

# SALT & LIGHT Newsletter

"You are the *light* of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Colossians 4:6

Volume 1, Issue 3

## Martyr:

- One who chooses to suffer death rather than to deny Christ, or His work.
- One who sacrifices something very important to further the kingdom of God.
- One who endures great suffering for Christian witness.
- One who is loyal, faithful, and true to that which or to whom he is committed, even faithful unto death.

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**Colossians 2: 6-7** "As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live in Him. Keep your roots deep in Him and have your lives built on Him. Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught, and always be thankful."

**Acts 6:8-10, 12, 15 ... 7:51, 54-55, 58-60**

"Stephen was richly blessed by God who gave him the power to do great miracles and signs among the people. But some people were against him. They all came and argued with Stephen. But the Spirit was helping him to speak with wisdom, and his words were so strong that they could not argue with him. This upset the people, the older leaders, and the teachers of the law. They came and grabbed Stephen and brought him to a meeting of the leaders. All the

people in the meeting were watching Stephen closely and saw that his face looked like the face of an angel.

Stephen continued speaking: 'You stubborn people! You have not given your hearts to God, nor will you listen to Him! You are always against what the Holy Spirit is trying to tell you, just as your ancestors were. When the leaders heard this, they became furious. They were so mad they were grinding their teeth at Stephen. But Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. He looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at God's right side. They took him out of the city and began to throw stones at him to kill him. While they were throwing stones, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' He fell on his knees and cried in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' After Stephen said this, he died."

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1. Is it wrong to feel afraid when people harass or mistreat you? Can you share the love of God with your mouth and heart even when you feel afraid? The Bible names Jesus as the Prince of Peace. What people in the video had the peace of Jesus in their hearts even when their lives were in danger? Can you ask God to give you His peace?

2. Did you ever feel like throwing a rock at someone or want to hurt them? Did someone ever want to hurt you? God's love and forgiveness can help us in these times. In some countries, Christians are hurt or persecuted by bad people for doing good things. Why were people throwing rocks at Stephen in the Bible? (Acts 6-7)
3. First John 4:16 says "God is love" and verse 18 says, "Perfect love casts out fear". How could this verse help a boy like Stephen have more boldness?
4. William Tyndale died praying for the King of England, who authorized his execution. Jesus and Stephen dies asking forgiveness for their persecutors. (Luke 23:34, Acts 7:60). Can you pray for someone whom you feel has hurt you in some way?
5. Once William Tyndale lost all of his copies of Deuteronomy in a shipwreck and had to retranslate it. As a reward for his translation efforts, he was executed. Read the book of Acts to find the story of a disciple who suffered persecution, shipwreck, imprisonment, and was later executed. Who was this faithful disciple?
6. The "faithful" people listed in Hebrews 11 continue to witness to us today. What happened to them?
7. Why was it so important that young Stephen share his faith? Does it matter that a 12 year old stands true to the faith?
8. How will you be different after viewing this film and understanding what has happened to Christians throughout the ages and even today?



Mial Rose quickened her feet. She tried really hard to keep up with her older cousin Albert. Mial Rose felt excited her cousin asked her to go with him to the plantation factory. Workers at the factory get bananas ready to be shipped all over the world. The factory is near Mial Rose's home in the mountains.

Mial Rose lived with her parents and brothers and sisters in a small bamboo home high above a village in the Philippines. All around her home there were large banana trees. They had huge leaves, much bigger than Mial Rose. She lived in the jungle. She often had to walk around large trees on her way to church. Just like she and her cousin Albert were doing now.

### **Scared in the Jungle**

As Mial Rose walked with her cousin Albert she heard a loud boom. More loud sounds followed. Mial Rose was scared as her cousin grabbed her hand and began to run. He pulled her along, running fast. That's when men dressed in army uniforms jumped out of the jungle. They were not with the Philippine army though. They were part of a Muslim terrorist group. The men forced Mial Rose and her cousin to the ground. Albert covered Mial Rose trying to protect her.

Mial Rose covered her ears as more booms sounded. They were gunshots. She began to scream. The armed men had shot her in the foot. She cried. The scary men suddenly began running as members of the real Philippine Army chased them.

Mial Rose's father found her on the ground. Her cousin was still. He had been shot as well. Mial Rose's father picked her up and carried her to doctors who were waiting to help.

### **More Villages Attacked**

Mial Rose and her cousin Albert were attacked on May 3, 2009. Muslim terrorists attacked three mountain villages that day. Attacks on Christians happen a lot on Mindanao, the place where Mial Rose lives. Muslim groups do not want Christians living there. They claim that the area belongs to them because they are Muslim. The country's army tries to protect Christians but sometimes it cannot. That's how Christians like Mial Rose and Albert get hurt.

### **Help for Christian Victims**

Mial Rose spent more than three weeks in the hospital. Her mother had to change the bandage they put on her foot every day. It hurt each time. But Mial Rose was very brave.

Thanks to her friends at VOM, Mial Rose received medicine and help from the doctor she needed to get well. Her cousin Albert also received medical help and is now well. Praise God he was not hurt too badly.

Please pray for Christians like Mial Rose who are hurt by angry Muslims. Pray for their protection. Ask God to encourage them and give them strength to share Jesus Christ with the Muslims who live in their area.

## **Young girl attacked in the Philippines**

www.kidsofcourage.com

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**Luke 10:3 "Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves."**

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**Torchlighter:** "One who commits to serving God and passing on the light of the Gospel, even when the going gets tough."

## **Will you be a torchlighter??**

**Challenge:** Find and memorize two more Bible verses that would help you or someone else declare their Christian faith boldly.

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### **Fun game to play with your family!**

#### **Korea Activity: Crossing the Border Game**

##### **Background**

Some North Koreans try to escape their country by crossing a frozen river in the winter. Guards watch the river to try to stop anyone from escaping.

Guards in some countries also try to keep people from sneaking into their country, especially if they are carrying Bibles. The governments of some countries do not want their citizens to learn about Jesus. Christians in one place found a way to take Bibles into those countries in the winter. Guards near the border looked for footprints in the snow. They sent attack dogs in the direction of the footprints. So the Christians walked backwards in the snow at night to take Bibles into the countries that did not allow Bibles. When border guards looked down at the footprints from their towers in the morning, they sent their search dogs in the wrong direction!

##### **How to Play**

Divide into two teams. Give each team a bag of three or four books. Make a starting line and a finish line several yards apart. Line up the teams behind the starting line. When a leader says, "Go," the first player on each team walks/runs backwards to the finish line, carrying the bag of books. The player drops the books behind him beyond the finish line. The second player walks/runs backwards to the books, picks them up without turning around, then runs back to the starting line. Play continues until all the players on one team have finished the task. That team wins.

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### **Make with your family: Chinese Almond Jello**

Boil 1 cup of water. Remove from heat and stir in ¼ cup of sugar and 2 packages of unflavored gelatin until they dissolve. Add 1 cup of milk and 2 tsp. almond extract and stir to mix. Pour into a pan about 13 inches by 9 inches and put it in the refrigerator until firm. Cut into squares. Serve with fruit on top if desired.

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### **Family Craft:**

A “parol” (pah-rohl) is a star lantern. Families in the Philippines use star lanterns as Christmas ornaments.

They hang the lanterns in windows and even decorate their yards with them.

Filipino children learn to make star lanterns in

school. Some families make their own lanterns; others buy them. Traditional star lanterns are made by constructing two star-shaped frames out of bamboo sticks, then fastening the frames together. The frames are covered with colorful paper then decorated with tassels hung from one or more points.

Candles were placed inside the lanterns in past times, just as candles were used to light Christmas trees in the past. Today electric lights usually light the lanterns.

You can make a star ornament by cutting a 4- or 5-pointed star from colored poster board. Make the star any size you want.

Use ribbon, tinsel, crepe paper, or yarn to make short tassels.

Glue the tassels to the points of the star, or attach them with thread to holes punched in the points. You may want to glue or draw pictures or decorations to the front and back of the star, and hang your star in a window.



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### **How to exercise your boldness!**

**Write a letter:** Leaders and officials in Iran often make things difficult for Christians in their country. Find the name of the current leaders of Iran in an almanac or other source. Pray for them. If an address is given in the source, you might want to write a polite letter to an Iranian leader saying that you are praying for him. Ask him to use his power to make sure that Iranian Christians are treated with respect.