

~ RADIANT REFLECTIONS ~

Martyr ~

The Greek word for "martyr" (*martyrs*) meant "witness" in the original usage.

Christians in over 60 countries of the world are being persecuted for their faith today. This includes Muslim, Communist, and Hindu nations. Followers of Jesus Christ in the Middle East and North Africa are facing near genocidal conditions.

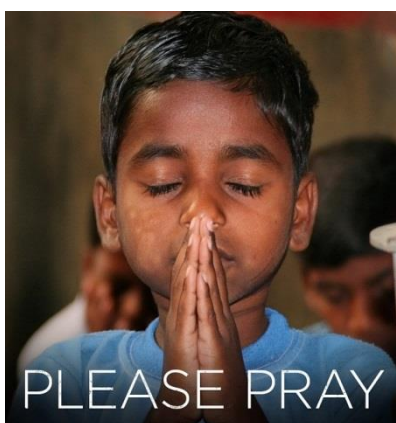
While the suffering of our brothers and sisters is very real, and merits our full attention — we miss the point if we stop there.

What rarely makes the headlines is the truth that we are witnessing more Muslims coming to Christ than any time in history. Some estimate that more Muslims are coming to Christ today than in all 1400 years since the birth of Islam.

Nowhere is this more evidence of this than in the Islamic Republic

of Iran — which is home to the fastest growing church in the world today.

I believe we error when we listen to the stories of our brothers and sisters who are persecuted from afar. When we filter their living testimonies through the lenses of — us and them. For the follower of Jesus Christ, it has never been — us and them. *It is us and Him*. The genuine lives of our persecuted family draw us closer to the cross — in a reformed unity. Together we are one voice in harmony with the heart of God.



LETTERS SENT TO THE FAMILIES OF THE 21 MARTYRED MEN

On February 15th of this year 21 young men refused to deny Jesus as they knelt along the shores of Libya. You can read more of their story at

<https://tamiyeagerblog.wordpress.com/2015/04/19/people-of-the-cross/>. Recently

letters of encouragement from all over the world were hand delivered to many of their widows. "My husband went to work in Libya to provide for us because I was pregnant. I'm sad that while he was coming back to Egypt from Libya to see our daughter for the first time, he was captured. He was held for 40 days and how thankful we are that he never denied Jesus." — 20 year old widow. Image — 8thirty8 ministries.



LISTEN TO SUNDAY'S MESSAGES AND SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AT RADIANT ON OUR WEBSITE-

<http://www.radiantjesuschurch.org>

You won't want to miss Darren's message from last Sunday on the last beatitude — The Reward of Persecution.

Brave Enough to be Obedient

“I just try to listen and be brave enough to be obedient” – A Radiant family member

A patient in his late 70s recently suffered a heart attack. It was discovered that one of the 3 main arteries that feed the heart muscle had a 99% blockage. I helped in his recovery after the heart catheterization, and watched as he and his wife struggled with the decisions facing them. They were choosing between a complicated open heart surgery, or, an attempt at a high risk stent placement. Due to the nature of the lesion there was a 1/10 chance of a major heart attack and possibly death on the table; yet it seemed the best option. A horrible decision to make. The decision was a stent placement in the coronary artery. And the day of the case, My name was put on the board to be the nurse caring for him! It was a really scary case; one that caused me to doubt even myself. This man had a huge risk of us shutting the rest of this vessel down in the process of us fixing it, and him losing circulation to the entire right side of his heart — resulting in a massive heart attack. The cardiologist was not very optimistic.

The morning of the procedure I went to say good morning and surprise him that I was going to get to be his nurse again! When I entered the room I noticed that he and his wife were crying. They were both obviously terrified. I just felt God shore me up and send me over to his bedside, (I don't just walk around like that at work and am very careful with respect to different belief systems on the job). But I had heard earlier he and his wife mention praying through the weekend, and felt they were believers. I held his hand and looked him in the eyes and said "I need you to know that I am a believer and that I have invited God into this case and my room with me this morning!! I want you to know that I as your caregiver; I believe that God will be watching over every aspect of this case. That He will be guiding the cardiologists' hands and mind and covering you in protection. I told him how precious his life was to God and that He didn't check him at the door that morning! I prayed with him for his own peace and comfort and his wife's as she waited for him in the lobby.

As we started into the case, I kept remembering what Ernie had shared at your house one evening about the Holy Spirit and how He goes before us. How He is like a fog that enters and covers a room amidst us. I anchored my mind on that visual and just kept it with me during the case.

We spent 2 hours attempting to cross this lesion. At any moment as the doctor was trying to put a hair thin wire across this 99% occluded lesion in the coronary artery, a piece of plaque could have ruptured loose and the entire artery would have lost blood flow. As the doctor finally landed the wire and began navigating the stent into place, the irritation to the heart muscle was beginning to show in the EKG and I felt myself feeling panicked inside. I literally stood there for two hours watching and waiting to see if the man on the table in front of me was going to die! But, I stopped.... I could hear John teaching and talking about how we have to stop and just give whatever we have in front of us to God; bring His power into the situation. He said something early on Sunday about Gods feet being the ones that stomp all over something. It just was the visual of His feet stomping all over fear, death, anxiousness, and uncertainty. I'm not sure if I have ever stopped and prayed and visualized with such focus as I did watching this man, the cardiologists hands and the xray and ekg monitors, But I committed that man to God over and over and somehow knew that God was going to carry that procedure through. At last the stent was deployed, the procedure ended safely and I was able to deliver him back to his room and fetch his wife with a huge hug and proclamation of HOW GOOD GOD IS!!!! -