

# Upcoming Events

- Sermon Series through 11/12 - "Biblical Church Life"
- Recommended Resource - *NOTE TO SELF* by Joe Thorn
- 10% of ALL our Giving goes to Global Missions  
Designated Offerings can be made to - Local Outreaches, Changemakers, Etc.
- Thursday 10/19 - Choices of the Heart 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Gala (Semi Formal)
  - Seating @ 6:30pm | Dinner & Program 7-9pm
  - Please RSVP online by 10/5 @ [choicesoftheheart.com](http://choicesoftheheart.com)
  - Please direct questions to Marine Bodine & Diane Maitag
- Get CONNECTED with God, His Church & His People
  - (1) WEATHER PERMITTING - DIR PHOTOS - TODAY after church @ Silas Hall
    - Forms & questions to Ivis Quann or Karin DelPercio
  - (2) CONNECT Card - New bulletin format
- Pray About Sponsoring Dr. JD Smith's 450 mile 5 Day Bike Ride  
that has been completed -  $2,222 \times \$450 = \text{GOAL of } 1 \text{ Mil.}$
- On which MISSIONAL TEAM should I be Serving?
  - Internal / Discipleship - Don & Carm Hickson
  - External/Outreach - Jose & Ivis Quann
  - Bldg. & Grounds - Bill & Laura Dolhansky
  - Technology - Mark & Jillaine Couse

## — MISSIONARIES —



*Baptist Medical Missions International*

- Ralph Izard - BMMI Director

# Persecuted Christian

- NORTH AFRICA -

## AFRICAN EVANGELIST SHARES FAITH DURING POLICE INTERROGATIONS

- For Fawzy, police interrogations have become such a common part of his ministry work that he hardly notices them. As an evangelist & church planter in North Africa, he spends his time meeting with new Christian converts & others interested in learning about Jesus. But his activities are viewed as a threat by Islamic leaders & government officials afraid of civil unrest.
- In the late '80s, he visited with gov't authorities. After police arrested Fawzy, then 17, they interrogated him for over 6 hours, asking him if he had become a Christian. Although afraid, his faith held strong. 3 months later, the authorities returned for another interrogation. They warned him that if he remained a Christian after turning 18, he would spend the next 2 years in prison.
- Much to his relief, the authorities left him alone many years. And while his family members were observant Muslims, they, too, allowed him to practice his faith without harassment. Even his brother, a member of an extremist Muslim organization, told Fawzy that he was the best of his brothers.
- During this reprieve from government interference, Fawzy grew in faith, obtained his first full Bible & received discipleship training from an older believer. Then, in '04, he & another believer founded a church that grew to 20 members, & the police soon began to call him in for "meetings." Fawzy said they were monitoring his phone calls & watching him closely but were unable to charge him.
- A few years later, the government began to expel foreigners from the country, some of whom were Christians. As believers in North Africa grew anxious, the number attending his house church declined to 5 people. It was a difficult time for the local church, but for Fawzy it was also a time of growth. He realized that they should not depend solely on Christians from other countries for support & encouragement. The government had inadvertently pushed them to mature in faith.
- Later Fawzy became more visible as a church planter in the region. The police frequently called him in for questioning, but he viewed every interrogation as a chance to share his faith. When authorities asked him how he came to know Christ, he shared his testimony, including the vision he had, in which Jesus told him to walk the narrow path. Once, one of his investigators told him he was the first "true believer" he had ever met.
- One of Fawzy's recent visits with authorities occurred just weeks before he attended a VOM training conference for North African leaders. The police know he will not stop evangelizing, so they urge him to share wisely.
- "Even when the authorities are against you, God is with you," he said. "My main concern is not what is going to happen to us. My main concern is how I can testify to God's work."

[WWW.PERSECUTED.COM/STORIES](http://WWW.PERSECUTED.COM/STORIES)

