

Are we a people of hope in powerlessness? YES! Will God bring forth life out of the death of His saints? YES! We know that Medina is safe now and we trust that her death will bring life to others, even though we don't know yet how.

The question might be nagging you and me. "Why did God not protect Medina from her terrible suffering?"

Medina never asked this question. She only asked that we would pray with her for God to ease her pain and that she might experience His nearness and help. She knew it was not God who brought this calamity on her. It was the evilness of man that made her suffer in this way.

We live in a fallen world where the enemy of God - the liar and murderer from the beginning - is a reality. His evil plans also touch God's children. They too can become victims of his destructive schemes.

To follow Christ can be costly. He has not promised us an easy life but He has promised to take our burden and to give us rest. Through all the troubles he will guide us into a glorious future with Him.

Why did we want to share this tragic story with you?

Medina paid the ultimate price for her decision to follow Christ. There are many Ex-Muslims who are persecuted and suffer for their faith. They often feel terribly lonely: abandoned and hated by their Muslim relatives and friends, but worse still is the mistrust and coldness from the church of Christ. They need our acceptance, assistance and prayer.

➔Would you like to start a prayer group in your church or with some friends to pray for persecuted people like Medina? Will you be willing to pay the price for the Muslims around you, interceding for them that God would open their eyes and help them to see the true light and life in Christ?

➔For your free copy of *Daughters of Abraham*, or our evangelistic tracts *What do you Think of the Messiah?*, *The Finger of God*, and others please write to the address below.

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**Was the Price
too High?**

If only you could have seen the joy on Medina's face when she received her treasured prize - a new Bible. She had worked hard to complete the Bible correspondence course. Now, at last, she could read "The Book" again for herself. Whether her husband liked it or not, she was going to follow Jesus.

Medina's life had certainly become one of the boldest, brightest shining and most transformed lives among all the new converts in the ladies "Storytelling Group" in the slums of Kibera. Raised by a Muslim aunt as a good Muslim girl in Uganda, she had been married to a Muslim man as a teenage girl. Now, at 28 years of age, she had a nine, five and two-year-old to care for - not an easy task with a husband who often succumbed to violent behaviour and the bottle. She had not been the first one in the group of Muslim women to take the decision to follow Christ, but her courage to stand out for Her Saviour was quite exceptional.

In the beginning her husband Ebrahim had been so pleased when she had shown him the Swahili-Arabic New Testament she had received after her commitment to Christ and this had been confirmed by the Muslim priest whom he had taken into confidence. But soon things changed. Although working for a strict Islamic institution, her husband could not break with his drinking problem. Medina felt increasingly threatened, especially after he had torn her Bible into pieces. To get another one she persevered and successfully completed the correspondence course.

However, less than a week after that celebration, matters spiralled downwards with diabolic force. "Give me money for a drink," her husband demanded, already in a drunk state. He received his share, but was soon back to secure more. "I can't give you more because I had to buy a new stove and groceries for the week from the amount you had given me," was Medina's reply. In a rage her husband grabbed the lit paraffin stove and pressed it against his wife. "Stop, this is too dangerous," she softly warned him, as she felt the paraffin dripping down her clothes, "Stop, you could hurt me." But instead of turning away from his terrified wife, Ebrahim threw the lit paraffin stove at her with full force and Medina instantly caught fire like a torch. Running outside for water she screamed in agony, "Help! Help! My husband has done this to me."



When we met her in hospital six days later (after returning from a journey), everybody in the ward talked about an accident with an old exploding paraffin stove. Her husband had visited her every day and made sure that his

version had become known. Even many Christians in Kibera who should have known better had believed this explanation. Medina was in agonizing pain from her burns which covered 42% of her body.

But even greater was her fear of her in-laws. "They hate me and want to take away my children and force them to ascribe to Islam. Please don't let that happen," she would plead repeatedly. "Go and ask my husband what have I ever done to him to have deserved this." We were as perplexed as Medina was.

The following day we were able to speak to the doctor and were told that Medina had a 30% survival chance. Together with other friends, a plan for visiting and providing meals was drawn up, but it was not to be implemented. Twelve hours later, early in the morning of Wednesday May 3rd, Medina went to be with her Lord. Medina is safe now, but many of us are devastated by her untimely and cruel death.

Questions are torturing us: Should we have encouraged her to move out earlier when she had already felt seriously threatened by her violent, ill-tempered husband? Why did nobody try to transfer her to another hospital where she could have been further away from her hostile relatives and possibly receive better medical care? But who was in a position to comprehend the severity of her inner burns? Will her husband be brought to justice? (After Medina's death he was taken into police custody.) And what home will be best for her three children?

Finally, how will it affect the other ladies in the project? Will they be stricken with fear, withdrawing from the fellowship altogether, or will Medina's death strengthen them in their resolve to follow Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

We are convinced that Medina's death is not just another one in the sad series of cases of domestic violence making headlines in the news almost every week throughout this country. Medina died as one "slain because of the word of God and the testimony" she had maintained (Revelation 6:9). She loved Jesus with an intensity few of us ever have and went out of her way to get the message to other women as soon as she had grasped it herself. While many of us are in deep pain over her agonizing death and would passionately wish for justice towards her husband and for a renewed determination in every Christian in Kibera to take a stand against the evil in the society around them, we take comfort from Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." The eternal union with his children is God's ultimate goal where there is no more suffering, pain, hardship or injustice. Where they can enjoy His presence forever!