

I Am His
Joshua 24:15

-Martyrs for Christ (Fox News and The Vatican).

- 100,000 Christian die each year for the Christian faith
- 273 a day
- 11 an hour

-On February 12, 2015 21 Christians were marched in orange jump suits beside the beach and beheaded by ISIS because they would not renounce their faith in Jesus Christ and convert to Islam.

-Cassie Bernall

Cassie was an out spoken atheist, a witch who practiced witchcraft. Her parents were Christians who had tried everything to get her to come to Christ. The youth pastor at her parents' church kept asking her to come to church. She would not come. So finally he asked her to go to a retreat that the youth group was going on. He told her if she would go he would never ask her to come to church again. So she went to get him to stop bothering her. While at the retreat God began to work in her life. One night during the service she came forward and gave her heart to Christ. She came home and began sharing with her atheist friends. She began to lead them to Christ. On April 20, 1999 at Columbine High School a gunman asked Cassie if she believed in God. When she said yes he shot and killed her. Because of her faith she lost her life.

-Illustration: Christians in Syria have suffered at the hands of ISIS because they have refused to denounce their faith. They've endured being robbed at checkpoints, many have been tortured, raped or sold to the sex slave market. On August 28 in a village near Aleppo, Syria, twelve Christians were brutally murdered including a 12-year-old boy and his ministry leading father.

Christian Aid wrote, "The relatives said ISIS militants on Aug. 7 captured the Christian workers in a village. On Aug. 28, the militants asked if they had renounced Islam for Christianity. When the Christians

said that they had, the rebels asked if they wanted to return to Islam. The Christians said they would never renounce Christ.

The 41-year-old team leader, his young son and two ministry members in their 20s were questioned at one village site where ISIS militants had summoned a crowd.

In front of the team leader and relatives in the crowd, the Islamic extremists cut off the fingertips of the 12 year old boy and severely beat him, telling his father they would stop the torture only if he, the father, returned to Islam and renounced Christ. When he refused, the ISIS militants also tortured and beat him and the two other ministry workers. The three men and the 12 year old boy were badly brutalized and then crucified.” “They were left on their crosses for two days.

Eight other ministry team members, including two women, were taken to another site in the village that day (Aug. 28) and were asked the same questions before a crowd. The women, ages 29 and 33, tried to tell the ISIS militants they were only sharing the peace and love of Christ and asked what they had done wrong to deserve the abuse. The Islamic extremists then publicly raped the women, who continued to pray during the ordeal, leading the ISIS militants to beat them all the more furiously. As the two women and the six men knelt before they were beheaded, they were all praying.

“Villagers said some were praying in the name of Jesus. One of the women looked up and started smiling as she said, ‘Jesus!’”

After they were beheaded, their bodies were hung on crosses.

- One October 1, 2015, at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon Chris Harper-Mercer shot and killed thirteen (13) innocent people and wounded seven (7) others. “He started asking people one by one what their religion was. He said are you a Christian and if you’re a Christian, stand up. When they stood up he said, ‘Good, because you’re a Christian, you are going to see God in just about one second.’ And then he shot them in the head and killed them.

✚ I have thought about what compelled these Christians to stand up for Christ knowing they were going to die.

I. If I am His I will take a stand for Him.

Luke 23:50-52—⁵⁰ And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: ⁵¹ (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

⁵² This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.

1. If I am going to stand for Christ I must:

A. Have a Courageous Faith

B. Have a Strong Conviction

C. Have a Trusting Faith

1. I must trust God with my life.

II. If I am His I will not be ashamed of Him.

Romans 1:16—¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1. I will tell others that I am His.

III. If I am His I will suffer the consequences.

John 15:18-20—¹⁸ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

Action:

Have each person take their cell phone and tweet or post on Facebook and Instagram the hash tag #IamHIS and #StopChristianPersecution.