

1st Corinthians 12:26

If one part suffers we all suffer, if one part is honored we are all glad.

## **OPERATION ORANGE RIBBON**



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**APRIL 2022**  
**NEWSLETTER**





### **Issues for Christians for Ukraine and Russia Today**

During March and April it has been hard to look at any news source without hearing about Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We need to pray for this conflict that experts around the world say could bring devastating ramifications for much of Eastern Europe.

This conflict has no doubt meant challenges for believers in Ukraine, Russia and across the region. Russia has been on Open Doors' Watch List and remains on the list of countries just outside the top 50. Most of the worst persecution in Russia stems from localized pressure and violence against believers. A series of laws were instituted in 2016 across the country and have been used to prosecute groups active in evangelism.

Two of the parts of Ukraine that have declared themselves independent, Luhansk and Doneskt, have imposed rules requiring religious organizations to register. This rule has proven extremely difficult for many Protestant churches. In Luhansk, books by Charles Spurgeon and Billy Graham were banned.

No matter what wars, conflict or persecution brings, the gospel will go on. Here's how to pray:

1. Pray for peace.
2. Pray for believers in Ukraine and Russia.
3. Ask God to open the hearts of leaders that they would not restrict the ability of believers to worship God freely.
4. Pray for those who have lost loved ones and are in the path of the military.
5. Pray for those who have had to flee from their homes and many items they own.

Article by Al Hay, VP OOR

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The picture above is Ed Byus finishing a 33 mile run to raise fund for his ministry TACTICAL EVANGELISM.

How many people would be that dedicated?

Who is Ed Byus and what is Tactical Evangelism?

Ed is a retired army special ops helicopter pilot who lives in Simpsonville, South Carolina, married to Dawn and they have 6 beautiful children. They attend Simpsonville First Baptist Church.

Ed is COO of Tactical Evangelism an organization formed by former Special Operations personnel.

We urge you to check out their web page [TacticalEvangelism.org](http://TacticalEvangelism.org) to see how they train missionaries that are serving in difficult areas

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**Why is OOR interested in Tactical Evangelism?** Since we were formed 7 years ago we have seen significant increase in Christian persecution and a significant decrease in reporting by the media.

I did some research last month to see what changes have occurred in the last 6 years and the results shocked me. In just 6 years (2015-2021) The percentage of persecution in all categories has grown beyond belief and the media coverage has disappeared. The numbers shown below were taken from the most conservative reporting outlet. You will see that in many area have become much more difficult for missionaries and the services and training provided by

Tactical Evangelism is becoming more and more necessary.

### **GROWTH OF PERSECUTION FROM 2015 TO 2021**

**Statistics courtesy of OpenDoorsInternational**

2015 to 2021

Christian living under extreme/severe persecution

(2015) 215 million (2021) 360 million increase of **67%**

Christians killed for their faith (2015) 3060 (2021) 5898 increase of **92.7%**

Christians abducted (2015) 1296 (2021) 3829 increase of **338%**

Churches attacked (2015) 792 (2021) 5111 increase of **645%**

Christian detained without trial (2015) 1920 (2021) 6175 increase of **321%**

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## Teen Spring Break Camp

Approximately 120 students attended from all parts of Kenya

Tremendous success

16 students sponsored by OOR. Thanks to your tremendous support.

Theme: **Love God, love ourselves, love people**

Curriculum: same as the once-a-week teen program.(except for time interval)

1 1/2 hour self-awareness

1 1/2hour scripture study

1 1/2 hour academics

1 1/2 hours talent development

1 hour of games and fun

Breakfast, lunch and diner served. Evening movies and fun. Bedtime 9:30.

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OOR had a special treat. We were invited to have a Zoom meeting. After several failed attempts we were successful Monday. We were asked to give a few words of inspiration and to pray for the camp. This was an honor and privilege that I took very seriously. The youth expressed their sincere gratitude and thanks for the American support and prayers. They performed a song for us which I enjoyed tremendously. I also had the honor of being named Grand Pa. I now have three grandchildren in America and 120 in Kenya.



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As we stated in the February newsletter that we were going to priorities raising awareness and prayer for the persecuted church. March was one of the most successful months since well before the pandemic. We were able to present our case to many pastors and you can see the results below in our calendar of events. The momentum has continued in April.

**CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS**

May 1	Unity Baptist Church	Starr, SC
May 22	Mt Bethel BC	Belton, SC
June 12	Celebration Church	96. SC
July 17	Terry Creek PH	Travelers Rest, SC

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The weekly Teen Program continues to grow a flourish. We will report in more detail in the next newsletter.

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We at OOR are extremely grateful for your continued support. We consider our supporters as a full partners and make a strong effort to keep you informed of all of our activities. As you can see from the reports above the need for prayer and continued awareness is vitally important. It is a fact that Christianity is the most persecuted religion in the world.

If you would wish to donate to our effort please go to the donate button below. It will take you to our web page. At the bottom of the home page is another donate button. Use that button to donate. We are extremely gratefull for your support. if you prefer you can send a check to:

Operation Orange Ribbon

16 Middlewick Ct

Simpsonville, SC 29681r

[Donate](#)

Jesse French