

WEEK 43 • OCTOBER 28, 2023

Israel: No Human Did This!

Matthew 5:10—“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Wisam is a member of a powerful anti-Christian family living in Nazareth, Israel. When his sister became a Christian while studying in Europe, the family sent Wisam to kill her. Wisam loved his sister and hoped to convince her to give up her new religion. He found her and told her the family wanted him to kill her. She suggested that he stay in Europe and study at an Adventist school in Austria.

Wisam liked the idea, hoping that he could convert Christians to his religion. But Wisam grew interested in Jesus, and before the year ended, Wisam accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized.

Wisam returned to Nazareth and told his uncle that he had not killed his sister. Angry, his uncle shouted, “Stone him!” The men hurled rocks at Wisam until he fell unconscious. Moved by compassion, Wisam’s father ordered his other sons to take Wisam to the hospital. When Wisam returned home, his parents urged Wisam to leave Israel.

Wisam returned to Austria to complete his pastoral studies. He pastored several churches in Europe before he was called to pastor in his hometown, Nazareth.

When Wisam’s cousins learned that Wisam was back, they led a mob to attack him. Wisam faced his aggressors but refused to fight. As Wisam turned away from the men, his cousin raised a deadly knife and stabbed him in his back. The knife blade bent to a 90-degree angle. His cousin, seeing his bent knife, dropped it. Wisam’s brother held up the useless knife saying, “Now try to kill the man of God!” One of Wisam’s cousins shouted, “I will die if I don’t kill you!”

A few months later the two cousins who had threatened Wisam were killed when a truck hit them head-on. This tragic accident made a huge impact in the local community. Many asked questions about Wisam’s faith.

In time, Wisam opened an Urban Center of Influence in Nazareth, where he teaches English using the Bible as his textbook. Many want to study English with this man of God.

Wisam’s life is a light shining in Nazareth. His work is made possible because believers around the world return God’s tithes and faithfully give their regular offerings so that men and women can train to serve God in difficult places around the world. Let us give faithfully so many can serve.

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