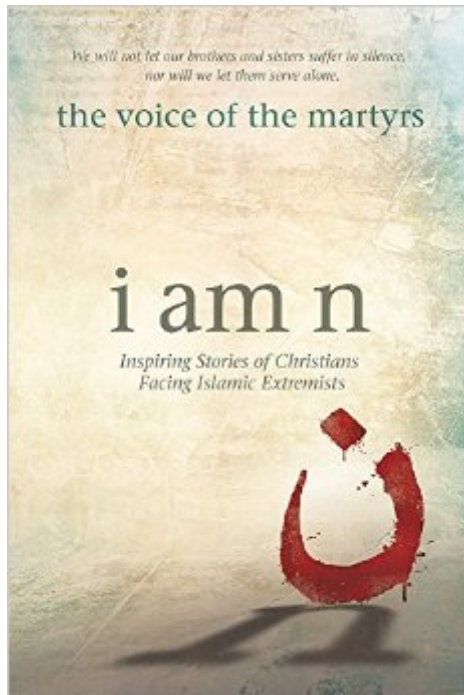


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I Am N: Inspiring Stories Of Christians Facing Islamic Extremists



Synopsis

Yousef, whose mother threatened to kill him for having a Bible, now smuggles Bibles the way his family once smuggled drugs. After Parveen's employer beats her for attending church, Parveen begins to help other young Christian women who work in Muslim houses. Abdulmasi kills hundreds of Christians in northern Nigeria with no remorse until the day he chooses a new life of faith and sacrifices everything for a God of love. What can we learn from these faith-filled brothers and sisters around the world? How can we pray for them? And what do their remarkable stories teach us about a God whose light shines in a dark world? I Am N reminds us that we are each "as radical" as Muslims in Iraq identify followers of Jesus the Nazarene. Wherever we live, we have camaraderie with those who are persecuted. So come meet their families. Read their stories. Deepen your faith in a God who gives us the courage to shine in a dark and hurting world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"When militants from the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) moved into northern Iraq, they began identifying Christian-owned property. Families would find the Arabic letter ن (nun, noon), or n, painted on their homes and churches. This single letter conveyed the powerful accusation that the occupants were "Nazarenes," people who followed Jesus of Nazareth rather than Islam. To be labeled "n" in a community dominated by Muslim extremists is to undergo an immediate identity and life change. With this mark comes the ultimatum: If you convert to Islam or pay the tax, you can keep your material possessions and remain in this community. If not, leave or you will die." This heart-breaking book contains numerous stories of Christians, young

and old, facing persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. The stories in this book are current, straight from the front lines from real people facing persecution for their Christian faith. This book was written in order to share the stories of Christians "from Nigeria to Malaysia to Pakistan" who have suffered persecution from Muslim extremists. These are stories of courage and steadfastness. These Christians are living out Paul's words in Philippians 1:21: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." They boldly and unashamedly proclaim that Jesus Christ is their Lord and savior, regardless of the circumstances. This book is divided into six different parts, each dealing with specific types of persecution or reactions to persecution: Part One: Sacrifice - The reality of making a personal sacrifice for one's faith isn't something most Christians in the West are forced to think about very often. Sacrifice is never far from the hearts and minds of Jesus followers who are persecuted by Islamic extremists.

Around the world, Christians are being targeted for persecution by their Muslim neighbors. In *I Am N*, the Voice of the Martyrs organization has gathered some of their stories. With the rise of ISIS, we began to hear more about the persecution of Christians in the Muslim world. ISIS has targeted Christians, giving them an ultimatum: "convert to Islam, pay an outlandishly high tax, or be killed." In some areas, they mark the homes and businesses of Christians with an N for Nazarene, marking them as followers of Isa (Jesus) the Nazarene. The stories are arranged around several themes: sacrifice, courage, joy, perseverance, forgiveness, and faithfulness. I am forced to ask myself, would I be willing to sacrifice under persecution? Can I rely on Jesus for my joy in spite of circumstances? Could I truly forgive those who have persecuted me, even taking the lives of my family? I honestly don't know. Many of these persecuted individuals spoke of the support they received from other Christians. But I was surprised by a few who were turned away. One new Christian, a former Muslim, had a hard time finding a pastor to baptize her. Pastors she asked feared retribution. Another fleeing family was turned away by their friends, who feared that they, too, would be targeted. At the same time, there were some who received help from Muslim neighbors, demonstrating that there are some Muslims who are truly peace-loving and able to coexist with Christians. I wish the authors had explored this nuance more. As a Christian living in the U.S., I find it difficult to discern among Muslim groups. I don't fear the Muslim family across the street in my Texas neighborhood. But who, among their associates and fellow Muslims, should I be leery of, if any?

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