

Christian history is full of a multitude of Believers who would not deny their Lord even when faced with death.



Love [God's love in us]...takes no account of the evil done to it--pays no attention to a suffered wrong...Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything [without weakening]. 1 Corinthians 13:5, 7

Martyr Monday

Mondays are known as Martyr Monday around our home. It is the day that I usually read a short story with the kids during breakfast about someone who gave their life because of their faith in Yeshua. This week was an especially notable story of two teenage Chinese girls in 1969 who had been arrested for their belief in Yeshua and who decided to submit to death rather than renouncing their faith.

As the executioner approached with a group of guards, the girls discovered that the executioner was their own pastor. He was initially sentenced to die with the

girls. But, as has happened at times throughout church history, the persecutors had worked on the pastor and had tempted him with release if he would shoot the girls. He accepted.

This was the girls response as their pastor approached them:

The girls whispered to each other, then bowed respectfully before their pastor. One of them said, "Before you shoot us, we wish to thank you heartily for what you have meant to us. You baptized us, you taught us the ways of eternal life, you gave us holy communion with the same hand in which you now hold the gun.

"You also taught us that Christians are sometimes weak and commit terrible sins, but they can be forgiven again. When you regret what you are about to do to us, do not despair like Judas, but repent like Peter. God bless you, and remember that our last thought was not one of indignation against your failure. Everyone passes through hours of darkness.

"May God reward you for all the good you have done to us. We die with gratitude."

The pastor's heart was hardened - he shot the girls. Afterwards he was shot by the Communists. (*Jesus Freaks*, pg. 109-110)

Reading this story with my kids really impacted me. It inspired my heart afresh to want to grow in supernatural love towards God and even towards any enemies or betrayers that may come my way. I want to be current with my present sin and failings, and I want to finish strong in a way that would honor and please Yeshua. What about you? How does this story impact you?