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## Caring for Threatened Converts

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”— Matthew 10:16



«هَا أَنَا أَرْسَلُكُمْ كَحَمَلَانِ فِي وَسْطِ ذُئَابٍ مُفْتَرِسَةٍ، فَكُونُوا حَكَمَاءَ كَالْحَيَّاتِ وَبَسَطَاءَ كَالدُّعَمَامِ».

(عيسى المسيح)

issa-almasih.com

### Teach Us

One evening two brothers in their early twenties, H and S, entered the open door of a church, approaching a room where a few people were meeting. Looking happy but nervous, they asked if it was a Bible study and could they attend? Welcomed to sit down, they were asked to introduce themselves. They hesitantly said: “But we have Muslim names. Are we still allowed to sit with you? Please teach us about Issa (Jesus). That is all we want.” It turned out that for over a year, they had been longing for a safe place to learn more about Christ

### Naïve but Persistent

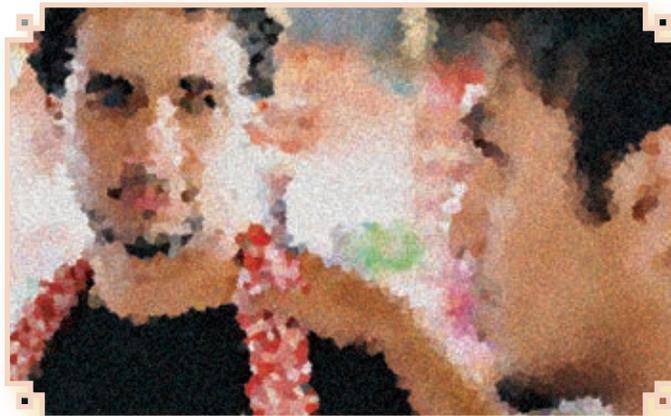
H and S had trustingly told their mother of their desire to find help learning more of Christian beliefs. She informed her two brothers, who had become guardians of the family upon their father’s death a few years earlier. As soon as these fanatical Muslim uncles heard of what the two sons had said, they took them

aside to persuade them that the Christian Bible is distorted and its followers will go to hell. S said that he had heard this before, but wanted to find out for himself as he had already read beautiful things on the Internet from the Bible. One of the uncles immediately rebuked him and slapped him on the face. Both uncles made harsh threats and left the flat.

### It Begins with Beating

The next day H and S received a phone call. A friendly voice “advised” them not to read the gospel, saying it is not good for the honour of their family. H said, “but we are not reading anything bad...” The man replied, “It does not matter; but you must do as your family wants.” Then the voice became unfriendly, requesting them to meet a police officer in a security center. As soon as they arrived, they were taken by two plain-clothed policemen to a very small, dark back room and locked them in alone for several hours.

Suddenly, the two officers returned, the door was unlocked, and a small light turned on. One angrily addressed himself first to S, asking him why he





surprisingly showed sympathy, recommending to them that since they were of age, it would be better for them to leave the family home.

In a few months, through the help of a sympathetic acquaintance, they moved out to a rented flat in a remote part of the city. They are now quietly receiving Christian instruction and expect to be ready for baptism soon. For such converts in Muslim countries, usually this is done discreetly in homes by the local church.

For their protection, some of the details of the on-going story of faith in the lives of H and S are withheld. Please pray for the safety and spiritual growth of these two brothers and others like them. Their steady walk in Christ's ways is shown by their rejection of a recent suggestion to seek asylum in a Western country. Growing numbers of thinking young Muslims disenchanted with Islam are considering the Gospel alternative.

Another convert, J. U. of Morocco, has been put in contact with a local MERF discipling volunteer. He recently wrote: "...My love for Jesus grows every day. I am blessed that He loved me first and chose me to be His..."

was reading the Bible. Before a word came out of S's mouth, the other officer began to slap and kick him. H's simple question, "Why are you doing this?" brought the same treatment from the other officer. After a few minutes, the officers stopped, turned off the light, and silently left the room.

**Psychological Pressure**

An hour or two later (they could not be sure how long), a different but higher-ranking officer opened the door and led them to an office. He seated them down and offered them some hot tea. He spoke softly but firmly to them saving. "...It does

not matter to us what you believe or do not believe. Believe what you want but quietly, and two things you must not do: Do not go to a church, and do not speak to anyone about what you believe. Know that we are very closely watching you; next time it will be far worse, more painful."

When they got home the two uncles were waiting for them. They told them emphatically, "We leave you alone now but hope that you have learned the lesson... Now you must promise to stop reading the Bible or even thinking about what you read previously."

H and S did not answer and the uncles left them with their mother. She pleaded with them to obey their uncles, telling them that she would call to say that they had agreed to the demands. H said: "But we make no such promise. We want to find the truth for ourselves."

**Leading a Quiet Life**

The next day, one of the uncles phoned. He sternly asked if they now had agreed

to the demands. Hearing no response, he angrily hung up. H and S realized that they were being watched and had nowhere to hide. Still, they continued to quietly go online using a smart phone that they had hidden in the house, in order to read and discuss what the four gospels say about Christ.

**Another Phone Call**

The phone rang. This time it was the voice of the higher-ranking police officer. He sternly reminded them about the prohibition—no church and no speaking to others about what they believe. S assured him that they were doing neither. The officer

**Holiday in Cyprus**  
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 \*\* Hear and see something of the work of MERF at first hand;  
 \*\* See something of the beautiful island of Cyprus;  
 Are you interested? **JUST A FEW PLACES LEFT**

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 Cost £200 plus flights.  
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