

2025 Japan Donkey Tracting

- Hiroshima: 19 - 26 May
- Tohoku : 15 - 22 September
- Nagoya : 1 - 8 December



<https://twr.org/japan-donkey-tracting>





4 MAY 2025
KY MISSION SUNDAY

DIGITAL MISSION

SERMON DATE

SPEAKERS & TOPICS

27 Apr
YC Service



Isaac Ong
Digital Identity

4 May
Engl/YC
Combined

Simon Seow
Missions in the 4th Era



4 May
Cant/Mand
Combined



杜国强牧师
数码宣教

WORKSHOPS

TOPICS AND FACILITATORS

华语讲座

9.15am-10.45am

使用数码工具进行外展与宣教

讲员：黄秀丽

English WS #1

11.15am-12.45pm

Digital Missions 101

Facilitator: Joses from Cru

English WS #2

11.15am-12.45pm

Using Digital Tools for Daily Evangelism

Facilitator: Rome from Cru

English WS #3

1.30pm-4pm

Mini Hackathon/Design Thinking Workshop

Facilitator: Reggie from Indigitous

70 CHRISTIANS MURDERED BY ISIS AFFILIATE IN EASTERN DRC

70 Christians murdered in DRC

Open Doors International

24 February 2025



Village in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Credit: Open Doors International

Jesus warned us in **John 16:33 (NASB)**

These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

Matthew 5:10-12 (NLT)

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.



The Reality of Persecution: A Global Church Under Fire

The Reality of Persecution: A Global Crisis

A. The Scale of Persecution Today

HOW ARE CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED?

- 1. Violence:** Christians are attacked, kidnapped, tortured and murdered for their faith.
- 2. Imprisonment:** Christians were denied justice, jailed for gathering to worship or sharing the Gospel.
- 3. Social Ostracism:** Christians faced severe hostility and are shun by surrounding families and communities.

Facts and Findings 2025

- More than 380 million Christians face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith
- And nearly 300,000 Christians were forced to leave their homes, go into hiding or flee their country of origin.
- 13 Christians a day are killed for their faith.
- 12 churches or Christian buildings a day are attacked
- 12 Christians a day are unjustly arrested or imprisoned.
- 3,906 believers were abducted
- More than 3,200 Christians were raped, sexually harassed or forced to marry non-Christians

**Information from World Watch List top 50, visit
www.opendoors.org.**



4,476

Christians murdered



7,679

Churches and Christian
properties attacked



4,744

Christians imprisoned



1 in 7

Christians are
persecuted worldwide



1 in 5

Christians are
persecuted in Africa



2 in 5

Christians are
persecuted in Asia

≡ RANKING



The Persecuted Church 2025

<https://vimeo.com/1047127684>

2 Tim 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted .

The Reality of Persecution: A Global Crisis

B. Why Persecution Happens

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Persecution occurs because the Gospel confronts the powers of this world.

Jesus said, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first” (John 15:18).

The world opposes the light of Christ because it exposes darkness (John 3:19-20).

B. Why Persecution Happens

1. The Spiritual Battle: Light vs. Darkness

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

2. The Moral Conflict: Righteousness vs. Sin

John 3:20 “Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.”

3. The Societal Clash: God’s Kingdom vs. Worldly Systems

John 15:19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.



On Feb 15, 2015, twenty one kidnapped Christian construction workers were beheaded by ISIS in Libya.

Before their death, they were given the chance to convert to Islam, but they refused.



The workers were kidnapped during two separate attacks on Dec 27, 2014 and in Jan 2015. Twenty of the men were ethnic Copts from Egypt and members of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

The twenty first victim, Matthew Ayariga, was from Ghana.

Some sources also say that he was not originally a Christian, but chose to convert and die with the men after witnessing their dedication to their faith, saying "their God is my God".



The Egyptian government announced they were trying to secure the release of the workers, but before they could secure their release ISIS released the video online of their execution

The video branded the men as **“people of the cross”** and **followers of the cross delusion”**.

The men cried out “O Lord Jesus” just before their final breath.



After the ISIS fighters were expelled, the bodies of the men were found and returned to Egypt

The men are venerated as martyrs in both the Oriental Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church.

Their feast day is February 15th.

On 15 February 2025, churches in many parts of the world solemnly commemorate the 10th anniversary of the ruthless abduction and execution of these 21 martyrs.

In honor of their faithfulness, a 13-minutes short film **"The 21"** was created in the style of Coptic iconography by over 70 artists from 24 countries as a tribute to Christ and those who died rather than deny Him. The film has been shortlisted for an Oscar for its story and artistry.

The 21

<https://youtu.be/XwPQqkeeCTg?si=gylYNCwz8EF5kv02>

The Hope of the Persecuted: Eternal Perspective

A. Faith is Stronger Than Fear

The 21 Coptic Christians chose to die rather than deny Christ. Their faith was stronger than their fear of death. When we fix our eyes on eternity, earthly trials lose their power to intimidate us.

Biblical Passage:

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain (Philippians 1:21)

B. Our Witness Matters

The sacrifices of the martyrs have inspired millions. Their testimonies shine brightly, pointing others to Christ.

Biblical Passage:

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16)

C. Eternity Changes Everything

The martyrs understood that their earthly lives were temporary, but their eternal reward was secure. Our hope is not in this world but in the promise of eternal life with Christ.

Biblical Passage:

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us (Romans 8:18)

Biblical Examples: Standing Firm in the Fire

Biblical Examples: Standing Firm in the Fire

1. Daniel in the Lion Den (Daniel 6)
Daniel's faith was not conditional. He trusted God even when it cost him his life.
2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3)
True faith trusts God's sovereignty even when the outcome is uncertain.
3. Stephen, the First Martyr (Acts 7)
Persecution can advance the Gospel in ways we cannot foresee.

**The Church's Response:
Prayer, Advocacy, and Action**

A. PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED

1. Pray for strength for believers to stand firm and persevere in their faith
2. Pray comfort and provision for their family members especially those who have lost loved ones
3. Pray for transformation for their persecutors to encounter Christ.
4. Pray for change of heart for the leaders of government to execute justice and embrace peace, tolerance, and religious freedom.

B. ADVOCATE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

1. Raise awareness about persecution by telling their stories.
2. Support policies that protect religious freedom. Organizations like Open Doors and International Christian Concern provides resources and opportunities to get involved.

Proverbs 31:8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves

C. PROVIDE PRACTICAL SUPPORT

1. Visit them and encourage them
2. Support ministries that provide Bibles, shelter, and legal aid to persecuted Christians.

Hebrews 13:3 Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

A Call to Boldness and Solidarity

1 Peter 5:8-10 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are. In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

As we stand in solidarity with the persecuted, let us also live boldly for Christ in our own contexts. Together, we can shine the light of Christ in even the darkest places.

Discussion Questions

1. The 21 Coptic Christians chose to hold fast to their faith even in the face of death. What does their sacrifice reveal about the strength of faith in moments of extreme trial? How does their example challenge or inspire your own walk with Christ?
2. Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). How does the story of *"The 21"* illustrate the cost of discipleship? Are there areas in your life where you feel called to take a stand for your faith, even if it comes at a personal cost?



**Member of the
International Christian Association (ICA) &
a ministry partner of
The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)**



The **Voice**
of the **Martyrs**



**International
Christian
Association**

*The ICA exists to help, love and
encourage persecuted Christians.*

Our Mission

We aim to actively engage with our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ, in Asia and beyond - through praying for them, standing with them, helping them in practical ways and learning lessons of true discipleship from them.