

MARKED AND DRIVEN OUT FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING CHRIST MOSUL, IRAQ – JUNE 2014

Ten years ago, the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) began marking Christian homes and churches with the Arabic letter "n," or $\dot{\boldsymbol{\upsilon}}$, as its fighters overran parts of Iraq and Syria. The symbol ("n" for "Nazarene") claimed buildings belonging to Christians as the property of the Islamic State and served as a threat to all believers in the area.

Christians whose homes were marked with the $\dot{\upsilon}$ had a decision to make: Convert to Islam, flee or die.

More than 100,000 Christians were forced to flee in extreme heat. Most escaped with only the clothes they wore; many died on the road or were captured by ISIS.

Separated from their loved ones, whereabouts known only to God, these bold Christians refused to deny Christ. They willingly gave everything for the Savior who had given his life for them.

> "All who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12).

Day of the Christian Martyr 2024

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WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE? ARE YOU "N"?



Heavenly Father,

I have been inspired by my persecuted Christian brothers and sisters, and I ask that you empower me to take active steps so I can grow in

SACRIFICE: I will count the cost of discipleship and willingly pay the price because you are worth it.

COURAGE: I will not be paralyzed by fear because you empower me as I take risks to witness for you.

JOY: I will rejoice in the midst of my struggles and suffering in this world because of the eternal hope I have in you.

PERSEVERANCE: I will stand firm, resisting any opposition. By your strength, I will endure and overcome.

FORGIVENESS: I will allow you to work in my heart as I obey you by loving my enemies and forgiving others as you have forgiven me.

FAITHFULNESS: I will not allow adversity to cause me to be unfaithful to your Word or disobedient to your purposes.

Lord, help me be mindful of my Christian brothers and sisters so I will never let them suffer in silence, nor will I let them serve alone. I will let their testimonies inspire me to follow you. *I am n.*

NAME: DATE:

To be inspired by Christians who are persecuted for their faith, visit **vom.org** and sign up for The Voice of the Martyrs' free monthly magazine.



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