



# *A Steadfast Faith*

Stories *of* Middle Eastern Women



Imagine being a woman in the Middle East where women must routinely and systematically submit to various types of oppression, abuse, and discrimination.

The Qur'an declares that a man has the same share of inheritance as two Muslim women, and his testimony in court is equal to the testimonies of two women. A man also has the right to marry up to four wives whom the Qur'an instructs he may discipline in various ways, including beatings and divorce. Women are financially dependent on men, and the idea of living as a single, independent woman is unthinkable.

What happens to a wife or daughter who turns from her faith in Allah and Islam and embraces Christ as her Savior?

When a woman is discovered to believe in Jesus and the heavenly Father, her home becomes a merciless prison. She faces persecution and torture, including beatings, burning, rape, and sometimes death at the hands of her parents or brothers. This is the price of faith in her Savior.

I was one of those who suffered for my faith. My parents beat me, locking me in my bedroom for three years, and forbade my sisters to speak to me. I was labeled an infidel.

Today, we help and support many steadfast women who have not denied Christ but boldly preach the name of Jesus and His resurrection and tell of the God who loves them.



For this reason, I invite you to stand beside those willing to die so their families may believe in Christ. I invite you to support them with your prayers and financial gifts, so they may remain light and salt in this world until the time comes for their departure.

In this way, you will have received the blessing of the Lord Jesus, who promised:

“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” -  
Matthew 10:42

*Elham Saleh*



## *Morocco*

At 28 years old, Maha thought her life was over. Her husband came home early and caught her watching a Christian television program which had become her lifeline. He beat her repeatedly, then divorced her, forcing her from her home and children when she refused to renounce Jesus. Not knowing what to do, she begged for food and slept in the street until one of our team members noticed her reading her Bible and introduced himself. Now Maya lives in a safe house with other Christian women and has a new job with a hairdresser who works with our ministry.

## *Tunisia*

Dijla was part of a home church raided by local authorities. Twice she was interrogated and beaten by a high-security officer named Seif. He could not understand why she refused to renounce this Christian faith and be spared her suffering. Then Jesus Himself appeared to Seif and told him to ask this woman to explain her faith. They talked for four hours in Dijla's cell. Afterward, Seif released her and told his boss he could no longer harass these Christians as he had also become a believer in Jesus. He was immediately fired and placed under surveillance by his former colleagues. They also blocked his every attempt to secure other employment. Akin to a modern-day Saul, Seif became part of the church he had been persecuting and eventually married Dijla, whom he had formerly beaten. Together they are planting churches and training leaders in Tunisia.

## *Syria*

While her husband seeks asylum for their family in Germany, thirty-year-old Layla and her three children are refugees in Egypt. Layla was born to an Egyptian mother and a Syrian father



who joined ISIS during the Syrian civil war. But Layla and her husband came to believe in Jesus. They fled Syria to Turkey, but Layla's radical Muslim brother hunted them down. He beat Layla several times, breaking her arm, then vowed to kill the entire family when they refused to renounce their Christian faith and return to Islam.

### *Tunis, Tunisia*

Shout to the Lord ministry provides safe houses, counseling, and the Gospel to young women who have suffered sexual abuse. Almost all of the women have accepted Jesus! They stay for up to six months, and once they have healed, they return to their families to share their faith. When the family has accepted the Gospel, a man from the ministry begins discipling the male family members and establishes a new church among them. In addition, many women come through Tunis from Libya and other African countries as they migrate to Europe. The ministry reaches as many of them as possible with the Good News of Jesus so they can take the hope and truth of salvation with them wherever they go.

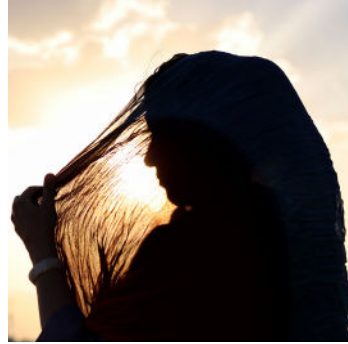
# Pray *for* Our Sisters



## Your prayers make an impact.

- ◆ Pray that God will give Christians wisdom to respond to their interrogators and receive strength and conviction not to deny their commitment to Jesus.
- ◆ Many times young women are persecuted to the extent of denying Jesus. Their denial causes them to feel extreme guilt and shame. Please pray that when this happens, they will turn to God in repentance and the Holy Spirit will encourage and comfort them.
- ◆ In response to their daughter's conversion, some parents lock the young woman in her room for an extended period. The time frame could be weeks, months, or even years. Please pray that during such times, she will remain steadfast in her faith and that her fortitude and courage will be a witness to her family and others.

- ◆ Often this young woman's family forces her to marry a Muslim relative. Pray that the Lord will give her wisdom on how to share her faith with her husband so he will be convicted and converted by her witness. When this happens, perhaps their home could be used to host a home church.
- ◆ Pray that her family will see the changes in the young woman's behavior and that God will use her circumstances as a testimony for Him. Although Satan wants to harm her, pray God will turn every situation for her good and His glory.
- ◆ Pray for donations of \$100 per month to provide safe houses for persecuted women.



**Stand with  
persecuted  
women in the  
Middle East.**



**Give at [advancingnativemissions.com/persecutedwomen](https://advancingnativemissions.com/persecutedwomen)**

*“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”*

*- Matthew 10:42*

[advancingnativemissions.com/persecutedwomen](https://advancingnativemissions.com/persecutedwomen)



**ANM** ADVANCING  
NATIVE  
MISSIONS