



*Imagine...*

Someone you've never met paints a **large** letter on your door. It's the letter **“N”** and it stands for

“Nazarene.” It means you must **give-up** your **faith**, your family's faith, and convert to another religion. And, even if you do, you may still **lose everything, including your life.**

You have hours to decide.

**What would you do?** *Honestly.*

ن = 'N' in Arabic

For over 1.5 million Christians fleeing Iraq and Syria, this is their reality. Thousands have already died horrible, brutal deaths—

Children, youth, and women are not exempt.

Or what if someone pointed a gun at you and asked you a direct question...

**“Are you a Christian or a Muslim?”**

*What would you say?*

It happened to 148 students killed in Kenya by Muslim terrorists. And remember the young Christian girls captured and forced to convert in Nigeria? Or the men marched in orange jump suits and beheaded for their faith?





We can't look away from the brutal images and **act as if evil doesn't exist.**

We must not hide behind our nation's freedoms and blessings, or ignore the cries and screams while sitting comfortably in our places of worship.



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Human Rights Office in Iraq reveals that ISIS have been burying hundreds of children and young people alive in Mosul.

8:16 AM - 8 Aug 2014

3,616 RETWEETS 595 FAVORITES





## ***What can we do?***

We must **not forget the persecuted** – all around the world – especially when the news fades and the outrage dims. We must get educated and **pray** for them, and give generously to legitimate organizations that can be trusted to help them. We may even be called to **go and serve**.

What we *all* must do, every one of us, is to **commit ourselves to the first Nazarene, Jesus of Nazareth**.

Whether you've called yourself a Christian for 50 years, or if you're not sure what you believe, take this moment, right now (don't put it aside – there is a reason you're reading this now) and ask yourself if you would **follow**

Jesus to the cross, even a literal cross like the youth in the images from Iraq. Jesus said, ***“If anyone would come after Me, let [them]... take up [their] cross and follow Me.”*** Matthew 16:24.

Now, ask Jesus to give you the strength to be a ***real follower*** of His. Allow His Holy Spirit to show you where you must change and how to pick up your cross daily.

If you don't know the Nazarene, Jesus Christ, hear this about Him: He died on a cross and was resurrected for you! He understands pain, rejection, persecution, and even brutal death. But love, **His love**, conquered it all.

Christians are **never** called to **hate** those who persecute us, even ISIS terrorists!

Bottom line, **we are called to love** because He, Jesus, first loved us.

If you'd like to know **love** “that passes understanding” and the One who loves you, speak honestly to Jesus with an open heart.

Say something like this:

*Jesus, I have much to learn, but this I know: I want you to come into my life and help me to follow you wherever you will lead me. Fill me with your love. Forgive me for my many wrongs. I love you.*

**Read your Bible.** Possibly start with the Gospel of John. (Contact us and we'll send you a free *Gospel of John* as our gift to you – plus a free set of four booklets of a basic discipleship course called *The Journey* by Dr. Daniel Brown.) **[www.foursquaremissionspress.com](http://www.foursquaremissionspress.com)**

You'll also want to find a Bible-believing, loving church to attend. (We can help you with this, too, if you'd like.)

**Let's stand together, young and old, with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.**



Many Christians are beginning to wear the orange ribbon (orange due to the orange jumpsuits believers were forced to wear before their deaths) in solidarity with millions of Christians persecuted around the world.

Continue to pray for American pastor, Saeed Abedini (photo right) and for ex-US Marine Amir Hekmati both being held in Iranian prisons.



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