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To: [CTC InfoHub](#)
Subject: ICC NEWS - May/June 2024
Date: 18 June 2024 16:58:02

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Protected like Daniel in the Lion's Den

You may remember we asked you to pray for our young Afghan translator who had to return to Kabul from Iran to get her visa renewed.

In Afghanistan, it is forbidden for a woman to travel alone, without a male family member. So, when the acquaintances she was travelling with abandoned her the moment they reached Afghan soil, she was in a very dangerous situation.



It wasn't long before the Taliban noticed her and began aggressively questioning her. Terrified, she prayed that God would help her in that moment. After carrying out some checks (and we are sure, because many of you were praying!) the Taliban eventually decided to allow her to board a bus to Kabul, without arresting her.

During that 19-hour bus journey, our brave translator was the only woman on a bus full of men, including several Taliban. Can you imagine how terrifying that must have been? Especially knowing what happens to far too many unaccompanied single women in the hands of the Taliban!

"I was terrified but God did a miracle, because not one of them touched me. For 19 hours on that bus with them, I was so scared, but they didn't touch me. God protected me like Daniel in the pit of lions"

Praise God that she made it to Kabul unharmed. Thank you to all of you who have been covering her in prayer this past month. Your prayers are not going unanswered!

Shortly after arriving in Kabul, she was attacked by family members and very badly beaten.



On the bus on the way back to Iran

She had to very quickly escape back to Iran before the family members handed her over to the Taliban.

Thanks to the help of one of our precious brothers in Kabul, she made it back and is now in Iran again.

Please continue to pray for her protection, particularly as she works as an au-pair in a religious Muslim household. She is

constantly afraid of being discovered as a Christian, but her faith is growing massively through these trials.

She is so grateful for your prayers, and depends on them actually!

Burnt Alive for Having a Bible in Yemen

Shortly after our previous newsletter, a devastating incident occurred with one of our Yemeni brothers and his family.

"Mohammad" always carried a bible in his pocket. On this terrible day, he lay down whilst out, to have a nap. While he slept, his bible slipped out of his pocket and it was seen by some of the Muslim people around him. Once they realised it was a bible, they became furious and full of hatred.



Mohammad in the hospital after being set on fire for having a bible

The mob attacked him, setting him on fire along with his wife and small child. His wife and child were burnt to death. Mohammad was taken to hospital with 3rd degree burns all over his body. His

feet were so badly burned that they had to be amputated.

A few days later, Mohammad died from his injuries too.

Sadly, this is not something new. It has happened to many of the believers in Yemen, and there is a huge amount of trauma amongst them as a result.



Precious brother Mohammad

In their own words

Before he died, some of our distraught brothers in Christ stayed by his side at the hospital. One of our dear brothers who was with Muhammad as he died shared the following words during a meeting with the flock, which we also share with you.

May his words challenge you.

"If we become afraid and want to run away, what will the new believers do? This path is like a sword. At any moment you may fall and this sword may cut you. We have gone through many experiences and we all know this path is full of danger and anyone may die at any moment. Our path is a war with the devil and not planting roses."

"We did not lose Mohammad. He has entered the joy of his Master. I remember the words of our Lord: 'Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter the joy of your Master'. I pray and ask the Lord to allow me to also have

the strength to be a martyr. The Lord is with us."

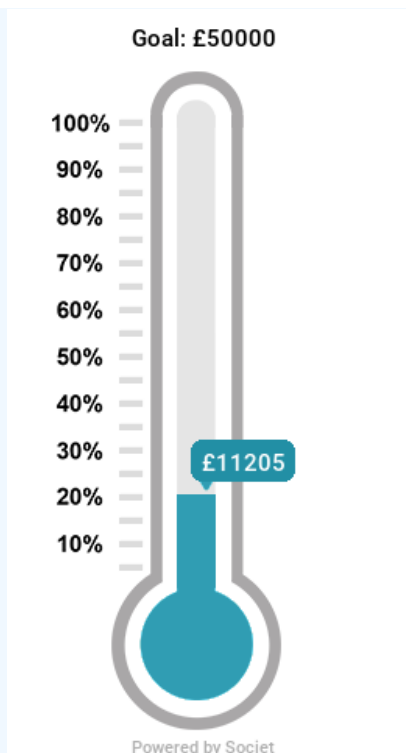
He also shared with us Mohammad's last words before he died. This is what faithfulness to our King looks like. This is what faith quite literally purified in fire looks like. May Mohammad's words be an example to us all.

"O Lord, I have forgiven those who killed my wife and my child and burned me. O Lord, I have forgiven everyone. O Lord, you have offered the blood of your only Son for us and for our sins. My blood will not be more precious than the blood of the Lord."

Please continue to pray for these Yemeni believers. They are suffering more than most in the west could ever comprehend.

Match-Funding Challenge Update

So far, we have managed to raise £11,205 towards our £50,000 target



Thank you to all of our incredible supporters, who have donated towards this goal. You are amazing!

£38,795 to go!

Please feel free to share our newsletter, and encourage others to sign up to receive them. We currently have around 300 subscribers, of which around half regularly read the newsletter.

It really is your incredible support that keeps this work going - thank you for your faithfulness, encouragement and support!

[Make a Donation](#)

If you would prefer to make a donation by bank transfer, please feel free to get in touch with us. (office@internationalchristianconsulate.com).

What's it like to do this work?

Recently, we were asked to share in our newsletter a bit more about what it's like to do this work, and about the personal cost and challenges we face, so that people can better understand and pray for the team.

ICC was 8 years old in April. During these years, our King has given us the privilege of helping countless Christians escaping persecution in the refugee camps in Greece. This work continues but ICC's reach is now much farther than just Greece, with regular, sometimes daily contact with believers in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Germany, UK, Canada, Turkey, Yemen, and Morocco.

For our small team based here in Greece, the work is relentless six days a week, often 10-12 hours a day, and on call 24/7. (Never mind dealing with all the



administrative and more tedious but important parts of the work.) Even on our rest days we get messages and unexpected dramas can unfold. The brothers and sisters we support require not just physical help but spiritual and emotional support as they face crisis after crisis. It's not uncommon for us to spend many many hours a week just giving online support by text or Zoom.

All this giving out takes its toll on us and it can be lonely, especially working in a foreign land. We certainly could not do it without God's strength! More recently, He has provided us with a lovely Greek counsellor for us to offload on when needed, which is a huge blessing. She has proven a lifeline to manage, reduce and prevent burnout.

This work is a calling, and we gladly pour ourselves out to serve our King and to be His hands and feet to our suffering family. But it is hard, especially when people we care about are murdered - it hurts. We feel it. There is a closeness within the ICC community that is as close as real family.

When one part of the body is hurting we all hurt (**1 Cor 12:26**)

So we want to ask you to pray for us this month. Pray for the team who work quietly and discreetly, having given up their lives to serve.

Please pray for our protection, as Satan hates what we do. Pray for our spiritual, emotional and physical health and the strength to carry out our duties. Pray that our Father in Heaven will continue to provide financially what is needed to undertake this long term task.

Discipling is messy and hard work, requiring much patience, effort, commitment and time, as these new followers of Jesus find their feet. Added into the melee of interactions and communications are language and cultural challenges that require sensitivity and added extra layers of consideration. It is complicated! As parents of young children will understand, raising children can be exhausting. The same applies to spiritual children! So we ask you all, our faithful supporters, to lift us up in your prayers when you can.

Above all, may God be glorified in the work of ICC. This is His work, His vision, His mission, His ministry. All of it is the work of His hands.

"Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me"

Matthew 10:38

T H A N K Y O U

We deeply appreciate each and every one of you for your faithful encouragement and support. Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for covering the people and work of ICC in prayer. Thank you for your financial support. And thank you for not getting weary of standing with us!

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10)

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