

Die With Us!

Haim and his family
Cambodia
circa 1970s

All during the night, the members of Haim's family comforted each other. They knew they only had a few more hours to live on this earth. The Cambodian Communist soldiers had tied them all together and forced them to lie down on the grass.

Earlier that day, Haim's whole family had been rounded up for execution. Because they were all Christians, the Communists considered them "bad blood" and "enemies of the glorious revolution."

In the morning, they were made to dig their own graves.

The killers were generous. They allowed their victims a moment of prayer to prepare themselves for death. Parents and children held hands and knelt together near the open grave.

After his family finished their prayers, Haim exhorted the Communists and all those looking on to repent and to receive Jesus as Savior.

Suddenly, one of Haim's young sons leapt to his feet, bolted to the nearby forest, and disappeared.

Haim was amazingly cool as he persuaded the soldiers not to chase the boy but to allow him to call the boy back. While the family knelt, the father pleaded with his son to return and die with them.

"Think my son," he shouted. "Can stealing a few more days of life, as a fugitive in that forest, compare to joining your family here around a grave, but soon free forever in paradise?"

Weeping, the boy walked back.

Haim said to the executioners, "Now we are ready to go." But none of the soldiers would kill them.

Finally, an officer who had not witnessed the scene came and shot the Christians.



Atheists — those who don't believe in God or life after death — are amazed when Christians are ready to sacrifice their lives rather than deny a God no one can see. They don't understand the deep work of the Holy Spirit and how He makes both the Father's love and heaven an undeniable reality in the heart of a believer.

For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we will share his treasures — for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later.

Paul the Apostle
Beheaded in Rome, 65 AD
(ROMANS 8:16-18 NLT)