

What can man do to me?

“We say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’” Hebrews 13:6 (NIV)

Although several hundred people attended the meeting about endurance in persecution, some were prevented from coming by authorities. Three groups were detained and questioned in three separate regions for several days. Two of the groups were then released.

However, the third group was not freed. One of our lay leaders was in this group. Just before the time of the meeting, a fight arose in that area over an attempt to prevent some of our people from attending the conference, and a number of our newest Christians were involved. In the course of events, a chief was badly injured, and he later died during the time of the detainment of our friends. The young leader detained was not even present when the fight occurred. He called us from the jail to say that he feared for their lives.

The new Christians attending the conference were distressed about what happened to their friends. Even though he was afraid, one of the leaders who attended the meeting said to the group, “The only way to stop these things is to stop sharing the gospel, and we can’t do that. I won’t let people keep me from doing what God has given me to do.”

After several days of negotiations, the third group was released! The lay leader who spoke boldly at the meeting told me of a dream he had in which God said, *My beloved child, don’t be afraid. They can only touch flesh and blood, but you belong to Me.* This dream gave him peace.

—D., WEST AFRICA

Father, WHAT CAN MERE MAN DO TO ME WHEN YOU HAVE MY LIFE IN YOUR HANDS? ENCOURAGE THESE BELIEVERS IN WEST AFRICA WHO ARE BEING PERSECUTED FOR THEIR FAITH. GIVE BOLDNESS TO CHRISTIAN LEADERS SO THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL. *Amen.*