

Real Life Stories
She Dared to Save The Bibles

Linh Dao was only ten years old, but she already knew that following Jesus could be dangerous. That's because she lived in Vietnam where the Communist leaders didn't allow Christians to share their faith with others, nor did they allow people to read the Bible together.

Linh's family had a lot of Bibles hidden in their home. Her father was the pastor of an "underground church" that had to meet in secret. He knew that they might all be caught and killed whenever they met together, but that didn't stop these brave Christians, for they loved God even more than their own lives. They continued to read their Bibles and worship God together.

The police found out about the Bibles and one day four officers burst into Linh's home. They forced her father to sit and watch while they searched everywhere for Bibles.

Linh loved God's Word. She just couldn't let the officers take all the Bibles away, so while the police searched her home and questioned her parents, the brave girl hid Bibles in her school backpack. One of the officers noticed the little girl. "What's in there?" he asked, looking at her backpack. She hesitated for a moment, she didn't want to lie, but if she told him about the Bibles, he would take them all. God gave her an answer. "It is books for children," she said. The policeman turned away, but the four officers had found the rest of the Bibles, and they arrested her father. He was sentenced to hard labor and "re-education." The Communists didn't want him to think like a Christian or to share his faith with others. They wanted him to be just like them, a loyal Communist. He had to be "brainwashed." They would try all kinds of cruel tricks to force him to turn from God and trust the government instead.

When Linh's neighbors heard about her father's arrest, they believed he was a criminal, but Linh was proud of her dad. "He is a Christian," she told everyone. She explained that as a follower of Jesus, he had to keep telling others about God's love even when it meant persecution.

Each day, Linh prayed for her father. Finally, she and her mother and sister were allowed to visit him in the prison. They could only see him through a chain-link fence. Linh looked for a way to get closer to her dad and found a spot where she could squeeze her little body through a chained gate. Once inside the prison yard, she ran up to her father and hugged him. The guards watched, but they didn't stop or hurt her. God kept her safe.

Afterwards Linh kept praying that God would use her father to show God's love in the prison. He answered her prayer in wonderful ways. Since Linh's family had smuggled him a pen during their visit, her father could write Bible verses on cigarette paper. Soon the prisoners were passing his "cigarette sermons" from cell to cell. Many of the lonely men who had been beaten and tortured learned to know God and His wonderful love in the midst of their suffering. Instead of "re-education" to be obedient Communists, they learned to love Jesus as their Shepherd and Friend. Satan wanted to destroy them, but God brought a great victory!

God's Word:

The Bible tells us that people who reject God also reject God's people. They don't want us to be different from them. They want to do what they *feel* like doing, and they want others to agree with them. Therefore, people who love the Bible make them angry:

- 1) "I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." (John 17:14)
- 2) "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matthew 5:10-12)

. . . . Gleaned from *The Voice of The Martyrs*

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EDITOR'S NOTE

When I read this, I was touched by several biblical truths being exemplified.

- a) When the officers came and confiscated the Bibles, who gave the child the wisdom and fidelity not to tell a lie but to tell the truth? Her answer illustrated the truth of the Lord's words:

*“When they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak:
for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.”*
(Matthew 10:19)

- b) Again, in the prison the Lord provided the tools, a pencil and cigarette papers, to write verses on. The wonder of the things He uses for the spread of the gospel, and like Paul, the father could have said:

“The things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel.”
(Philippians 1:12)