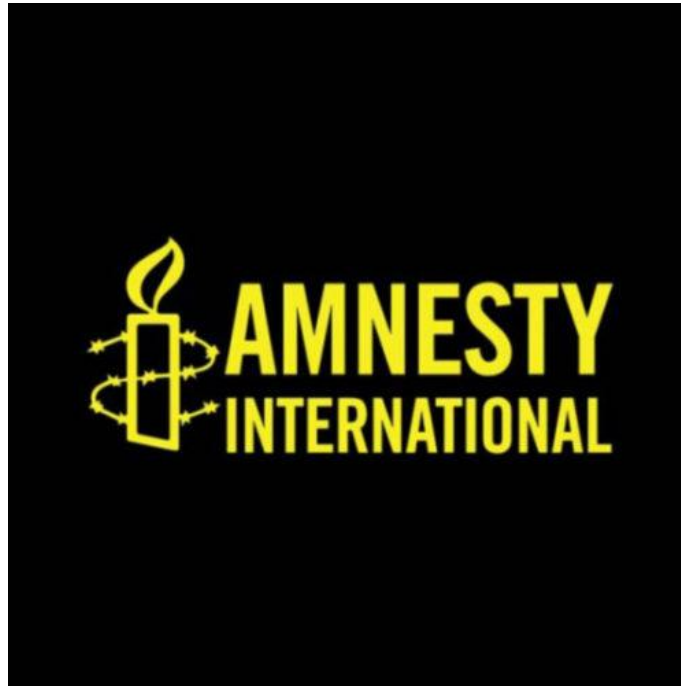


**Proverbs 31.8**

*'Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves'*



**Amnesty International tries to protect those who cannot speak up for themselves by working to get them released.**

On June 25<sup>th</sup> 1867, barbed wire was invented. It was used to stop cattle from wandering to far on American farms.

Today, it forms part of the Amnesty International logo, the wire represents the camps, prisons and cells in which many prisoners are kept.

Some of these prisoners may not have done anything wrong; their views are different from that of their government in their country.

Some of them have been put into prison because they have dared to speak out about unfairness and discrimination. Some are religious prisoners who have been imprisoned for their faith and their beliefs.

The founder of Amnesty International chose the candle on the basis of a Proverb: 'It is better to light a candle, than to curse the darkness.' We can speak up for others when we see people treated badly. It takes courage to speak up for others and wisdom to know how to do it safely and effectively.

In the Bible, God is often described as the God of a stranger, the fatherless and the widow. It is a way of saying that he is particularly concerned with defending those who cannot speak for themselves.

**Read the passage below and answer the following questions in full sentences.**

Brother Yun who is known as the Heavenly Man was born into a life of poverty in communist China's Henan Province. Yun became a house church leader while still in

his youth, bringing the forbidden gospel to his community. He was imprisoned and tortured for his Christian faith after refusing to join the government-controlled Christian organisation. But while in prison, he continued with his ministry and brought many of those around him to Christ – including the prison guards. While in the Zhengzhou maximum security prison, Yun heard a voice telling him to walk out of the heavily guarded facility. Obeying the voice and risking death, Yun said the Holy Spirit called him to walk straight past the guards and out through the gates. He said it was as if he was invisible, and subsequently guards at the prison have lost their job due to the “embarrassing mishap”.

- 1) When was Brother Yun born?
- 2) Was he born into a wealthy family?
- 3) Why was Yun sent to prison?
- 4) Who did Yun manage to bring to Christ?
- 5) What did the voice say to Yun?
- 6) What happened to the prison guards who let him walk out?

**Extra:** Create a prayer to thank God and others for speaking up for others who cannot speak for themselves.