



Returning with Joy

STORIES OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
THROUGH THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



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*“Behold, I am sending you out
as sheep in the midst of wolves,
so be wise as serpents and
innocent as doves.”*

—MATTHEW 10:16

CONNECT WITH US

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LUKE 10:1, 17 (NIV)

¹ After this the Lord appeared to the seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.



¹⁷ *The seventy-two returned with great joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”*

GOD’S STORY THROUGH HIS CHURCH

While I was reading Luke 10, a passage caught my attention in a way it hadn’t before. It says that the 72 returned from their missions with joy, telling Jesus what they had seen. They had gone out before him into difficult places, sheep among wolves as it says, unsure of how people would receive them. But when they came back, they told stories of God’s power and faithfulness.

At International Christian Concern (ICC), we receive reports from the field every single day. They come from pastors, partners, and believers who live in places where following Christ can cost them their jobs, their freedom, or even their lives. Many of these reports begin with hardship. A church is burned. A family is forced from their home. A believer is arrested or beaten.

But then, just like in Luke 10, the stories do not end there.

We hear about the church that gathers again the very next Sunday, even though the congregation’s building is gone. We hear about the prisoner who shares the gospel with others in his cell. We hear about the widow who receives help from the global body of Christ and says, through tears, that she knows she is not forgotten.

Again and again, we see that God is writing His story through the persecuted church. By His grace, He continues to use ICC as a vessel to carry that story to the world and to deliver practical help to believers in their time of greatest need.

And behind every one of those stories is you.

Your prayers, your giving, and your advocacy make this work possible. You are part of the reason those reports from the field are filled with hope. You are helping the church stand firm. You are helping believers return with joy.

As you read this report, I hope you see more than statistics and summaries. I hope you see the hand of God at work in some of the hardest places on earth. I hope you are encouraged by the courage of our brothers and sisters. And I hope you are reminded that the mission continues.

Thank you for joining God’s story and standing with the persecuted church.



SHAWN P. WRIGHT
President, International Christian Concern



ICC'S ANNUAL IMPACT

ICC HAS WORKED IN

20+ Countries

GIVING DIRECT AID TO

11,380 Christians

EQUIPPING AND TRAINING

865 Pastors

SERVING COMMUNITIES THROUGH

6 Farms

SCHOOLING CHILDREN IN

20 Hope Houses

GIVING BRIGHTER FUTURES TO

410 College Students

EQUIPPING EVANGELISTS WITH

1,610+ Bibles

HELPING START

98 Small Businesses

PUBLISHING

500+ News Reports

How We Fuel Transformation & Hope

- ▶ Through our faithful donors, we can support global projects through our five funds.

WHERE MOST NEEDED

As a ministry, we must act quickly to help persecuted brothers and sisters.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

We meet persecuted believers in great need, providing aid when they lose everything.

GOSPEL

We help spread God's Word worldwide by supporting pastors and distributing Bibles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We equip Christians with small businesses and farms, ensuring long-term survival beyond immediate aid.

EDUCATION

Through schools and training programs, children and young adults thrive with hope, faith, and opportunity.

A YEAR OF FAITHFUL WITNESS

YOUR PARTNERSHIP
IN THE FIELD

Just as the 72 returned from the field with stories of God's power, ICC brings you stories from the front lines of persecution. These stories are filled with rescue, provision, faithfulness, and spiritual victory.

In Luke 10, Jesus sent out 72 of His followers into towns and villages ahead of Him. They went in faith, carrying out the message of the kingdom into uncertain and often hostile places. When they returned, they came back with joy, telling stories of God's power at work.

Every year, ICC receives similar reports from the field. Stories of believers who endure persecution but remain faithful. Stories of churches rebuilt, prisoners encouraged; families rescued. This annual report is a collection of those stories. Stories of God's faithfulness and reasons to return with joy.



We Aid

We give hope and ease the suffering of persecuted believers, communities, and churches by rebuilding lives and equipping the church in the most hostile places.



We Advocate

We counter Christian persecution by informing policymakers, fighting for justice to free prisoners, and holding regimes accountable.



We Awaken

We awaken the Western church to the suffering of persecuted Christians through engaging content that stirs hearts to prayer and action.

- ▶ EXPLORE THE STORIES OF GOD'S BLESSINGS THIS YEAR IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES

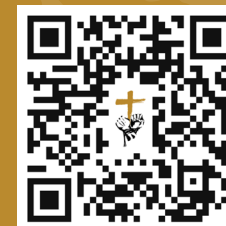


**Note: numbers fluctuate as projects begin and end*

Your Hired Hands and Feet

We come alongside persecuted believers in their time of greatest need, restoring dignity and equipping pastors and evangelists to spread the gospel in dangerous places.

This God-honoring work is possible only through your faithful support and our trusted partners on the ground.



SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR MOBILE DEVICE TO GIVE.

WWW.PERSECUTION.ORG/GIVE

ICC Bolsters Incident Reports with Numbers from the Violent Incidents Database

ICC has partnered with the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF) to support its Violent Incidents Database (VID), which monitors and analyzes religious freedom violations and attacks against Christians worldwide. Over the past four years, the database has recorded more than 600,000 incidents of religious persecution against all faiths.

According to IIRF, the VID's uniqueness lies in its granular tracking of actual incidents — rather than perceptions or expert opinions — capturing both physical and non-physical violations. These include killings, abductions, destruction of religious sites, arrests, detentions, and forced displacement. Data from published media and partner institutions are validated by researchers and systematically coded using

standardized criteria.

The database tracks violations across five continents. While it relies heavily on publicly sourced information, including from ICC, many incidents go unreported. Some Christians fear backlash if they seek justice.

“Through this collaboration, ICC intends to use the VID to expose and respond to the growing persecution of Christians worldwide,” Mike Pritchard, VP of Communications and Advocacy, said. “By integrating the data into our press releases, reports, projects, and conversations with policymakers, we aim to highlight the urgent need for meaningful action on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

ICC incorporated VID data into its 2026 Global Persecution Index, set for release in March.

ICC REPORTS



To read the full reports, visit www.persecution.org/reports

2025 GLOBAL TRENDS 2025 GLOBAL TRENDS 2025 GLOBAL TRENDS

Rise of Non-State Armed Groups in Africa

Violence against Christians in Africa is increasingly driven by militant groups and ethnic militias. In several countries, attacks are concentrated in rural areas where security forces are weak or absent. This has led to mass displacement and the destruction of entire Christian communities.

State-Driven Persecution in Asia and Europe

In parts of Asia and Eastern Europe, government forces and state institutions are among the leading perpetrators of violence or repression against Christians. Churches are raided, leaders are arrested, and believers face surveillance or forced closure of worship spaces.

Criminal Networks Targeting Churches in Latin America

In several Latin America countries, criminal groups view churches as obstacles to their control. Pastors and Christian leaders are threatened, extorted, or killed for speaking against corruption, drug trafficking, or gang activity.

Increasing Role of Lone Actors and Hate Groups in the West

In North America and parts of Europe, violence is more fragmented. Attacks often come from individuals or small extremist groups rather than organized movements. These incidents contribute to a growing climate of fear and hostility toward Christian communities.

PERSECUTION MAY TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS ACROSS THE GLOBE, BUT THE NEED REMAINS THE SAME. THE CHURCH IS UNDER PRESSURE, AND ICC CONTINUES TO STAND WITH BELIEVERS WHO REFUSE TO ABANDON THEIR FAITH.

A New Season of Leadership at ICC

OCTOBER 31, 2025

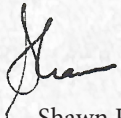
I'm writing to you with deep gratitude and excitement as I begin my first day as President of International Christian Concern (ICC). For nearly three decades, ICC has stood as a voice for the voiceless — advocating, equipping, and caring for persecuted believers around the world.

As I step into this role, I do so with great respect for ICC's remarkable history and with a heart to build on the faithful work that so many of you have prayed for and supported. Together, we share a calling to be the hands and feet of Jesus — to bring hope where there is hardship, and to stand with those who suffer for His name.

To our partners and field teams serving in regions of intense persecution: your courage humbles me. You are the heartbeat of this ministry, carrying Christ's compassion into some of the hardest places on earth.

To our supporters and prayer partners: thank you for standing with ICC. Your faithfulness sustains this work more than you know. I ask that you "Remember the prisoners and [the persecuted] as if chained with them — those who are mistreated — since you yourselves are in the body also." (Hebrews 13:3 NKJV).

As I begin this journey, I ask for your prayers — that God would continue to guide and strengthen ICC as we serve His persecuted Church with truth, wisdom, and love.

All for Him,

 Shawn P. Wright



Letters of Hope

Thousands of persecuted believers sit in prison cells with no voice and no advocate. Your words can remind them they are not forgotten. Download ICC's newest edition of the Prison Letter Writing Packet and take a few minutes to send a message of courage, Scripture, and solidarity to someone suffering for their faith.



DOWNLOAD AT WWW.PERSECUTION.ORG/LETTERS

522 VOLUNTEERS WROTE LETTERS TO PRISONERS IN 2025. GOD BLESS YOU!

MINISTRY VOICE

ICC Among Most Trusted Nonprofits

ICC was one of 72 nonprofits out of 1.5 million to earn the notable 2025 most Trusted Nonprofit Award by Ministry Voice.

Ministry Voice, which equips churches and Christian nonprofits with communication tools, training, and resources, reviewed ICC's financial records, vision statements, and results.

"The Most Trusted Nonprofit Award is predicated on extensive research conducted by ten distinguished non-profit oversight bodies, further enriched by insights from impartial consultants, all leading to a roster of impeccable ministries," Ministry Voice said in its announcement. "Each nonprofit making the grade has satisfied extensive and diverse performance and transparency standards, scrutinizing every facet of their operations, mission, and public perception."

ICC President Shawn Wright said the award embodies the ministry's commitment to excellence and its staff's dedication.

"Everything we do as an organization, we strive for excellence and give honor and glory to Jesus," Wright said. "It takes resources to serve persecuted Christians who are in harm's way. Yet we have a responsibility to use every dollar effectively, ethically, and wisely. We are accountable to our faithful donors and the Lord."



87 CENTS ON EVERY DOLLAR GIVEN GOES TO PROJECTS!

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY 2025

REVENUE	\$3,809,230.00
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION	\$388,448.62
FUNDRAISING	\$102,223.32
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$3,598,260.87

Leaving Islam, Finding Christ

A MOTHER'S COURAGE TO START ANEW

Amara was born into a Muslim family. When her mother converted to Christianity, Amara watched as her father threatened to kill her mother. Soon, her mother became sick and died. Amara's father ordered her and her siblings to not convert to Christianity, claiming that Christians had poisoned their mother.

But their mother had already planted the seed of the gospel in their hearts. She had told her children about the love of Jesus before her death. After their mother died, Amara's sister ignored her father's commands and became a Christian in 2018. Although their father beat Amara's sister and chased her away, her sister urged Amara to put her trust in Christ.

"My sister would call me on phone and would share the goodness of Christ," Amara recalled. "She would always pray with me. She explained that I should not forget that it was our father who fatally poisoned our mother since she converted to Christianity. She said Islam is not a religion of peace, rather of war. This touched my heart, and I accepted to follow Jesus Christ."

Two days later, Amara bravely decided to go to church for the first time.

"I was bold to tell my father that I had decided to follow Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior," she said. "All the struggles we had gone through since childhood, including the death of my mother, had been caused by us being blinded by the Islamic faith and the doctrine our father was pushing on us. He slapped me first, but still, I told him I was ready to die if he decides to kill me."

Amara's father beat her in front of her three children. He then burned her clothes and belongings. As she fled, he warned her that if he ever saw her again, he would kill her and her children.

Amara sought help from a local pastor, who contacted ICC.

"I am writing to recommend Amara, a courageous young woman who has recently converted from Islam to Christianity," the pastor's letter stated. "Her journey to Christ was not an easy one, but her faith and determination have only grown despite facing persecution from her own family."

ICC helped Amara pay for rent, utensils, clothing, bedding, food, and school fees for her children. Her church is also collecting food for her and her children.

"Her journey to Christ was not an easy one, but her faith and determination have only grown despite facing persecution from her own family." —AMARA'S PASTOR



FOREVER CHANGED

Looking back on this time in her life, Amara said the help ICC provided her and her children transformed their lives in numerous ways.

"Before your assistance, I felt utterly helpless," Amara said. "The challenges we faced were overwhelming — struggling to provide necessities for my three children. We lacked essential utensils for cooking food to nourish our bodies, proper bedding for restful nights, and the means to pay for their education. Each day was a battle against despair."

"Thanks to your kindness, we now have the utensils we need to prepare meals together as a family. The food you have provided shall fill our home with nourishment and hope. The bedding shall give us comfort and security at night, allowing us to rest peacefully after long days of hardship. Most importantly, your support in paying school fees has opened doors for my children's education that I

once thought was closed forever."

With tears in her eyes, her oldest daughter said, "I can now go to school without worrying about whether I will have enough money for fees." Another child said, "Now we can eat together as a family every day!"

Amara said ICC's support gave her family stability so they could rebuild their lives together.

"Thank you once again for your unwavering support and compassion," she added. "You have made an indelible impact on our lives that will resonate through generations as my children grow up with opportunities they would not have had otherwise. Your support has not only uplifted us materially, but also emotionally. It has instilled a sense of hope and determination within us that we will overcome our struggles. We are committed to making the most of this opportunity you have given us." ✝



When Sanjay, his wife, and their two sons put their trust in Christ five years ago in India, they knew they were making a decision that would change their lives — and anger their Hindu relatives and neighbors.

Throughout the years, villagers and Sanjay’s four siblings have caused the family trouble because of their faith in Jesus. One time, Sanjay’s siblings even attempted to steal property from him. Sanjay and his family, however, have always responded with love. They want to be like Jesus and lead their relatives and villagers into a relationship with him.

In January, the family nearly died because of their Christian faith. Sanjay’s family had started seven days of fasting

and prayer. Each day, they prayed from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. As the only Christians in their village, they sought God’s guidance in their lives.

While the family prayed at home for the fourth day, villagers set their house on fire. Although the family escaped the flames, their home and their belongings were destroyed. The fire also consumed the 40,000 Indian rupees (\$500) that Sanjay had received as a loan just a few days earlier. He had planned to use the funds for his family’s farm.

After hearing what happened to Sanjay’s family, International Christian Concern (ICC) provided his family with food, kitchen necessities, clothes, blankets, school supplies, and other items.

“In these dark moments of our life, ICC came forward and blessed us with the things we needed. Thank you so much... The Lord has provided all the needed things in this tough moment of our lives through ICC.”

“This support gave relief to his family,” an ICC staffer said. “They were so thankful to ICC for the special care and concern shown to them during these difficult days. The family really needed this support. They were waiting on the Lord for help since they lost everything in the fire.”

Sanjay told ICC he and his family are deeply grateful for the many gifts they received.

“We lost everything in the fire, and we were feeling very sad,” he recalled. “In these dark moments of our life, ICC came forward and blessed us with the things we needed. Thank you so much.”

“The Lord has provided all the needed things in this tough moment of our lives through ICC. It was difficult to survive without food. These groceries fed us and removed our hunger. This support has been a great blessing to us in many ways, giving us great hope to move forward in life.”

Despite the attack and the family’s devastating loss, they remain committed to Christ and his kingdom. They regularly gather with believers in another village and share the gospel with Hindus in their own village and surrounding areas.

Sanjay said the fire will not deter him and his family from sharing Christ’s love

with Hindus. He’s also determined to help other believers facing persecution.

“We will walk with the Lord and help the persecuted people to be strong in their minds and stand for God in whatever situation they are facing,” he said. “We will encourage other believers to be strong in their faith in God.”

Sanjay asked people to pray for his family’s health and for God to protect them as they continue their ministry. He also asked people to pray for members of his family who aren’t yet Christians and for those who tried to kill his family.

“Kindly pray for the people who burnt my home,” he said, “that God would touch them, and they may receive the salvation of God in their life.”

Although Sanjay filed a police report, authorities have not taken action. His family is currently living with Hindu relatives who have witnessed how the global church takes care of its own.

“While ICC provided the food and clothing, and other emergency items, the fact that God’s people come around and are standing with us during this time of crisis has helped us to be stronger in the Lord,” he said. “The project affected me so much and helped me to stay in faith in the midst of intense persecution. This would be a testimony of God’s faithfulness.”

As his family continues to recover from the fire and grow in their faith, Sanjay is confident that God will be with them if they endure persecution again.

“I am sure that God will not leave us and forsake us,” he said. “We will continually worship the Lord almighty always and we will stay in him and live according to His word in our life.” ✝

Getting God's Word into the Hands of Secret Believers

RISKING EVERYTHING TO DELIVER BIBLES TO FORMER MUSLIMS IN HOSTILE REGIONS

How many Bibles do you have at home? Maybe you have an app on your device with the Scriptures on it. No matter how many copies of God's Word you have, it is a blessing to possess even one Bible. So many Christians, especially those of us in the West, take for granted the privilege we have to freely read and study the Bible openly.

For many of our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in Asia, God's Word is restricted or even illegal. In certain countries, just owning one can lead to violence, imprisonment, or even death.

Many Christians in the West often think that there's no need to smuggle or distribute Bibles in China or other nations that are restricted and often hostile to the gospel. This is a major mistake. The reality is that multitudes of Christians, particularly those who face persecution in hostile regions and nations, desperately desire and need copies of God's Word for themselves and their families.

International Christian Concern (ICC) responds to this spiritual need in multiple ways throughout Asia. We work with our in-country staff, partner organizations, and local churches to distribute audio Bibles, digital Bibles on USB drives and MP3 devices, and, of course, physical Bibles in the desired language.

Despite our efforts, the scale of need remains massive. Praise God for Bible Societies, Scripture Unions, strong church networks, and the handful of Christian bookstores operating in most countries in Asia that help source and distribute Bibles. Still, in Asian countries where oppressive Islamic or Communist regimes pressure and persecute Christians and new converts, Bibles must be transported and distributed covertly and sensitively.

In one Muslim nation in Southeast Asia, a local missionary we'll call "Alex" met with ICC staff and shared his burden to distribute Bibles in high-risk areas of his country to large numbers of former Muslims who were now following Christ.

They needed their own Bibles so they could grow in their faith — even as they face persecution. In these areas, Alex's life would be in danger if the wrong people caught him distributing Bibles. Knowing this, he had already courageously transported and distributed Bibles in these areas using careful, creative methods. Yet, he still needed more Bibles because so many Muslims were coming to faith in Christ.

Through support from our generous partners, ICC helped Alex lead two Bible distributions. He and his team of dedicated helpers brought God's Word

into two risky areas of this Asian country. For one of these trips, Alex and his team drove more than 12 hours along difficult roads to bring Bibles to a cluster of new Christ followers.

On the other trip, the rainy season caused many obstacles for Alex and his team. The road into this particular high-risk area was flooded enough to cause landslides. In addition to being cautious with their precious cargo of Bibles to avoid detection, the team had to constantly adapt to the conditions they were traveling through.

During the two trips, Alex and his team distributed hundreds of Bibles to former Muslims eager to have their own copy of God's Word. ICC helped cover the cost of traveling to these small communities of new, secret believers.

Alex asked that people pray for God to speak to these former Muslims through their new Bibles so they can grow in their relationship with Jesus. Our staff would like to thank everyone who has prayed for these dear brothers and sisters of ours and contributed to the gift of God's Word in their lives. And thank you for your prayers for Alex and his team's courageous work to get Bibles into the hands of these new believers. As we read our Bibles in relative freedom, they can now read theirs while living under Communism or Islamic regimes. ✝️

In certain countries, just owning a Bible can lead to violence, imprisonment, or even death. Vulnerable believers need their own Bible so they can grow in their faith, even as they face persecution.



Sweet Redemption

RESTORING A FAMILY'S LIVELIHOOD

Nadia, her husband, and their three children were driven from their homes when the Islamic State group (ISIS) swept through Iraq in 2014 — all for one reason.

“We were persecuted because we are Christians and carry the identity of Jesus,” Nadia said.

Only one day after burying her father, Nadia had to leave behind her home and her church to seek safety elsewhere with her family.

“I didn’t get a chance to say a proper goodbye or visit his grave every day, which weighed heavily on me,” she recalled. “A year and a half after the displacement, I lost my mother due to the sorrow and trauma of what we had

gone through. On top of that, I had to cover the medical expenses for my daughter and my husband, which added to the burden during such a difficult time.”

By the grace of God, ISIS was defeated in Nadia’s town and the family was able to return. However, left with nothing, they struggled to keep food on the table as her husband suffers from medical conditions that make it difficult for him to find work.

Through your generosity, International Christian Concern (ICC) was able to provide Nadia with her own cake and pastry business to support the family.

“[ICC] didn’t just help me develop my project and provide me with the items I needed, but they also helped me rise again and shake off the dust that had settled on me,” Nadia said. “No other organization supported me when I returned to Qaraqosh. Even more, ICC gave me confidence in myself. Their continued care after the project was completed, asking about my well-being, my work, and my



“ICC gave me the confidence in myself. Their continued care after the project was completed, asking about my well-being, my work, and my family, really showed how much they cared.”

—NADIA, ICC BENEFICIARY

family, really showed how much they cared.”

“Today, I am not the same as I was before 2014 because I came to truly understand what it means to be a Christian, especially in the midst of people with extremist views like ISIS.”

It is our hope and prayer that many families like Nadia’s will see the goodness of God in the aftermath of

so much tragedy. However, this work is only made possible through your support.

Though defeated in Nadia’s town, ISIS continues to wreak havoc in other regions. Through your financial gifts, we hope to provide families in similar situations with small business support, medical care, education, and more. ✝



*“Who shall separate us from the love
of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or
persecution or famine or nakedness
or danger or sword?”*

—ROMANS 8:35



OUR MISSION: Since 1996, ICC has served the global persecuted church through a three-pronged approach of advocacy, awareness, and aid. ICC exists to ease the suffering of Christians in hostile places and aids, supports, and empowers them as they boldly live out their faith.

DONATIONS: International Christian Concern (ICC) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) (all donations tax-deductible). ICC makes every effort to honor donor wishes in regards to their gifts. Occasionally, a situation will arise where a project is no longer viable. ICC will redirect those donated funds to one of our other funds that is most similar to the donor’s original wishes.
