



## Along the Way

Violet, the artist of the featured calendar painting, had for years been involved in many exhibitions in Tehran, the capital city of Iran. Primarily, the subject of her work focused on women and the challenges they faced in Iranian society. However, after coming to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Violet's views of the world around her began to change. She longed to glorify the Lord Jesus with her artistic talent and was commissioned by a church in Tehran to paint two pieces that expressed sections of the Bible. In another collection, titled *The Song of Salvation*, she chronicled her own journey of "salvation from darkness to the light of Christ."

In 2013, Violet became an Iranian religious refugee who relocated to Canada after experiencing strong pressure to renounce Jesus as her Lord. Among the tactics used to dissuade her faith, the forfeiture of her income and job position were at the top. Violet lost her faculty role at the University of Tehran where she taught graphic engineering and art. Even so, she still believes that God is good. Doors of opportunity opened here in Canada for Violet to exhibit her paintings at Regent's College. This featured piece, titled, "The Lord Will Embrace His Own," is part of *The Song of Salvation* exhibit, in which she declares her devotion to God and thankfulness for His salvation.

**Artist:** Banafsheh (Violet) Behzadian

**Artwork Title:** "The Lord Will Embrace His Own"

**Medium:** Acrylic

**Website:** <http://banafshehbehzadian.com>

# September 2023

**His Way** *“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

1 Peter 1:8-9 ESV

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>CAMEROON</b> Pray for the success of Bible translation work so that Cameroonians will have access to God's Word.	<b>BRUNEI</b> Pray for the bold witness of Malay Christians in Brunei.
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b> Pray that more teaching resources will reach the growing number of Christians.	<b>UGANDA</b> Pray that those working with Christian converts from Islam will receive pastoral training.	<b>BAHRAIN</b> Pray that Bahrainis will receive their own copy of the Bible.	<b>CHINA</b> Pray for less opposition from authorities, and thus greater freedoms to worship.	<b>QATAR</b> Pray that those who hear the Gospel will seek to know more about God's saving grace.	<b>ETHIOPIA</b> Pray for an end to the conflict between the government and minority groups.	<b>MALDIVES</b> Pray that Christians will find new ways to share the Gospel despite severe governmental restrictions.
<b>MALI</b> Pray that believers who lost jobs as a result of military coups will find new opportunities of employment.	<b>NEPAL</b> Pray that Christians will be living testaments of God's grace to their neighbours.	<b>YEMEN</b> Pray that Yemeni believers will be strengthened and encouraged in their faith.	<b>KUWAIT</b> Praise God for new believers in this Middle Eastern nation. May they be taught as disciples of Christ.	<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b> Pray that, as Saudi Arabia becomes more open politically, it will open spiritually as well.	<b>MYANMAR (BURMA)</b> Pray for the courage of Christians who have been threatened with expulsion from their villages.	<b>BURKINA FASO</b> Pray that Pastor Albert will persevere in his faith as militant Islamists take control of his area.
<b>TANZANIA</b> Pray for pastors in Zanzibar whose homes were destroyed by opposing Muslim neighbours.	<b>BHUTAN</b> Pray that Christians in Bhutan will be strong and courageous when proclaiming the message of Christ.	<b>PHILIPPINES</b> Pray for the peace of Christ to be experienced among believers facing sporadic attacks.	<b>PAKISTAN</b> Pray that Christians will be secure in their identity as God's beloved children amid societal rejection.	<b>CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC</b> Pray that displaced Christians will be able to return home, rebuild their houses and develop farmlands.	<b>SOMALIA</b> Pray for the courage and effectiveness of Christians who evangelize and disciple Somalis.	<b>TÜRKIYE (TURKEY)</b> Pray that Iranian refugees will be reached for Christ and provided needed ministry and resources.
<b>AFGHANISTAN</b> Pray for the raising up of new Christian leaders, as many were forced to flee the country recently.	<b>ERITREA</b> Pray for the perseverance of Christian prisoners, some of whom have been detained for nearly 20 years.	<b>OMAN</b> Pray that Christians serving in Oman will maintain their courageous witness.	<b>ALGERIA</b> Pray for the strengthening and mentoring of Christian youth who are attending a summer camp.	<b>LAOS</b> Pray that every persecuted Christian will have access to a Bible in his or her own language this year.	<b>MALAYSIA</b> Pray that new believers will stand strong as they encounter persecution for the first time.	<b>COLOMBIA</b> Pray for the protection of Christian children who are targeted by guerrilla groups.

