

*"The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern." - Prov. 29:7*

## Paths of Justice

### Why Do We Have a Justice Mission at FCC?

I became involved in justice mission work because that is what God has called us to do. For example, in chapter 58 of Isaiah, God describes true worship as not only not participating in injustice, but also as actively righting injustices. We are to "loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke." Out of God's great love for those He has created in His image, Isaiah 59 reveals that He is displeased when there is no justice and appalled when no one intervenes in the face of murderers and oppressors.

Early on, especially through Summit Ministries, a Christian leadership training camp in Manitou Springs, CO, I realized that following Jesus is not a spectator sport but that we need to be awake and engaged in furthering God's Kingdom. That involves understanding the times in which we live, including how we can intervene on behalf of modern day victims of violence and exploitation. Whether it is preborn babies in the womb facing the abortionist, the pressures put on their moms and dads, women and children being held as sex slaves, or Christians under threat of torture and execution, it seems inexcusable to remain on the sidelines. We have been blessed with so much, and need to use our freedom and resources to help those who have no voice, just as we would want others to do for us if we were in their circumstances. - Pastor Doug

### Voice of the Martyrs

Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) is one of the ministries that Faith Community Church has supported. Thinking of martyrs brings to mind the apostles who were killed for their bold teaching about Jesus. Unfortunately, martyrdom did not stop when Rome fell or in the Dark Ages. Italian sociologist and author Massimo Introvigne reported that in 2016, 90,000 Christians were martyred. VOM works to protect Christians who are in danger of losing their freedom or life.

The Voice of the Martyrs is a nonprofit, interdenominational missions organization that offers practical and spiritual help to persecuted Christians around the world. VOM was founded in 1967 by Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand, who was imprisoned 14 years in Communist Romania for his faith in Christ. In the 1960s, Richard, his wife Sabina, and their son, Mihai, were ransomed out of Romania and came to the United States. Through their travels, the Wurmbbrands spread the message of

the atrocities that Christians face in restricted nations, while establishing a network of offices dedicated to assisting the persecuted church.

The Voice of the Martyrs continues in this mission around the world today through the following main purposes:

1. To encourage and empower Christians to fulfill the Great Commission in areas of the world where they are persecuted for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. To provide practical relief and spiritual support to the families of Christian martyrs.
3. To equip persecuted Christians to love and win to Christ those who are opposed to the gospel in their part of the world.
4. To undertake projects of encouragement, helping believers rebuild their lives and Christian witness in countries where they have formerly suffered oppression. (over)



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Definition of injustice: Injustice occurs when someone with greater power deprives someone with lesser power of freedom, dignity, treasure, or livelihood.

"When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'" - Rev. 6:9-10

## Voice of the Martyrs (Continued)

5. To promote the fellowship of all believers by informing the world of the faith and courage of persecuted Christians, thereby inspiring believers to a deeper level of commitment to Christ and involvement in His Great Commission.

VOM's ministry is based on Hebrews 13:3: *Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.* Their mission statement is: *Serving persecuted Christians through practical and spiritual assistance and leading other members of the Body of Christ into fellowship with them.*

### PHONING "HOME" IN IRAN

Christians in Iran have few resources to help them grow in their faith.

In this Muslim-majority country, officially the Islamic Republic of Iran, converts must gather secretly and Christian bookstores don't exist. It's often challenging to even meet other Christians. It's even more difficult to leave Islam for Jesus.

Fortunately, there are resources outside of the country that Iranian Christians and curious others can tap into. One such VOM-supported resource, a ministry we won't name to protect its work, broadcasts Christian messaging into Iran. It also receives calls from believers and non-believers searching for answers and companionship.

Seven men and women in several other countries answer calls from Muslims seeking truth and from committed Christians in need of encouragement. While many callers are seeking counseling and prayer for traditional hardships such as addiction, divorce and illness, the consistent theme



is that their faith is being shaken.

"Iranian people are ready to accept another religion," said "Jaleh," one of the hotline operators. "They don't like Islam and they are afraid of Islam."

Jaleh and the other operators have studied Christian and Islamic theology, and are able to answer questions comparing the two religions. They also have experience ministering to new believers.

Jaleh's shift is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but she often answers her phone late into the night. She knows simply being available to Muslim seekers and new believers is the most important part of her role. After answering questions, she guides people to online and print resources to help them grow in their faith and answer further questions.

When people are ready to find their true home in Christ, operators often spend up to an hour

walking them through what this means and how life could be harder with persecution.

"They sometimes don't know that they have to live the Bible," Jaleh said. "Step-by-step, they follow it. The important thing is each verse of Bible goes into their life, not just that they read the Bible."

Three times a month, Jaleh follows up with about 120 callers to see where they are in their faith. About two times a month, she is able to lead someone to Christ. This, she said, usually brings her to tears.

Then there are the calls that surprise her and lead her to rejoice. "Some people call from the Iranian government," Jaleh said.

Please take some time now to pray for the people of Iran, and go to <https://persecution.com> for more information.

## Opportunities / Activities

- When a pregnant mother is in need through PDHC, our congregation will host a baby shower, provide meals, etc. for her, and when it's needed, we may have a work day at one of their centers. Please be prepared to help.
- Help is needed to make personal contacts with those we've served through Angel Tree.
- Do you want to get more involved with righting injustice? Come to our Justice Team meeting.
- Check with Tom Castor (tcbus7@att.net) or Doug Dunsmoor (dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com) for more information about these and more opportunities.