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### Testimonials, Forward, & Intro Chapters:

<b>Testimonials .....</b>	<b><i>Pg. 1</i></b>
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Testimonials include a variety of Jeff's and ICC's contacts, including congressmen, ministry leaders, victims of persecution, and well-known news personalities like Pat Robertson of CBN.

<b>Foreword by Francis Chan .....</b>	<b><i>Pg. 13</i></b>
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Francis Chan graciously provided the forward. He is one of the highest profile church leaders and a leader who really "gets" persecution. His contention is that it's difficult for westerners to understand or deal with persecution correctly. We must do more than pray.

<b>Introduction: The Journey Begins .....</b>	<b><i>Pg. 21</i></b>
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Mr. King begins by laying out his credentials (org. president and "the Dream") to answer the question of "why the reader should listen to me." The dream refers to how the Lord supernaturally called him to ICC. The rest of the introduction covers the big picture of the book: Mr. King will be taking readers on the same journey of discovery that the Lord took him on for over 15 years. He warns readers that stories of martyrdom can be difficult to read, but this message will absolutely be about life – finding His life in us.

<b>Chapter 1: A Secret Whispered .....</b>	<b><i>Pg. 27</i></b>
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Mr. King introduces the readers to two martyrs, one of whom he knew personally. Both of these martyrs approached death with courage and peace. Their lives are a testimony to all around them. Testimonies like these are an antidote to the weakness in the Western or Free Church. Mr. King proposes that the problem of the west is (as Witness Lee describes it) that "we have no wounds or scars, but the persecuted have them in abundance." Readers are introduced to the message the martyrs kept trying to give to Mr. King (through "The Whisper") so they know that is the key to the book: to hear and understand their whisper.

### Chapters 2-15: The Testimonies

Chapters two to fifteen are the testimonies of numerous martyrs, including the spiritual lessons that they highlight. A few of the stories are highlighted below.

<b>The Light of a New World .....</b>	<b><i>Pg. 37</i></b>
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Mr. King shares one case of martyrdom that affected him the most. Three Christians were brutally murdered early in his career, and they were friends of friends. One of the martyr's wives made a simple statement of forgiveness on Turkish television after her husband's murder. That kind of forgiveness is unheard of in the culture. One of Turkey's leading journalists said, this incident "did more [to bring the gospel to Turkey] than a thousand missionaries could do in a thousand years."

<b>Sometimes, Living is Harder than Dying .....</b>	<b><i>Pg. 47</i></b>
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Mr. King shares another case that occurred early in his career. This time, he was able to meet with the victims. The main protagonist of the chapter did not die, but she witnessed her father and son's murder and was taken captive by radical Muslims. She died a long slow living "death," but ultimately was rescued. ICC was involved with the rescue. Here, Mr. King introduces a recurring theme that the Lord produces life from death!

**Restoration** ..... Pg. 57

Mr. King met with a martyr's surviving wife. This chapter speaks to the Francis Chan's point that understanding persecution is not easy for the victims or for those trying to help the victims. The Lord calls Christians to care, help, and weep with those who weep. That last point can be transformative.

**The Land of the Living** ..... Pg. 65

**A Great Light** ..... Pg. 73

**A Better Country** ..... Pg. 79

**In the Fiery Furnace** ..... Pg. 87

**Beauty from Ashes** ..... Pg. 95

**Tell Them I Died Well** ..... Pg. 105

Pastor Ohji was murdered by Boko Haram in Nigeria. They gave him two chances to live before killing him in front of his friends and neighbors. His last words to them were "tell my family I died well." If you understand why the martyr chooses death (they are usually given a chance to live), then you will have truly understood what the Lord is doing in their lives.

**PHOTOS OF THE PERSECUTED** ..... Pg. 109

**Held** ..... Pg. 123

**Greater Love** ..... Pg. 133

**Finding Life in the Graveyard of Hope** ..... Pg. 141

In the field, ICC staff met Gurunath, a Christian who is unjustly serving a life sentence in prison. His smile and joy were infectious. Understanding why is a key lesson of the persecuted.

**The Hammer, The File, and the Furnace** ..... Pg. 149

**We Don't Fear Anymore** ..... Pg. 155

ICC met Pastor Kevin in Kenya. His church was attacked by radical Islamists and many of his followers, including his assistant pastor were murdered. Pastor Kevin is still pastoring in the same church. He teaches us about fear and illustrates a key lesson of the persecuted. At a certain point, the persecuted believer loses their fear and goes all in with God.

## **Chapters 16-20: The Lessons and Whisper Revealed**

**The Church as It Should Be**..... Pg. 163

Stories of Mr. King's journeys around the world, during which he met with Christians and churches of the highest caliber, growing in their faith, even while enduring years of intense persecution. He asks, "Why is it when I walk into a church overseas that the presence of God can be so overwhelming that it brings me to my knees?"

What is it about these churches that we need to learn in our churches and our own lives?

**The Real Question** ..... Pg. 171

When Mr. King speaks to Christians about ministering to the persecuted, they are captivated by the question, “What would I do if I faced death for my faith?” He explains that the real question is not how the martyr had the courage to die for their faith, but rather how the focus needs to be on their lives and what brought them to the point of martyrdom. Understanding their life journey gives readers God’s big picture for all of our lives.

**Impregnable** ..... Pg. 179

Our problem (touching back on chapter 1) is our lack of wounds and scars (Witness Lee). It is our selfsufficiency that makes us impregnable. Mr. King talks about the twin cancers that have been eating at us: selfsufficiency and idolatry. We are trapped by our nature and Western culture.

**The Whisper Finally Heard** ..... Pg. 187

Mr. King has demonstrated the western church’s predicament. Here, he unveils God’s plan to rescue believers:

We must come to the end of ourselves, and that only happens through suffering and brokenness. The only problem is that we spend so much of our energy avoiding these things.

But, God is attracted like a magnet to our neediness and brokenness! It is only through pain and suffering that we come to the end of ourselves and our fascination with the world’s “distractions.” Only then will our broken cisterns be mended and filled with the living water that flows from the throne of God.

The whisper of the martyr is finally revealed in this chapter. The martyr stands on the threshold of the door to their next life, calling out to us, “Come die with me!”

**From King to Treasure** ..... Pg. 197

This chapter is focused on the practical side of the message. How does the believer move to this deeper walk the martyr demonstrates?

In the western church, the highest calling that Christians are usually challenged to, is to make Jesus and the God the Father our King. We are called to be obedient, holy, and sacrificial – to follow the King’s orders.

Few Christians end up at this point in their walk. It is a wonderful point to be at in our Christian journey but it is by no means the endpoint.

No, there is a final step the Lord wants the reader to take.

The martyrs are usually given the chance to live and escape their murder. Why don’t they? Because the Lord is more than their “King.” He is their “treasure.”

Over the years of intense suffering, the love for the “world” and all its “distractions” were stripped away. They stayed the path because the Lord had become more to them than just their King. He had become their treasure. This is why their killers’ offer of a few more minutes of life (figuratively) is a measly offer. The martyr died long ago. They found a great treasure and gladly went and sold all they had to possess the land they stand on and cannot trade it for any price.

We must follow the martyr’s example and heed their call.

Living this out is hard and we only reach the top of the mountain (as they read about in the introduction) fleetingly, but there you will find the real life you were searching for all along.