

UNITED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST



As our brothers and sisters in Yemen prayed together with the global Church during last month's International Day of Prayer (IDOP) for the Persecuted Church,¹ breakthroughs occurred in some of the active persecution cases in the country. At the same time, other Yemeni disciples of Christ continued to suffer, and new cases of persecution emerged. A Yemeni rights group recently reported that more than 16,800 civilians have been abducted by one of the country's warring parties since late 2014.² Meanwhile, Yemeni disciples of Christ have recently been facing faith-based hostility on both sides of Yemen's frontlines. During this season of persecution, our brothers and sisters at risk in both the north and south of the country have been strengthened by the solidarity of the Body of Christ.

In 2022, Yemeni disciples have been working to nurture their relationships and connections with one another. This has included emphasizing the mutual responsibility of disciples to provide one another with emotional, social, and spiritual support. When only a single disciple, or even a handful of disciples are active in shepherding roles, this limits their capacity to multiply and might even create unhealthy competition for the limited time and attention of a few individuals. Meanwhile, overextended disciples could burn out, neglect their own families, or develop unhealthy habits when their own emotional resources are overdrawn. However, when all disciples are both giving and receiving care, then available resources are maximized, and healthy, interdependent relationships are established.

Paris is a disciple who has begun to form healthy, interdependent relationships with other disciples in her community. She was introduced to Christ by her father, who came to faith through the witness of other Yemenis in his neighborhood. When he came to faith, Paris and his other daughters were already married, but he was still able to begin discipling them. Today, Paris's family meets regularly with other disciples who are teaching them to form an intimate relationship with Christ through prayer, and to listen to His voice. Another disciple who recently visited the tent where Paris lives with her family shared, "The family seems to be bound together and united by the love of Christ. They have a great passion to live in spiritual peace and develop their skills and resources to help themselves and others."

While Yemeni disciples have been growing in their capacity to care for and shepherd one another, Yemeni civil society organizations also recently issued a call to localize crisis response efforts in the country. Among other things, they appealed for allocating a larger percentage of grants to development projects that enable local organizations to implement and manage projects which meet communities' actual needs, create jobs, and achieve positive, sustainable results—including by financing medium and small economic projects.³

In Paris and her family's case, her husband does odd jobs to provide for the household. However, he doesn't make enough to meet their needs, so the family also relies on food baskets distributed by a local organization. Meanwhile, the tent in which they live needs repair, and they're also in need of basic mattresses and blankets as the weather grows colder. Thus, the other disciples with whom Paris fellowships are now advocating with another local organization to give her family a loan to expand a small income-generating project they have started.

Pray for Yemeni disciples on the frontlines of persecution, war, and poverty across Yemen to continue growing in their commitment to supporting one another socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Pray also for households like Paris's family to have increased access to economic opportunities. As Yemeni disciples share their limited resources with one another and the community around them, ask God to bless their faith and generosity and multiply it to reach multitudes in His kingdom economy.

HELP SUPPORT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS BY CLICKING ON THE LINK BELOW AND CHOOSING "CAP FUND".

CHRISTIANRESPONSE.ORG/GIVE

1 <https://idop.org/web/>

2 <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2203336/middle-east>

3 <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/calling-lasting-peace-and-demanding-localization-humanitarian-action-enar>