

# IDOP 2016

REMEMBERING 20 YEARS

## Children's Material

### MUSLIM WORLD: Standing firm in Christ

Asia Bibi is a Christian woman in Pakistan who has been in jail since June 2009. She has a husband and two daughters, Isha, age 13, and Ishem, age 10. Asia worked on a farm near their home in Pakistan. Her boss was a Muslim, and so were the other women who worked on the farm with her. In fact, only three Christian families lived in the whole town. Everyone else was Muslim.



One day at work, the Muslim women told Asia about Islam, the religion of Muslims. Asia told the Muslims that Christ died on the cross for our sins and that He rose again and is alive. She told them that Mohammad, the man who started Islam, was not a true prophet.

The Muslim women were angry at Asia, and they hit her. Some Muslim leaders wanted to make Asia ride through the village on a donkey as punishment. Instead, the police put Asia in jail. It is against the law in Pakistan to insult Islam or Mohammad. Leaders insisted that Asia had broken the law.

Isha, Ishem, and their father missed Asia very much. One day, officials let them visit her for about 15 minutes before she went to a court hearing. Asia told her visitors that she prayed every day at 3 a.m. in the jail. She thanked God that the guards had not hurt her. But she missed her family very much.

In July 2015, Asia's family got a glimmer of hope when Pakistan's highest court overturned a death sentence handed to her in 2010. We need to keep praying for her!

### **Pray!**

- Pray that Asia will be released from prison soon so she can return home to her family.
- Pray that Christians like Asia will stand firm in their faith even when it is very difficult.
- Pray that God will encourage Asia's husband and two daughters. Pray that their faith in Jesus will continue to grow.
- Pray that many more people in Pakistan will learn about Jesus and turn to Him.

## **Activity: Write a letter of encouragement to Asia Bibi**

Have you ever received a letter or card in the mail? If so, isn't it exciting to open the envelope and see what's inside?

You can encourage Asia Bibi by sending her a letter! Imagine how she might feel to receive a note of encouragement from a Christian like you, reminding her that you care and are praying for her!

Write a letter with your family or Sunday school class. You can include a drawing, or perhaps a photo of you, your family, your pet, or a picture of the beautiful scenery where you live.

Here is a sample of what you can write:

*Dear Asia Bibi,*

*My name is [your first name] and I live in [the country where you live]. I am writing you today to let you know that I am praying for you and your family! May God bless and keep you!*

*From,*

*[your first name]*

Mail your letters to:

**Asia Bibi  
Central Jail Multan  
Multan City, Punjab  
Pakistan**

## COMMUNIST WORLD: A family vanishes

Very few North Korean children know about Jesus and God. But 10-year-old Hyun Joo was different. She believed in God and trusted Him.

Hyun Joo's parents were Christians. Many North Korean Christians do not talk about God with their children. If the children mention God outside the home, government officials might punish the whole family. The government wants the citizens to honour the country's leaders, not God.

But Hyun Joo's parents wanted her to know Jesus. They prayed that God would use her to change North Korea.

North Korea's leaders do not allow just anybody to leave the country for visits. They do not want them to find out how much better life is in other places.

Hyun Joo's family secretly left North Korea to attend a hidden Bible class in another country. It was a risky trip. But the police did not catch them. After two weeks of Bible training, the family quietly returned home. As they left, Hyun Joo said to the Bible teacher, —Pray that I will not lose my joy until heaven. (The picture of Hyun Joo was taken at the Bible class. Her face is covered to protect her identity.)

Hyun Joo continued to believe in God, and she worked hard at school. She was happy when she came home from school one day.

She told her mother, Hee Sook, that she had prayed —inside her heartll at school. Hee Sook was pleased with Hyun Joo's faith. She asked Hyun Joo's aunt, Mrs. Kim, to join her in praying for Hyun Joo.

The next day Mrs. Kim returned to Hyun Joo's house for a visit. The house was empty, and the family had vanished.

A friend later told Mrs. Kim what had happened. Hyun Joo's teacher had asked her, —How did you get such a good grade on your test?  
—By God's grace, Hyun Joo answered.

The teacher was angry. She dragged Hyun Joo out of the classroom. Then her family disappeared. The government no doubt took them away. No one has heard from them since.

**Pray!**

Someday we might learn where Hyun Joo and her family are. But even if we don't, we can still be part of an answer to their prayer. Now that you have learned Hyun Joo's story, it can help you remember to pray for change in North Korea. The Bible says, —The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effectivell (James 5:16). Pray that the leaders of North Korea will love good and hate evil.

Pray that God's Word will continue to spread and that enemies will be powerless to stop it.

Ask God to comfort and take care of North Korean Christians.