
Patrick Robertson – SC
Robbie Carmichael (friend of Andersons)
Todd (friend of Mike Anderson)
Christopher Barger (Ron's grandson) –Iraq
Jared Holtane – Iraq
Carlos Kline, USMC (Raley's grandson) Afghanistan
Daniel Wass, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana
Andrew Schwarz – airborne/ranger school (Gruner)

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Ashley Arney
Christine Anderson
Brenda Anderson
Jessica Smeelink
Rahab Muhota
Jordy Davidson
Kelly Murphy
Jonathon Redman
Ashley Collins
Betsy Barger
Craig Brouhard
Aaron Schwarz
Mike Anderson
Steve Anderson, Jr.
Shawn Smeelink
Virginia Muhota
Logan Berger
Meagan Murphy
Jeremy Redman
Drew Brouhard
Sarah Christ (Thompson)
Cody Storkman

CANCER CONCERNS

Cara Smith's Aunt Bert (Mike Anderson)
Matt Scott (Keith Redman's cousin)
Brian Holtane's Aunt Pat (breast)
Jim Wynn (former ALPHA participant)
Kate (4) Thar's niece (kidney)
Judy McEachern, Kathy Thompson's sister
Martha Davidson
Sandy Collins (Gibbs)
Alvin Probasco (Brenda Davidson's brother)

Kathy Lane (breast cancer) (Holtane)
Pam Foley (Kathy T's cousin) ovarian
Cindy Ware
Norma Robertson's sister, Terry
George Pallas (Lisby's son-in-law) leukemia
Cheryl Roth (Rich's sister-in-law)
Ann, Paulita Ream's sister
Len Faust (39) Pastor Mike's son (Coatesville Christian)
Barbara (caregiver for Kathy T's mom)

Job Losses: Jim Thorn, Bonnie Gibbs, Mike Strube



CHURCH PRAYER

(FEBRUARY 5, 2012)

Pray for God's direction for the life of Canaan Community Church. Pray that we might be faithful stewards in all that we do.

Pray for protection of this body of believers against the onslaught of spiritual warfare.

Pray for our church family as we each seek God's direction in our giving.

Pray for the ministries of Canaan: Food Pantry, Saturday movies, the Blanket Ministry.

Pastor Kevin, Kathy & Katie

Steve Anderson & family

Carol's brother, Mark & family

Drew Christy – still improving

Rich, Sarah (Thompson), Hannah & Sophey

Pam and her siblings

Strube/Storkman/Reeves families

Pastor Kevin's Mom

Harold & Thelma Lisby

Extra prayers for Pastor Kevin and Kathy's daughter, Sarah and family. Pray that Sarah will continue to have the strength and fortitude she needs as she deals with a new job, school and being a mom.

Sherry Mitchem's daughter, Leanne, needs prayers as she deals with financial and emotional stress.

Please pray for my niece, Sarah, who is back to work for 5 hour days. She is also studying to retake her state boards for nursing.