

CHALLENGING SETTINGS TESTIMONY II

Ali Sougou

Brothers and sisters, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I come from a Muslim country with three governments. The first government is for the older people of the villages; the second one is the Muslim association which has its members in every village or every town; and the third is the official government. All of these governments are anti-Christian. Before 1973, there were no converted Christians in my country. I was the first to convert to Christianity. I was witnessed to by a missionary who was just passing through in 1970. But it took me two years to decide to become a Christian.

In 1976, on my way back home from Bible school, I was arrested. Sent directly to prison, I was thrown into a very small cell. It was so small that I was unable to even kneel—I had to lean on a wall for three months. They fed me nothing except rice full of salt and just once a day. The first day in that room, when the food was sent to me, I stood like this and tried to put it into my mouth but it was too salty. Then I held it in my hands and prayed, “Lord Jesus Christ, please provide me with nice food.” The answer came to eat the very food I had in my hand. So, I obeyed and that food miraculously tasted very delicious. I never slept lying down, because the space was too small. But the Lord was good to me because I felt as if I was sleeping on a double bed.

After three months, I was taken before a special court arranged by Muslim leaders, army people, and elders of the villages. When I appeared in front of the gathering, the head of the Muslims stood and said, “Do you know what you have done? We don’t want you to explain yourself, and we don’t want you to ask questions. We have three punishments selected for you to choose between.” I started trembling a bit. One choice was to be imprisoned forever; the second was to be shot to death; and the third was to be deported from the country. As a family man with eight children and two grandchildren, it was very hard for me to choose. I had nothing to say, but I felt somebody come from behind me, put hands on my shoulders, and pull me down. I went down, closed my eyes and prayed loudly in the language that everybody there understood. I said, “Lord, Jesus Christ, here I am. I need your answer for these people, and I ask this in your precious name. Amen.” The whole gathering stood and started shouting, “You people, this man is foolish; let him go away.” So, they released me, and that is why I’m here today.

When I was released, I started walking among my people. The first person that I led to Christ was a police inspector. He was the one who was sent to watch me. This man came to know the Lord, after I gave him a New Testament to read.

On Sunday he came to me and said, “Brother, I want to ask you a very, very important question.”

I said, “What do you want?”

He said, “I want to know God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Do you believe in three gods?”

I said, “No just one God.” Then I asked him, “Brother, tell me, what is your work?”

He said, “I’m a police officer.”

“Are you married?”

“Oh, yes, I’m married.”

“Have you got children?”

“Oh, yes, I have two children.”

I said, “In the morning when you are in your office, do they call you inspector? Does your wife call you husband? And do your children call you Daddy? But, you are only one person. You are a police officer, a husband, and a father.”

He then asked me if he could become a Christian. I asked him if he really *wanted* to become a Christian. He said, “Yes.” So we went down to our knees and prayed together. Right then and there he received the Lord and now he’s working with me.

In my village there are now 107 Muslims who are born-again Christians. I praise the Lord who allowed me to come to this gathering. Please pray for us. God bless you.

CHALLENGING SETTINGS TESTIMONY III

Mikhail Savin

Peace be to you, dear children of God. I’m very glad that today I could greet you with the words of Paul the Apostle. They’re recorded in 2 Corinthians 2:14: “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.”

Just a few words about how we are spreading the Good News in our own region. Last year was very special for our country—we celebrated a thousand years of Christianity in Russia. The good Lord has given us opportunities to conduct many evangelistic services in palaces, sports arenas, and open-air assemblies. It was so moving it brought tears to our eyes. A hundred hands were eagerly outstretched to receive one simple gospel track. When people received copies of the New Testament, some of them would press those New Testaments against their hearts as a sign of gratitude towards God. They even kissed copies of the New Testament.

In Krasnodar, where I live, the young people go into the center of the city. Right there in the middle of the street, they put out tables filled with New Testaments and other Christian pamphlets, books, and magazines. They sing and preach about the good Lord and the people listen. Praise the Lord.

One day at such an event, all the literature was handed out. There was only one magazine left and there were so many people who wanted that one magazine that they tore it up page-by-page and parceled it out to everyone. And that magazine was spread among all those who wanted it.

One of the methods our young people use to spread the gospel is to go door-to-door. They go into the streets of the village where they talk to the people, inviting them to come to evangelistic meetings. Very often these services are so enthusiastically attended that they continue on even past midnight. Praise the Lord.

My prayer is, “Lord, please teach us how to pray for those who are lost. Oh, teach us to take the gospel to those who are perishing. Help us to be faithful. The Soviet Union is the largest country in the world. There are approximately 138 different nationalities. Dear God, please open the door even wider so that we can take the gospel to the people of our country. Amen.