

What do you Endure?

Prep:

- Ritz crackers and an assortment of "foods" to put on the Ritz
- Nylons and pencils for hairdo's

Icebreaker:

To get into The Shed you must first select from 3 activities.

1. Put nylon footy on your head pick someone to pull some hair through and promise to wear it until worship time.
2. Quote John 3:16 while standing on your head (if you mess up you have to do the next thing as well)
3. EAT THE RITZ select a "Ritz Sandwich" and EAT IT!
4. If you won't do one of the above then you'll have to wear this dandy T-Shirt, "I Wimped OUT in SEAL Team A" the whole meeting.

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Discuss: What is the most difficult thing you've had to endure as a Christian?

- a. Getting up Sunday AM/Being made fun of?

Illustrate: Let's look at what some people around the world are enduring for Jesus sake:

27 Jan. 09--After her arrest at Cairo's airport on Dec. 13 while attempting to flee anti-Christian hostilities in Egypt, convert Martha Samuel Makkar was granted bail on Jan. 24, but not before a judge took her aside and said he would like to kill her, according to her lawyer.

According to a story published by Compass Direct News, attorney Nadia Tawfiq said Judge Abdelaa Hashem questioned Makkar extensively about her Christian faith during the hearing.

Compass reported that Makkar, charged with forging identification documents, explained the reasons for her conversion, avowing her Christian faith and repudiating the judge's claims that converting from Islam to Christianity was impossible.

"Then he said, 'I want to talk with Martha alone,' so we all left the room, and he said to her, 'Nobody changes from Muslim to Christian - you are a Muslim,'" Tawfiq said. "And she said, 'No, I am a Christian.' He told her, 'If I had a knife now, I would kill you.' (Makkar) came out crying and depressed, but at least he gave the decision to let her go free."

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Compass said that Makkar, 24, had planned to escape the dangers she has faced in Egypt by traveling to Russia with her family. She said that since converting to Christianity five years ago, police and members of her extended family have threatened her continuously, the relatives vowing to kill her.

Compass reported that according to a Coptic rights group, airport security personnel had been notified of Makkar's plans.

"They had both (her original and Christian) names and maybe a picture before she reached the airport," said Helmy Guirguis, president of the UK Coptic Association. "They did not (arrest her) to apply the law, they did it because of hate for Muslims converting to Christianity. It is like a great occasion to go and arrest some poor lady like her in the airport."

Compass said that after her arrest, Makkar was charged with carrying forged documents and taken to El-Nozha police station. Authorities also took her husband and two children into custody. The identification that Makkar carried listed her religion as Christian, and showed the name she had chosen for herself rather than her given name, Zainab Said Abdel-Aziz.

Legal conversion from Islam to Christianity by Muslim-born Egyptians, and gaining corresponding legitimate documents, is unprecedented in Egypt. Egyptian law does not provide for a means to legally change one's religion on identification papers.

Compass said that according to Tawfiq, Makkar said authorities held her in a room at the airport, hit her and denied food to her children.

"People who convert to Christianity are treated exactly like terrorists," said Guirguis of the UK Coptic Association.

Compass said he added, "This is not official policy, it's not on paper, it's not the law, but it's what happens."

Abuse from Police, Prisoners

Compass reported that before authorities took Makkar to prison, her two children, Morkes, 2, and Amanwael, 4, were handed over to family friends. Authorities took Makkar's Christian husband, 32-year-old Fadl Thabet, to the national security office in Alexandria for questioning.

According to the Compass story, the prosecution office later ordered his release after testimony from Makkar, who claimed that Thabet did not know she was a convert. Despite this order, authorities did not release Thabet but

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instead placed him under "emergency arrest." This form of incarceration requires no charges and provides no recourse to legal counsel. He remained in prison until Jan. 19.

Compass said authorities had also arrested George Abyad, 67, and Masood Guirges, 55, employees of the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate in Alexandria, on suspicion of helping Makkar obtain false papers. The prosecution office ordered their release, along with that of Thabet, based on Makkar's testimony.

Since Makkar's arrest, Compass said, she has leveled allegations of sexual abuse and inappropriate behavior at police in the El-Nozha station, and at personnel of the national security office in Heliopolis. Makkar said she has also suffered at the hands of fellow inmates at Al-Qanata prison, where authorities later took her.

"She has some difficulty with the other prisoners in prison," Tawfiq told Compass. "One of them kicked her and tried to kill her; one took the Bible and threw it on the floor, pushed her and tried to make her go back to Islam. But she is strong, she is strong."

Compass said Makkar remained in pre-trial detention until Jan. 22, when she was briefly released on a bail of US \$540. She was then rearrested after prosecutors filed an appeal. The appeal failed, and on Jan. 24, Makkar was allowed to return home to her husband and children pending trial.

Tawfiq and two other lawyers, Nabil Azmi and Magdy Shounda, will represent Makkar when her trial resumes before a different judge. Tawfiq, however, is not hopeful that they will face any less of a bias.

"I think it will be the same, because all the judges are Muslim and are naturally upset about that (conversion)," Compass reported she said.

1/28/09 ROVINCE, PAKISTAN (ANS) -- The Washington-DC based human rights group, International Christian Concern (ICC) -- www.persecution.org -- says that it has just learned that six unidentified men went on a robbing spree in a rural village in Pakistan on the night of January 10, and when they realized that one of the households they were robbing was Christian, they gang-raped a 14-year-old girl in front of her parents to violate their faith.

"The six criminals, armed with guns, forced their way into two Muslim houses and three Christian homes, physically assaulted the residents, and took cash, TVs, cell phones and other valuables," said an ICC spokesperson.

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"After robbing the homes, the six men returned to Rafiq Masih's house and began mocking Rafiq and his wife for being Christians. Not satisfied with the damage they had already inflicted, the thieves then bound Rafiq and his wife and gang-raped Rafiq's teenage daughter Naomi right in front of them.

"The criminals left Naomi unconscious and in critical condition and escaped with the stolen items. Naomi was immediately taken to the hospital."

ICC says that the local police have registered a case against the six men for robbery and for gang-raping Naomi. The thieves are still at large but police sources said that investigations are underway and pledged to track down the culprits.

The location they struck was Chak (village) # 17/11-L near Cheecha Watni in the southern part of Pakistan's Punjab province. The three Christian homes belonged to brick kiln workers Saleem Masih, Rafiq Masih and Bashir Masih.

The ICC spokesperson concluded by saying, "Please contact the Pakistani embassy in your country and ask them to take action to ensure that these Christians receive justice."

1/29/09-Twenty- year-old Sandul Bibi and her father Gulsher are in prison in Pakistan, charged with violating section 295-B of the Pakistani legal code, the "blasphemy" law. Sandul is falsely accused of ripping pages from the Quran. On Oct. 9 a large crowd of Muslims attacked Christian families at a church, throwing stones and firing guns. They were shouting, "Kill Gulsher and his daughter Sandul." Sandul and her father, Gulsher Masih, were arrested after a mob from the local mosque surrounded their house. Loudspeakers from different mosques broadcast accusations that Christians had disgraced the Quran, calling Muslims to attack and burn their homes. The angry crowd threw stones and set fire to Sandul's home. Christians believe Sandul and her father were targeted and arrested because they were aggressively winning villagers to Christ.

Sandul has written several letters to her family from prison. In her latest letter she says, "I am praying a lot that God releases me from here and I can meet you, but I don't know when. He will give answers for our prayers. Please pray for me." If convicted, Sandul faces at least four years in prison. She and her family desperately need your prayers and encouragement.

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Examples of what the Disciples had to go through.

1. Paul and Silas in Jail
2. John the Baptist was be-headed
3. Peter was crucified upside-down
4. Fed to the Lions
5. Burned at the stake

Examples of what Jesus went through.

1. Falsely accused
2. Beaten
3. Carried cross
4. Nailed to cross
5. Left by all his friends

Scripture: Phil 2:6-10

Why did he do this?

He wanted to make a way for you to get to heaven!

Lets thank Him with words!

Lets thank him with actions!