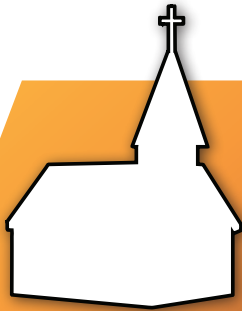


COURAGEOUS CHRISTIANS

Stephen was persecuted for his faith. He was the first Christian martyr. A *martyr* is a person who is killed for his or her religious beliefs. People around the world are still persecuted for their faith in Jesus.

The Hmong [mong] are a people group who live throughout Southeast Asia. Hmong Christians are often persecuted for their belief in Jesus. Read these stories and pray for the Hmong and other persecuted Christians around the world.

persecute: to harass and abuse someone for his or her religious beliefs
martyr: someone who is killed for his or her religious beliefs



Some Hmong Christian families were sitting in church. Suddenly, some government officials arrived. They took everyone's phones, Bibles, and songbooks. The officials told the people they would arrest their pastor if they continued having church services. They threatened to tear down the Christians' church.

A Hmong Christian decided to have a Christmas celebration in his home. His family were the only Christians in their village. They invited some Christian friends from other villages to the celebration. The village officials told them they could not have the celebration.



A Hmong family became Christians. There were no other believers in their village. The village authorities found out about the new Christians. They made a rule that no one could visit or talk to the family.

A Hmong family became Christians. Their relatives and village authorities tried to make them stop being Christians. They beat the father and tied him up. They took away all of the family's belongings, including their pigs, rice, sewing machines, pots and pans, and motorcycle. They took the family's home and their farm. This family lost everything they had because of their faith in Jesus.

