



THE **Voice** OF THE **Martyrs**

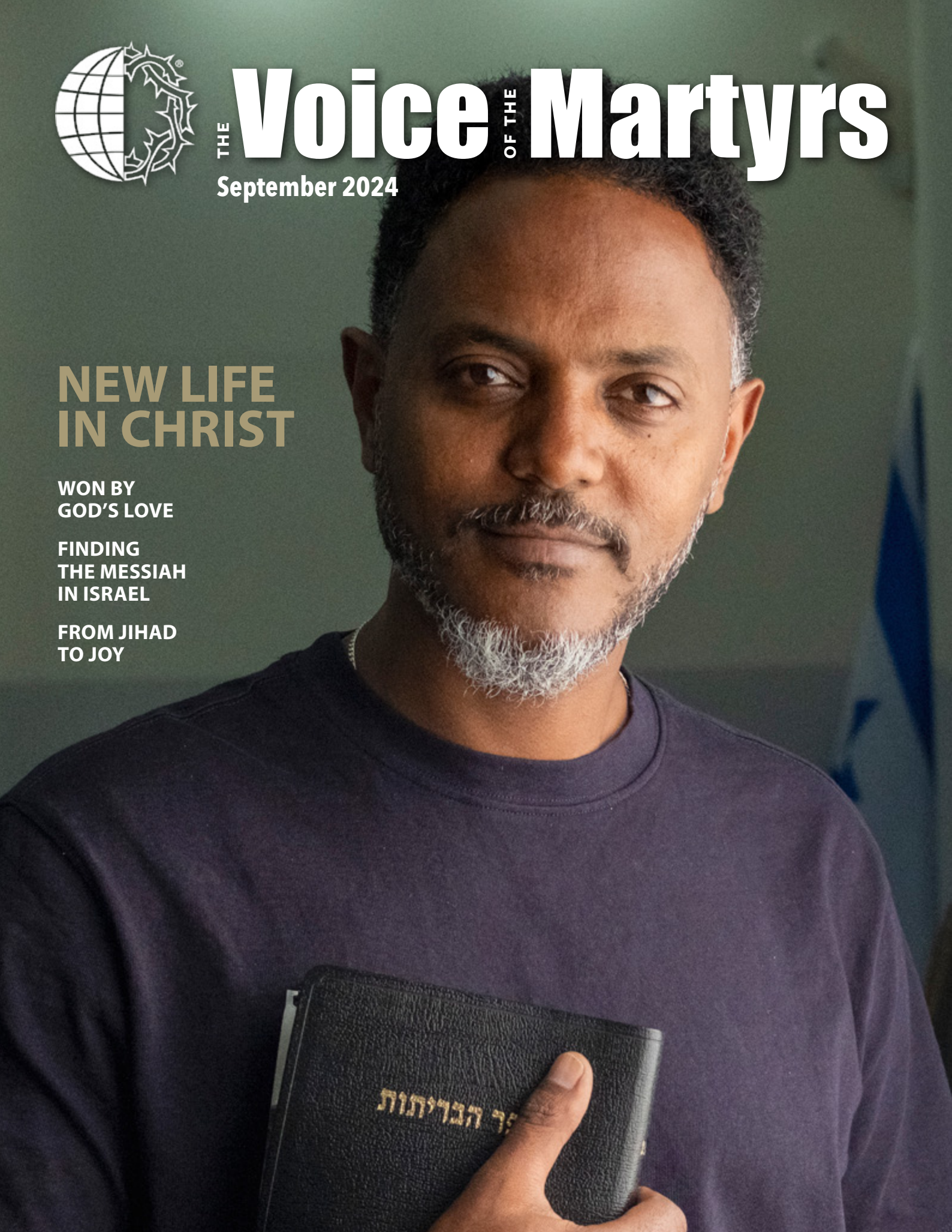
September 2024

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

WON BY
GOD'S LOVE

FINDING
THE MESSIAH
IN ISRAEL

FROM JIHAD
TO JOY



"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them." Heb 13:3



“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

—1 Timothy 1:12–14

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18. **Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

The House of Israel

It is heartbreaking to see anyone reject Christ. And even in Israel, among Jews, it has been especially painful to see individuals from the very people group God chose to bring forth the Messiah (the Christ), reject him. Christ wept to see this, crying out, *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!"* (Luke 13:34).

Godly Jewish people seeking the Messiah have always had to make a clear decision about Jesus: He is either God's chosen one, our Saviour and Lord, or He is a fraud. The true Messiah is by far the best of people, while a false one is by far the very worst. Jews, in this sense, have a great advantage over many Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists, who are offered no true Messiah.

Today, we still cry out in prayer that *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."* (Acts 2:36). Since so many Jews today, as in the time of Christ and the early church, reject Jesus as Lord, it is beautiful to see Jews come to the realisation that Christ is who He claimed to be. In this month's Newsletter, we are thrilled to bring you the story of Obadiah, an Ethiopian Jew who came to faith in Christ. Obadiah found "the way, and the truth, and the life" by encountering the prophet Isaiah's description of Christ as the suffering servant (Ch. 53). Then, through persecution, Obadiah became more Christlike by sharing in his sufferings (Romans 8:17).

At VOM, testimonies of Jews turning to Christ

always remind us of our organisation's founders, Richard and Sabina Wurmbbrand, both of whom were Jews raised apart from Christ. Richard had discounted his Jewish spiritual heritage as unimportant, pursuing hedonism and living today essentially as an atheist. We see this often today with secular Jews (as with secular "Christians") who have little interest in God. Sabina, however, was fervently opposed to Christ because of her Jewish heritage and upbringing. So strong was her personal rejection that she considered suicide after learning of Richard's conversion to Christianity and intention to be baptised. You can learn about their complete story by visiting www.persecutionsa.org and purchasing a copy of the Wurmbbrands' biography.

Our salvation exists because God brought forth our Saviour from among the Jews, His chosen people in salvation history. VOM exists because a Jewish couple who had rejected Christ came to know and serve Him. They became His missionaries to other Jews in Israel and throughout Eastern Europe, later suffering imprisonment by Nazis and then Communists for His sake. We must obey Scripture and bless the Jewish people. The best way we can do that is by bringing them the truth of Christ — at any cost.

Ashley

About the cover: Raised as a Jew in Ethiopia, Obadiah later immigrated to Israel, where he came to know Christ after reading Isaiah 53. **Page 2:** Wesley, from Uganda, was a Muslim extremist who participated in jihad. But after hearing the Gospel at the funeral of his Christian niece, he placed his faith in Christ.

Please pray about giving to the Persecuted Church. Our brothers and sisters in Christ need encouragement. Most of them no longer have access to a Bible. Help us get Bible's into the hands of Christians in Africa.

TO DONATE TO CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL, please use any one of the following Banks details:

Nedbank

Account no.: 1925-024946 (Cheque)
Branch Code: 192505 (Bedfordview)
Ref: Your Name/Bibles

Standard Bank

Account no.: 02-249-5592 (Cheque)
Branch Code: 018305 (Bedford Gardens)
Ref: Your Name/Bibles

ABSA Bank

Account no.: 909-861-7711 (Savings)
Branch Code: 632005 (Bedford Centre)
Ref: Your Name/Bibles

FROM PERSECUTOR TO PARTNER IN

Ministry

As early as age 8, Ayyub had a desire to know Allah more deeply.

Although raised in Kashmir, a majority-Muslim region in northern India, his family belonged to a mystical sect of Islam known as Sufism. Ayyub's parents taught him that all religions led to Allah, and he soon became interested in exploring other faiths.

"I wanted to know Allah because Sufism is focused on knowing Allah," said Ayyub, now 40.

Since Kashmir's population is more than 97% Muslim, Ayyub initially examined other forms of Islam. He hopped from one Islamic sect to another, forming his own Islamic viewpoint as a young adult.

Ayyub studied Arabic, the language of the Quran, to further his understanding of the book, and he quickly gained a following as a teacher and Islamic scholar. He estimates that he taught more than 400 students during this period.

"There were people from all the districts in Kashmir wanting to know more," he said. "I wanted people to know Islam better. I wanted to convert people to Islam."

A Cherished Student

As Ayyub continued to study and teach what he had learned about Islam, he met a student named Farooq, whom he taught for a brief time. Farooq had grown up in a fundamentalist family that practiced Sunni Islam, the majority branch of Islam in Kashmir. Like Ayyub, after years of study he became an Islamic scholar and teacher.

"Most of my time was in the mosques," said Farooq, now 32. "Five times a day I would be praying. Then there would be sermons after that. My companions used to be those Islamic scholars who were the top scholars here."

Ayyub and Farooq forged a strong friendship, but it was tested when their paths through Islam diverged. While Farooq remained devoted to mainline Sunni Islam, Ayyub turned toward Wahhabism (also known as Salafism), an 18th-century reform movement within Sunni Islam that has spawned most of the violent Islamist groups in existence today. Farooq respected his friend, but he viewed Ayyub's shift toward Wahhabism as too extreme. As a result, he abruptly stopped seeking his guidance.



► Ayyub was a respected Islamic scholar in Kashmir, teaching more than 400 students.

Over time, Ayyub began to doubt Wahhabism too. Then, while walking through town one day, he picked up a green book he saw on the side of the road. It was a New Testament. Although he had been taught that the Bible was corrupt, he took the book and started reading it.

"It was interesting because I never found Mohammed in the Bible; ... it was totally about Jesus," Ayyub said. "In the Quran, it is said, 'Another prophet will come, Jesus said, and his name will be Mohammed.' But when I found the New Testament, it was totally not about Mohammed."

After concluding in his late 20s that the Quran's account was false, Ayyub rejected Islam and became an atheist. (VOM workers say it is not uncommon for Muslims to become atheists before hearing the Gospel and placing their faith in Christ.) Still, Ayyub remained hungry for spiritual truth. For years, he watched videos of atheists debating people of faith, including Christians, but he eventually lost interest in atheism and found himself drawn back toward the idea of God. He wondered if God truly did exist.

"I prayed to God as an atheist," he recalled, "God, if You really exist, please show me because I don't have satisfaction inside."

Then, one night in 2012, Ayyub dreamed about the New Testament he had found. "God showed me in my dream that I should read this book again," he said. "I started reading it again and it changed me. The Holy Spirit touched me. Then it was because of God; it was not because of logic. Then I started praying in the name of Jesus. Many things happened. God showed me spiritually Jesus is real."

When Farooq learned that his friend Ayyub had left Islam altogether, he grew angry. In his eyes, turning to Christ was far worse — especially for a former Islamic scholar like Ayyub — than subscribing to Wahhabism. "When I learned that he had become a Christian, I would pit people against him," Farooq said. "I used to tell people to rise up against Ayyub."

Soon, Muslim men began challenging Ayyub's beliefs in public and then beating him. The beatings continued for about a year. "It really hurt me sometimes," Ayyub said, "but the Word of God always encouraged me." Farooq, meanwhile, said he believed each beating pleased Allah.

For the next year and a half, Ayyub remained isolated as a new Believer. He read his Bible, prayed and watched Christian videos online to help him grow in faith. Then he met a Christian pastor who provided biblical teaching, brought him into the fold of the local Christian community and eventually baptised him in 2013.

After his baptism, Ayyub made a firm decision. "I freely decided to commit to God that I would do full-time ministry," he said.



A New Bond

In 2014, Ayyub fell in love and got married. His wife became a Christian in 2017.

About that same time, Ayyub's friend Farooq started having doubts about Islam. He realised that the Muslims around him weren't having a positive influence on him.

"My main reason to be with these people was that I wanted to be a good human being," he said. "But the opposite of that happened. I realised that what I learned was telling lies and bearing grudges against people ... speaking ill about others."

Farooq had also grown tired of the hatred and violence he found in the Quran. Finally, he rejected Islam and became an atheist, just as Ayyub had done before coming to know Christ.

"When I turned toward atheism," Farooq said, "it was a difficult decision for me because I was indoctrinated in Islamic teachings. I was in kind of a dilemma."

One day in 2020, Farooq ran into Ayyub in the street. When he told Ayyub that he had become depressed since leaving Islam, Ayyub urged him to follow a new path instead of the destructive one he was currently following. Just as traveling from Kashmir to Jammu requires a certain route, he explained, so does coming to faith in God.

"You won't find Him in the Quran," Ayyub told Farooq. "You will find Him in the Bible." He then gave Farooq a Bible, which he took home and read with great interest.

"I read the entire Bible," Farooq said, "and the God I was seeking — the God who loves me — I found in the Gospels. When I read John 3:16, that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,' that was the turning point."

The Gospel helped Farooq love his old friend again. And through their renewed friendship, Farooq ceased being Ayyub's persecutor and resumed being, once again, his student. "There was a loving bond between the two of us," Farooq said. "I began to respect him as my teacher."



On Mission

Today, Ayyub still teaches Farooq four times a week.

"You can see the difference in Farooq," Ayyub said. "Before he was very angry. ... It is the Holy Spirit, Jesus. Farooq is now teaching many people, and many of them are close to salvation."

Farooq sees a difference in Ayyub too. He said when Ayyub mentored him as a Muslim, he focused on the rules of Islam, what to do and when to pray. Now he focuses on love, compassion and his relationship with Christ.

Farooq said he is thankful for his friend's faithfulness and for God's love. "I am filled with joy that I am doing work like this and God is changing me," he said. "I am seeing God's glory."

Ayyub helps provide audio Bibles to pastors in Kashmir and has recorded himself reading the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs for a radio ministry. He and Farooq often place Bibles in public places so Muslims can discover them — just as Ayyub discovered his New Testament years ago.

"Now we go to all the districts ... and we distribute literature," Ayyub said. "We make connections and make friendships. Many people come to Christ."

Ayyub greatly values his friend Farooq as a ministry partner. "He is always helping me," he said, "always ready to go to any place and always ready for Christ. He is very bold."

Ayyub asked us to pray for his Gospel outreach to Muslims, adding that he is witnessing a growing interest in the Bible among Kashmiris. He encourages them to read it for themselves with an open mind. "Many people who are totally against the Bible and are not Christians are reading the Bible nowadays," he said.

Still, many Christians in Kashmir live in fear, and Ayyub said pastors are often afraid to share the Gospel. Ironically, the one thing that freed him from fear was

◀ After leaving Islam for atheism, Farooq grew increasingly depressed until reading about God's love in the Gospels.



▲ Ayyub, who has seen a growing interest in the Bible among Kashmiris, requests continued prayer for his outreach to Muslims.

persecution. "Without persecution, you might have a lot of fear," he said, "but after persecution, you don't have fear. It is because I saw Christ in the persecution. He gave me a way out."
Ayyub's parents, who hold to their mystical Sufi beliefs, have accepted his conversion to Christianity, and his brother recently placed his faith in Christ. Despite these developments, Ayyub said he expects to experience more persecution because the

Gospel is still a threat to the dominance of Islam in Kashmir.
Farooq's fundamentalist Sunni family is still unaware of his Christian faith, but he is prepared for them to learn the truth soon. "They could either kick me out of the house or disown me," he said. "They could even beat me up. The people I used to associate with ... might even kill me. There is a danger, but there is no fear. The worst that I can expect is martyrdom." ■



MY CHAINS ARE GONE

*My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace*

Songwriters: Chris Tomlin / David Pritchard-blunt / Louie Giglio / Stan Roto Walker / Traditional



**SEEKING THE
RIGHT**

Messiah

Rejected as a Jew in Ethiopia, Obadiah immigrated to Israel only to be stonewalled by rabbis who refused to explain the Bible's "forbidden chapter." Isaiah 53 ultimately led him to the suffering servant, Jesus Christ, and the persecution he promised.

Obadiah hated Christians for the way they treated his family. In their Ethiopian Jewish community, which had existed for centuries, they were completely rejected by their Orthodox Christian neighbours.

"Our neighbours called us *falasha*," he said, explaining the epithet's meaning as "strangers," "foreigners" or "people who came into the country and didn't belong there." Sometimes Obadiah and his family were called even worse names.

His mother urged him to keep a low profile. "Don't share what we are," she warned. "You don't need to say that we are Jewish. Keep it to yourself."

The name-calling was painful for Obadiah as a child, but verbal abuse wasn't the only mistreatment his family received. "My oldest brother, they beat him many times ... because he was Jewish," he said. In 1984, at age 16, Obadiah's brother fled to nearby Sudan on foot, hoping to one day reach safety in Israel.

While his mother and other siblings also wanted to immigrate to Israel, it was sometimes prohibited by the Ethiopian government. "We need to pray that one day we will live in Jerusalem," his mother said.

Finally, in 1991, their prayers were answered. During one 36-hour period, the Israeli government flew more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel on crowded military transport planes. "They took out all the seats," Obadiah recalled. "They put maybe 400, 500 people in the airplane."

The family rejoiced when they landed. "I still remember we just celebrated all night," Obadiah said. "It was a dream come true."

New Realities

The Israeli government sent 12-year-old Obadiah to a *yeshiva*, a traditional Jewish school where students study religious texts. Though he at first thought the religious studies would help him become a rabbi, like his grandfather, he grew disinterested in religious education; he felt it focused too much on rabbinical teachings.

He also began to feel the sting of discrimination again, this time based on his skin colour rather than his religion. "I was Jewish in Ethiopia, but I am a black person in Israel," he said, recalling how he was ostracised by other students. "I started to feel that I am nothing."

Disillusioned, Obadiah transferred to a different school and then completed three years of mandatory military service. As the life he had dreamed of failed to materialise, he turned away from God.



For he grew up before him
like a young plant ...

—Isaiah 53:2

"Something inside me was empty," he said. "I became alcohol addicted, and I lost my way at that time."

One day, not long after completing his military service, some men approached and began talking to him about the purpose of life. When they asked Obadiah what he thought of the Messiah, he replied that there were many theories; some rabbis thought one thing, some another. The men told him that they knew who the Messiah was, and they began talking about *Yeshua* (Hebrew for "Jesus").

When Obadiah realised the men were Christians, he became furious. He never expected anyone in Israel to talk about Jesus. "I was so angry," he said. "Just to hear the name brought up all the suffering that we had in Ethiopia, the persecution that we had there."

As Obadiah started yelling at the men, a crowd began to gather and the Christians left. Obadiah was so shaken by the encounter that it took hours for him to calm down.

Turning Point

While walking down a street in Nazareth, Obadiah saw an advertisement that asked, "Why don't you read Isaiah 53 in the synagogue?" Obadiah had wondered as well.

Christians believe that Isaiah 53, which describes the "suffering servant," points directly to Christ as the Messiah. But Obadiah said Jews call it the "forbidden chapter" and completely skip over it. He decided to ask several rabbis why the chapter is disregarded.

One rabbi told him that Isaiah 53 is a mystery. "We are waiting for the Messiah to give us the understanding of that chapter," the rabbi said. Then he warned Obadiah that Christians might use it to convert him. Finding that answer unsatisfactory, Obadiah consulted a chief rabbi, who

He is despised and rejected of men ... —Isaiah 53:3

condescendingly told him that he might understand when he reached age 40.

Since he couldn't get an answer from the rabbis, Obadiah decided to ask some Christians about the chapter. They explained the belief that Isaiah 53 is a prophecy of Jesus Christ as the Messiah, and before parting they invited Obadiah to a Christian conference.

While listening to a pastor read from the New Testament during the conference, Obadiah understood nothing. "The first evening I didn't feel anything," he said. "I even thought that these people who believe in Jesus are crazy."

At one point the pastor invited people to come forward for prayer, but Obadiah didn't want to go. Then, an older woman approached him and said, "It's your day; you have to go forward." Obadiah had been taught to honour his elders, so after she asked three times, he relented.

"Why are you here today?" the pastor asked him. Though surprised by such a direct question, Obadiah immediately replied, "I want to know the right Messiah of the Jews."

The pastor told Obadiah that if he prayed, God himself would reveal it to his heart. So Obadiah bowed in a traditional Jewish mode of prayer and raised his hands to God. "That was the moment that changed my life," he said.

Obadiah began crying and couldn't stop. "Inside me I felt a

▼ Obadiah uses items from his former Jewish faith as object lessons when teaching the Bible.

peace, a strong peace, *shalom*," he said. "The Holy Spirit told me, 'Yeshua is the Messiah. Yeshua is the Saviour.'"

Without further hesitation, he began to study the Bible and tell others about his new faith. But when he shared his testimony with other students in his university cafeteria one day, another student started yelling that he was going to kill him.

Obadiah immediately prayed for the young man. "That person was delivered from a demonic spirit," he said. "He came to faith, but many people turned against me." Because of the commotion in the cafeteria, Obadiah was temporarily suspended from the university.

A Pastor Under Constant Pressure

Obadiah soon sensed the Lord calling him to ministry work. After completing Bible college, he eventually started a church to help Ethiopian Jews learn about the Messiah, Jesus Christ. While some have been open to his message, many have not.

In the past two years alone, more than two dozen young Ethiopian Jews have been kicked out of their homes by family members for placing their faith in Christ. Obadiah has helped them find safe places to live while continuing to provide biblical discipleship. But both he and the new Christians receive frequent threats.

"We have ultra-Orthodox Ethiopian Jews in the land," Obadiah said. "They are so fanatical. They send messages saying, 'We will kill you!'"





▲ Ultra-Orthodox Jews attacked Obadiah during a worship service in 2022. Still, he boldly proclaims the Good News of Christ and hopes to see more members of his community join God's kingdom.

Sometimes their threats breed violence. During a church service in 2022, a group of ultra-Orthodox Ethiopian Jews stormed into Obadiah's church and attacked him while he was preaching. "They came and beat me in the time of ministry," he said. "Thank God there were some young people who took them very fast. They took them outside, and we called the police."

Obadiah's car has also been vandalised. Because of the attacks, constant threats and community pressure, he worries about the safety of his wife and children. But he says he will continue to point people to Christ. "God knows everything," he said. "He is our hope and He is our protection, so I cannot stop doing this ministry because of fear."

The civil unrest and violence occurring in and around Israel have caused widespread fear and hopelessness in Obadiah's community. However, it has also provided opportunities to share the Gospel. "The pain is really hard in the land," he said, "but also it brings many people to ask about God."

Among them, he said, are three Ethiopian Jewish families who have recently come to faith in Christ. One family had a son

in the army who witnessed a friend's death. "I met their son, and I shared about the love of Yeshua," Obadiah said. "He was so depressed. His family came together with him and accepted Yeshua. They joined the kingdom."

Obadiah has a strong desire to see more members of his Ethiopian community join God's kingdom. He requests prayer for his protection and for more Gospel workers. And he also asks for prayer that his church will clearly demonstrate God's love to Ethiopian Jews who have lost hope. ■

Surely he hath borne our griefs,
and carried our sorrows ...

—Isaiah 53:4



SORROW IN JIHAD, JOY IN

Jesus

On a hot summer afternoon in July 2023, Wesley Saliboko stood at the front of a church in Kasese, Uganda, with his four daughters.

As the small congregation watched expectantly, Wesley stepped toward a group of local ministers, who laid hands on him and prayed just before he was baptised. With the water still flowing down his face, Wesley raised his hands in worship, his smile reflecting a joy born of God's grace and the sorrow of death.

* * *

Just one month earlier, Wesley had been a Muslim extremist. Often referred to as *el-Hadji*, an honourable title given to Muslims who complete a pilgrimage to Mecca, he had been an imam in two mosques and served as chairman of his local mosque, overseeing its business and financial affairs for decades. He also actively participated in jihad.

"We said we are holier than Christians and we are fighting a jihad, fighting Christians and killing people," he said. "In Islam, they hate those who are not Muslim; they call them paganists. When we kill Christians, we say we are killing paganists, and if we kill a pagan in the name of Allah, we are going to heaven."

Over the years, Wesley became disillusioned with Islam. Though he had grown up in a Muslim family, one of his grandfathers had converted to Christianity. And Wesley remembered his grandfather's stories about Jesus Christ and God's love, which differed greatly from the violent version of Islam he knew. In his heart, he felt that jihad was wrong.

"The Christian does not fight jihad," he said. "They don't kill each other, and they don't kill others. My heart would remain with sorrow after making a jihad. I did not want to live with this sorrow in my heart."

As Wesley wrestled with his faith, tragedy struck his family.

◀ Wesley joyfully professed his faith in Christ by getting baptised.



*“My heart would remain with sorrow after making a jihad.
I did not want to live with this sorrow in my heart.”*

On 16 June, 2023, members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Islamist group affiliated with the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS), crossed into Uganda from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and attacked the Lhubiriha Secondary School in Mpondwe, Kasese district. The ADF formed in western Uganda in the 1990s but operates primarily in the northeastern DRC today. It has openly stated its intent to eradicate Christians from the region as it strives to establish Islamic law.

During the attack, armed militants stormed the school, killing students with machetes before bombing one of the dormitories and setting fire to other buildings where children had taken shelter. The Islamists killed 37 students, four community members and one security guard, while abducting six other students.

Among the students killed in the attack was Wesley's 15-year-old niece, Amina. She and her mother had left Islam to follow Christ just a year earlier, and Wesley's brother had chased them from their home. Their local church had then provided for their needs and paid for Amina's schooling at Lhubiriha. After the attack, Amina's body was discovered in the forest on the DRC side of the border.

Already questioning his Islamic faith, Wesley was struck by the contrast between Muslim and Christian responses to the school attack. He had always responded faithfully when mosque leadership needed his help, but now, no one from the local Muslim community offered condolences to their family or apologised for the extremists' actions.

Conversely, Wesley was deeply moved by the way the Christian community cared for his niece's body and gave her a proper burial. "I was impressed by the love and support the Christians showed," he said.

When the minister boldly proclaimed the Gospel at Amina's funeral, Wesley placed his faith in Christ.

In the days after Wesley became a Christian, he began to share the Gospel with his family. He first led his wife and eight children to know Christ, and then Amina's father called him on the phone to explain that he, too, wanted to follow Jesus Christ.

Still, leaving Islam has not been easy for Wesley and his family. In Uganda, Christian converts face severe harassment in Muslim communities; some have even been killed. Because of his former leadership in the Muslim community, Wesley has received death threats, forcing him and his family to go into hiding. Only four of his children attended his baptism because it was too dangerous for the whole family to be together in public.

After Wesley's baptism, his daughters removed their traditional Muslim hijabs and received baptism themselves, publicly proclaiming their commitment to follow Christ. The remaining children were scheduled to be baptised with their mother on the following Sunday.

Today, Wesley rejoices in his newfound freedom. "I have cast all of that Islamic extremism off to follow Jesus Christ," he said. "I have received Jesus Christ and I want to serve Jesus Christ."

With encouragement and practical help from the global body of Christ, Wesley and his family are growing in faith. He requests prayer for God's protection as he shares his faith with radical Muslims, including members of his own family. Two of his brothers are currently in prison for extremist activities.

I want God to lead me with safety so I can do the will of God," he said. ■

Editor's note: Wesley is one of countless new Christians who have turned from Islamic extremism to faith in Christ. We invite you to pray that Wesley and other Christian converts from Islam will be grounded in God's Word and become obedient witnesses who remain faithful unto death.

Christian Mission International

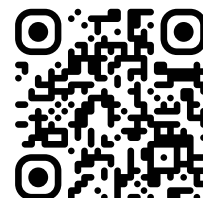


The Voice of the Martyrs
Die Stem van die Martelare

CMI | P. O. Box 7157, Primrose Hill, 1417 South Africa | Tel: 010 777 0114 (8am-1pm) | Cell: 076-022-3336 (8am-5pm)
E-pos: cmi@vomsa.org or bianca@vomsa.org | Website: www.persecutionsa.org |
Facebook@cmivomsa | Instagram@cmi - vomsa

Directors: Mr A.B. Illman (Executive); Pastor R. Marsh; Mr R. Keir;
Pastor J. Tucker; Mr D. Kirton; Mr C. Hutchinson

© Permission to reprint any portion of this newsletter must be obtained from Christian Mission International.



Prayer Diary[®]

September/October 2024

SEPTEMBER 2024

S	15	ISRAEL*	Pray that members of Hamas will turn from the darkness of Islam to the light of Christ.
M	16	LEBANON	Pray for Christians who face ongoing harassment from the Muslim majority.
T	17	IRAN	Pray that Christians distributing Bibles will remain undetected by authorities and others who wish them harm.
W	18	AFGHANISTAN	Pray that families of Christian martyrs will know God's provision and comfort.
T	19	CHINA	Pray for ways to proclaim the Gospel and disciple new Believers without notice by the Communist government.
F	20	CAR**	Pray that Christians trained to help trauma victims will effectively share the hope of Christ.
S	21	MOZAMBIQUE	Pray for those ministering to displaced and traumatized Christians.
S	22	BANGLADESH	Pray for Christians among the Chakma people group whose church was destroyed; some were beaten by militant Buddhists.
M	23	TUNISIA	Pray that Bibles will be more readily available, as access is limited and Bibles are scarce.
T	24	BURKINA FASO	Pray for the more than 200 churches that have been closed in the north and east because of the threat of attack.
W	25	KAZAKHSTAN	Pray that Christian workers will find creative ways to spread the Gospel despite many restrictions.
T	26	EGYPT	Pray that members of the Muslim Brotherhood and the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS) will come to know Christ.
F	27	MYANMAR	Pray for bold Believers who share their faith knowing they will face increased hostility for their witness.
S	28	DRC***	Pray that Christians who have fled fighting in the DRC will have all their needs met.
S	29	MAURITANIA	Pray that the number of Believers in the country will double in the next year.
M	30	DJIBOUTI	Pray that Sunni Muslims, 98% of the population, will see the truth of the Gospel and turn to Christ.

OCTOBER 2024

T	1	AZERBAIJAN	Pray for Christians who are sharing the Gospel despite legal trouble and potential fines.
W	2	KENYA	Pray that local officials and police will protect Christians and their church buildings.
T	3	BAHRAIN	Pray that evangelists will continue to advance the Gospel with zeal and joy.
F	4	MALDIVES	Ask the Lord to grow a discipleship network for new Believers.
S	5	UAE****	Pray for continued access to God's Word through the internet.
S	6	IRAQ	Ask God to strengthen Youhanna, who battles chronic pain and has been rejected by his family.
M	7	LAOS	Ask the Lord to give wisdom, courage and joy to Front-Line Workers in remote and difficult areas of Laos.
T	8	SOMALIA	Pray that al-Shabab's terroristic plans will be thwarted (2 Thessalonians 3:1-3).
W	9	KUWAIT	Pray for Front-Line Workers who are training local Believers in evangelism and discipleship.
T	10	OMAN	Pray that the government will become more open to the Gospel and understanding of those who follow Christ.
F	11	BENIN	Pray for VOM's Bible distributions in a region where most people practice voodoo.
S	12	QATAR	Pray for foreign Christians who have been deported for evangelistic activities among Qataris.

*(INCLUDING WEST BANK AND GAZA)

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

***DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

****UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Scan this QR Code to
access our Website.

