

DISCUSSION IDEAS  
**VOICE OF THE MARTYRS**

Heb. 13:1-3

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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**ONE GROUND RULE TONIGHT:** We are not going to try to find an answer for "Why".

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT DO YOU FEEL WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THE FACT THAT MANY BELIEVERS ARE TRULY SUFFERING FOR CHRIST?**

Do you feel uncomfortable when the talk turns to present day martyrs? How about anger? Discuss the difference between reacting in anger, and offering forgiveness.

Do you wish you could "fix" things?

What is it about discussing persecution that makes you uncomfortable?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: WHAT SHOULD WE DO? HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?**

What have we seen as the outlook of those who are in fact suffering?

In what way has martyrdom influenced the church and also the individual believers?

How does suffering for Christ affect the idea of following a Religion, as opposed to walking with God?

How would suffering affect the importance we place on the Word of God?

How would suffering affect the way we interpret God's Word?

How can we engage martyrdom? How can we come along-side our suffering brethren?

Consider those in other lands.

What about the person who sits beside me in church?

How can we help, if our physical presence visiting them will have no effect?

Read Heb. 13:1-3. Do we really believe that God will answer our prayers? What is it that we are asking?

Read Phil. 1:12-20. Discuss Paul's perspective on the results of his suffering.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: IS SUFFERING FOR CHRIST A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY IN OUR OWN LIVES?**

Is it realistic to consider that we ourselves may suffer persecution?

Discuss the scenario below.

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**SCENARIO:**

You work for, say, Qualcomm. You have been talking about the Lord with co-workers during break times. Maybe you have started a Bible study during Lunch.

THEN --- you get called into the boss's office and ordered to stop. You are told that you will be fired if observed disobeying this order.

What are some of the factors we need to consider?

Did we ever agree to a condition of employment that prohibits witnessing on-site? What if we did? Where does that leave us?

Is it possible that we have been using company time for our witnessing?

Does that matter?

If we are in a position of management, might our witnessing to someone under our authority actually be seen as a form of abuse of power?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION:**

Meditate on John 15:18 and 20; 16:33; and 2 Tim. 3:10-12.

Not being morbid, but what can be the real consequence of living out Jesus' Love here in Ramona or at work, when others we know (and love) hate Him?

How can the world around us see Christ if we are never put to the test?

Read Hebrews 11, putting yourself in each person's place!

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

**Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.**

**Pray for the new home groups starting up soon, especially the leaders.**

**Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganan Island.**

**Thank God for the encouragement for Benders and Ingvoidstads as the Cuyunan church grows. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.**

**Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Baranganan Island.**

**Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.**

**Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!**

**Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.**