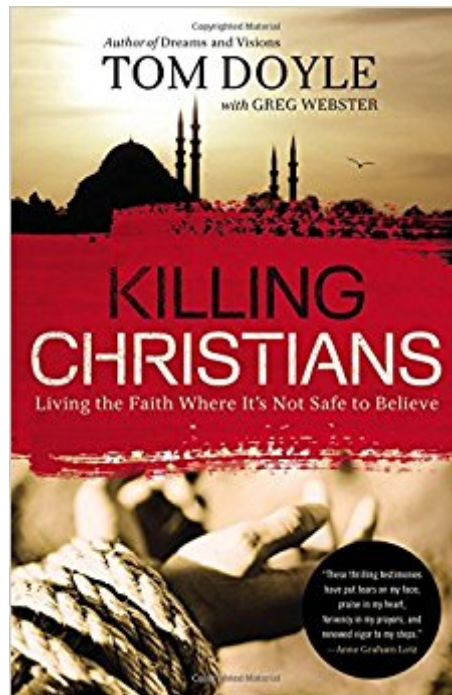




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Killing Christians: Living The Faith Where It's Not Safe To Believe



Synopsis

Could you retain your faith even if it meant losing your life? Your family's lives? To many Christians in the Middle East today, a "momentary, light affliction" means enduring only torture instead of martyrdom. The depth of oppression Jesus followers suffer is unimaginable to most Western Christians. Yet, it is an everyday reality for those who choose faith over survival in Syria, Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, and other countries hostile to the Gospel of Christ. In *Killing Christians*, Tom Doyle takes readers to the secret meetings, the torture rooms, the grim prisons, and even the executions that are the "calling" of countless Muslims-turned-Christians. Each survivor longs to share with brothers and sisters "on the outside" what Christ has taught them. *Killing Christians* is their message to readers who still enjoy freedom to practice their faith. None would wish their pain and suffering on those who do not have to brave such misery, but the richness gained through their remarkable trials are delivered often in their own words through this book. The stories are breathtaking, the lessons soul-stirring and renewing. *Killing Christians* presents the dead serious work of expanding and maintaining the Faith. "When you're looking for real-life accounts of 21st Century believers whose lives are literally at stake for their beliefs, it demands the credibility of a man who has the smell of the front lines of the battlefield on his clothes because he was there yesterday and will be back there tomorrow. I'm proud to say my friend Tom Doyle is that man." Jerry B. Jenkins, Novelist & Biographer

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Customer Reviews

Tom Doyle, Vice President and Middle East-Central Asia Director for e3 Partners based in Dallas, Texas, and author of four books including *Dreams & Visions* and *Killing Christians*. Visit website: <http://e3partners.org>. ã ã

When I grumble about getting up on Sunday and getting my family to church, I need to think about my brothers and sisters in the Middle East for whom simply having a Bible study at home is a death sentence. When I complain about government policies or social norms in the US that are biased against Christians, I need to remember my brothers and sisters who are given the choice of converting to Islam or being killed. In *Killing Christians: Living the Faith Where It's Not Safe to Believe*, Tom Doyle reminds us that even though being a Christian in the West is quite comfortable, the church is suffering persecution. Our family is under attack. I read the stories in *Killing Christians* like a family album. I've never met these family members, but I feel like I know them now. I grieve with them in their suffering, but more than that, I am amazed and inspired by their joy and perseverance in the face of persecution. Doyle writes the stories in the style of fiction, and he acknowledges that some of the conversations have been reconstructed and some descriptions have been modified, but these are real people in real places facing real persecution and martyrdom. I personally like his decision to write in this style. Historians may object, but I'm reading a family account here, not a history text. Doyle focuses on the region in which he works, North Africa and the Middle East, so the persecution faced in *Killing Christians* comes from Muslims. I know there are peaceful Muslims in parts of the world, and there are plenty of places where Christians and Muslims live in harmony. These are not those Muslims, and these are not those places. Christians here face murder, rape, disfigurement, beatings, and other forms of torture and abuse at the hands not only of strangers, but, in some cases, neighbors, friends, and even family members. It's shocking, but true, that some Muslims would kill their own spouse or child as retribution for their becoming a Christian. Besides the stories of Christians being beaten or killed, there are also stories of miraculous salvation, where Jesus physically intervenes to stop an attack. Almost every story involves Jesus appearing to Muslims in dreams, with very personal reassurances of their safety, promises for provision, or an invitation to follow him. These are the kinds of things we read about in the Bible. I've never experienced anything like it, and am so encouraged that people in these lands are experiencing Jesus in this way. Doyle does not call for Western Christians to send financial support, to go on mission trips, or to feel sorry for our brothers and sisters in these countries. On the contrary, these believers pray for us. They have much to teach us about living faithfully for Jesus.

Like Peter and John, "they have been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name." Doyle tells the stories of these believers who joyfully embrace martyrdom as a chance to be in the arms of Jesus, and asks his readers, "Are you willing to suffer for Jesus? Are you willing to die for Jesus?" I am humbled and inspired by these believers who answer without hesitation, "Yes! and Yes!" Thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for the complimentary electronic review copy!

Each chapter is a different story in a different place. Each story I was amazed at how our brothers and sisters in these countries are so on fire for Jesus and in turn their stories has encouraged me to be more bold in my own walk here at home. Since I finished the book on Saturday I have talked to everyone I have come across about this book....even my Pastor! He had not heard of the book, obviously, the book just came out last week! :) So this morning as I was driving to work I thought of the people I spoke with and The Lord impressed on me to buy this book for them.....and so I will!! Cannot wait to read Tom Doyle's other book about Dreams and in the meantime I just want to say that I have set up my alarm to go off at 8:38pm every night and last night for the first time I prayed for my brothers and sisters in the Middle East and Somalia. Loved this book!

Powerful! One of the best books I've ever read because the stories are true. A great book to shake you out of your comfy, western christianity. We have brothers and sisters in the middle east choosing to serve Christ. The cost? They will give their lives because of that choice.

This is a must read! So convicting what these believers are going through to know Christ. Shame on American Christians for being such complainers and living such powerless lives for Christ. We don't need this persecution to help make our lives effective for Christ--but this persecution may come to bring effectiveness for Christ to the American church. Get on your knees and beg God to break you of your selfishness!

This book is great! It revealed to me the things we take for granted here (US) & made me think about my salvation. "Would I go as far as risking my own life for Jesus?" Here in the US relationships, drugs, alcohol, etc. are some big deal breakers to getting saved or salvation taken so lightly people will claim to be a christian with no real relationship with God or sacrifice. The people in this book take their time to examine Christians and examine what God can do, because this a big decision. They're risking their lives. There can be no gray area, only black & white. The testimonies in this book are also very encouraging! As I was reading this I started to think " If God can do "that"

for them, He can do "this" for me, my church, city, and people in my life" He is the same yesterday, today & forever. If he did it before he can do it again!!! will recommend this book to everyone I know.

For more than 25 years I have been praying for the Lord to give dreams and visions of Jesus Christ as the Son of God to those Muslims who prayed for Wisdom and Truth. I did so because I had been given that prayer to pray, yet for all these years I had done so as a sacred duty. No more!! Recently several pieces of information, including this book came to me which opened my eyes. To pray the prayer, even as a sacred duty, is too abstract, too impersonal. These who are willing to die for Christ, a gift we in the western world cannot conceive, are certainly worthy our earnest prayers, salted with true tears of love and compassion. We, in our comfort, without threat of loss for serving the Lord of all, how will we answer our Lord on judgement day, for not praying for those to whom a martyr's death is a daily reality? Let us awake and remember those in chains of bondage, as if bound with them, for they find time to pray for us.

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