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Dear Friend,

Twenty-five years ago, the Lord planted a seed into the strange soil of Washington D.C., and soon enough that seed sprouted. Over the years, He nurtured, fed, and watered it. That seed is International Christian Concern.

Seventeen years ago, He called me in a miraculous way from Campus Crusade for Christ to come and tend to the seedling. Though I’m not much of a gardener, He called me and so I came. I tended to the seedling and as it has grown and thrived, it became a tree – sometimes because of me and sometimes in spite of me.

But long ago, the needs of the tree went beyond my abilities, so I called out to the Father and to the Kingdom for help in nurturing the tree. Along the way, the Lord touched some amazing believers, much more talented than myself, to come and nurture the tree. What they are capable of and what they are building is amazing.

In addition to staff, He called people like you. People who heard the cry of their brother and sister. People who felt the heartbreak of the Father for His children and said, “Here I am, Lord; use me.”

Together, I see us standing in a large circle, holding hands. A need from our persecuted brother and sister is read out and a staffer says, “I’m on it. I’ve got that one.” Then, from around the circle, a believer shouts out, “I’m on it! I can supply the funds.”

Together, we bandage and build the Church on the frontlines, and we open the prison doors. We give Him our few loaves and fishes (our time or treasure) and ask Him to multiply the little we have to create an abundance for His persecuted believers.

Finally, in a twist of irony, the ones we set out to serve, serve us.

We still our voices, hearts, and minds and listen intently. And then, we hear it. A quiet whisper spoken with the last breath from our brother in prison that settles into our heart and mind:

“The world has nothing for you. Above all else, you must chase and value Him.

He is the treasure you are seeking.”

I count it a great privilege to have served the persecuted. I have gained far more than I gave. They have taught me what it means, at the core, to be a Christian. I can’t say I have lived up to the vision, but I have been transformed by contact with these giants of the faith.

By His grace, these 25 years are just the beginning...

Thank you!

Jeff King
ICC OVERVIEW

A HOLISTIC ATTACK ON PERSECUTION

ADVOCATE
ICC works with government leaders to free imprisoned Christians and challenge countries that persecute.

ASSIST
ICC builds and bandages the persecuted Church.

AWAKEN
ICC strives to bring awareness to both the secular and Christian world about the suffering Church.
OUR MISSION:
Since 1995, ICC has relieved the suffering of the worldwide persecuted Church and helped it grow in strength and breadth by providing effective assistance, advocacy, and awareness with integrity toward God and donors.

OUR MANDATE:
The Father calls us to remember the prisoners (Hebrews 13:3), to speak up for the voiceless (Proverbs 31:8), to seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow (Isaiah 1:17).

We bring the Good News to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and open the doors of the prison (Isaiah 61:1). We leave the 99 to save the one (Matthew 18:12).
OUR FUNDS

WHERE MOST NEEDED FUND

Fund Balance: **LOW** • • • • •

The Where Most Needed fund supports all ministry needs, including frontline workers who investigate persecution cases, our advocacy initiatives on Capitol Hill, and our efforts to awaken the free Church to the plight of our suffering brothers and sisters. When other funds are running low, the Where Most Needed fund fills the gap.

35%

RESTORE FUND

Fund Balance: **MEDIUM-HIGH** • • • • •

When the persecuted Church suffers from a major attack or widespread discrimination, it often requires more than a quick fix. ICC created the Restore: Lives and Communities fund to address larger needs that impact entire communities.

34%

RESCUE FUND

Fund Balance: **LOW** • • • • •

One of the most common ways that believers are persecuted is when they are stripped of their ability to provide for themselves. We developed the Rescue: Wives and Kids fund to help families get back on their feet when the world has knocked them down.

16%

MESSENGERS FUND

Fund Balance: **LOW** • • • • •

With the Messengers: Underground Workers fund, ICC supports indigenous church planters, pastors, and ministry workers in the world’s most dangerous places. Their witness and mission is incredibly brave, but they need resources to penetrate the darkness.

15%

GOSPEL FUND

Fund Balance: **MEDIUM** • • • • •

The Bible is a living message, a spiritual fertilizer that brings life wherever it spreads. Through the Gospel: Bibles and Broadcasts fund, ICC spreads the Gospel using printed Bibles, radio broadcasts, and discipleship materials in areas that are hostile toward Christianity.
OUR REACH

2020
AT A GLANCE

ICC Staff and Partners

ICC Trips (Pre-COVID-19)
When the world came to a halt due to COVID-19, many Christians faced an uncertain future.

In Pakistan, one of the world’s worst persecutors of Christians, the COVID-19 pandemic placed the country on lockdown for months. The lockdown had a dramatic effect on the country’s poor and minorities, as jobs were lost and food stores emptied. Unable to work, families quickly drained their savings and hunger began to stalk many homes.

As food shortages and health crises grew, many members of our persecuted family were cut off from government aid and the resources they needed. Christians who turned to the government for help were sent away empty-handed. In some instances, Christians were asked to convert to Islam to receive aid.

“During the last two months, I was rejected at two food aid distributions for being a Christian,” Kausar Bibi told ICC in May.

Above: “Christian people in the villages are suffering,” Nadir Masih, a Christian who was denied food aid, told ICC. “We experienced rejection, which was heartbreaking. My children did not eat for two days. Also, Muslims indirectly pressured us to join their faith.”

Right: Cut off from their normal support systems by the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of rural pastors in India and their families received critical food aid from ICC.
In response to reports like these, ICC launched the COVID-19 Crisis fund. Through this initiative, ICC has raised $327,316 and served over 27,000 persecuted Christians from 11 countries around the world.

“This aid comes as a miracle for my family,” Bibi told ICC after receiving a desperately needed food package. “My kids will enjoy the food for the next few weeks. We hope we will soon be able to earn an income and feed them. God bless you.”

Below: ICC’s food packages contain many pantry staples, such as rice, flour, potatoes, lentils, eggs, sugar, and more.

Top Right: In response to testimonies of discrimination, ICC provided desperately needed COVID-19 aid to persecuted families.
COVID-19 Relief Impact

$327,316 Raised for Aid

11 Countries Reached

27,000 Persecuted Christians Served
ICC’s Hope Houses have been a beacon of hope for persecuted Christians trapped in generational poverty. In Egypt, children and their families receive supplemental education, job training, food packages, and more. Although Egypt was locked down for several months, ICC’s two Hope Houses served as a lifeline for persecuted Christians.

Thankfully, the lockdown occurred shortly after Hope House completed hygiene classes for the local community.

The medical skills they learned during this time proved life-saving during the following months. However, most Hope House families lost their income, forcing them into deeper poverty. The lockdown also delayed the children’s academic development.

*Above:* Children learn literacy skills in both English and Arabic, giving them the self-confidence to write and share during class.

*Top Right:* A microfinance loan from ICC helped Mariam open a hair salon in her home so she could generate her own income.

*Bottom Right:* Hope House teachers are dedicated to helping children understand the material.
ICC responded by providing food packages and microloans to help families develop their own small businesses. Our centers re-opened with a focus on teaching children the material that they lost during the lockdown.

One teacher spoke to us about the difficulty that Christian children in Egypt face in public school, where they are bullied by their peers and teachers.

She said, “Many students aren’t self-confident to write and share during the class. But by the end of Hope House’s educational term, I noticed they were full of enthusiasm and self-confidence.”
The Middle Belt region of Nigeria is one of the world's most dangerous places to be a Christian. Over the first nine months of 2020, more than 1,500 Christians were murdered by either Boko Haram or Fulani Islamic militants in Nigeria.

Tens of thousands of Christians had their homes and lands stolen this year alone. Millions of Christians are now living as refugees in Nigeria.

In order to help fight this epidemic, ICC develops communal farms for those whose lives have been shattered by the violence they have faced in their country. Those who have had family members killed or injured and those who have lost access to their land receive aid through this initiative.

In 2020 alone, we completed another two farms, which assisted 150 families. These families each harvested roughly 3,000 pounds of rice from the farms. The farms provide dignity, work, food, and a steady source of income.

We look forward to continuing to build out more farms as we expand this project in 2021.
Women thresh their rice to release the grain. Our farms produce cassava, rice, cucumbers, green beans, peas, carrots, onions, and many other crops.

Persecuted Christians are not only feeding themselves, but are also paying for their children’s school fees and medical costs through the sale of their produce. Each farm seeks to help 500-700 Christian survivors affected by persecution.
Seven years ago, the Christians of Peshawar, Pakistan experienced devastating loss. As church members exited All Saints Church, two Islamic suicide bombers attacked. The resulting scene was mass carnage, with blood and shrapnel littering the church compound.

When the smoke cleared, approximately 100 Christians were killed and hundreds more injured. Many children’s lives were instantly changed forever when the bombs exploded, leaving them orphaned.

Since 2014, ICC has been providing a first-class education to 30 children who lost their parents in the bombing. Today, they have a bright future ahead of them.

“If not for ICC, my child would not be in school,” one student’s grandfather told ICC. “We are so thankful for your support. Our children are in school now because of ICC.”

The 2013 attack remains the single deadliest attack on Pakistan’s Christian community.
When this family in Iraq converted to Christianity, the death threats soon followed. The messages to the Christian family gradually increased in violence. When the messages threatened beheading, they fled. ICC immediately sprang into action to assist them in relocating their lives in secrecy. ICC furnished their new apartment and helped the father purchase a taxi to earn an income. “My life totally changed,” the father shared. “I could never imagine that I will get that much help. [I] thank everyone who contributed to make this happen.”
At one point, Tirpan’s family was preparing to sell their farmland to pay for the treatment. This would have taken away their livelihood.
In May, Tirpan, a 65-year-old man, was attacked by his Hindu brother because he refused to recant his Christian faith. As a result, Tirpan’s hip was broken. Unable to afford treatment, Tirpan suffered in excruciating pain for nearly three months.

“I cannot get up on my own, sit, or even get to the toilet,” Tirpan told ICC. “The pain is increasing day by day.”

No government hospital would admit Tirpan or give him the necessary medical treatment due to limited space reserved for COVID-19 patients. With no money, the family could not cover the cost of the surgery Tirpan needed to restore his fractured hip.

ICC arranged for Tirpan to have surgery on his hip. He is now back home, pain-free, and working in his fields.

“I thank ICC for helping with my father’s treatment,” Tirpan’s son said. “We are very encouraged by the way God’s people responded to our troubles.”
Velma lost her husband, Kevin, earlier this year. Kevin had been travelling home from Mandera, Kenya, where he worked. On the way, al-Shabaab ambushed his bus and murdered him when he refused to recant his faith in Christ. Velma was five months pregnant when Kevin was killed. Already a mother of two, Velma gave birth to her youngest son, Rowen, in July. In order to help, ICC gave her a six-month supply of food and children's clothes in early June. Two months later, ICC stepped in to provide Velma with a small business so that she could provide for her children as the family's new breadwinner.
Velma lost her husband when al-Shabaab militants ambushed his bus, targeting non-Muslim passengers.

Kevin is one among many Christians who have lost their lives at the ruthless hands of al-Shabaab militants in Kenya. The Islamic radical group has carried out attacks in Nairobi, Mombasa, Lamu, and the three northeastern counties of Garissa, Mandera, and Wajir.
Pastor Samuel has always had a heart for serving children. He and his wife minister to approximately 140 impoverished children in Sri Lanka’s central highlands. Though his work helps so many, Pastor Samuel receives little financial support from the parents and faces threats from Buddhist nationalists.

To support his ministry, we teamed up with partners on the ground to provide Pastor Samuel with the funds he needed to start a flowerpot manufacturing business and a vegetable garden. Using this support, Pastor Samuel has been able to continue his ministry without facing undue financial challenges.
**Far Left:** The extra income generated through Pastor Samuel’s business venture will allow him to devote more of his attention toward his ministry. In addition to agricultural support provided by our partners on the ground, ICC provided materials for Pastor Samuel to manufacture flowerpots, which is a growing industry in his region.

**Left:** Despite threats from Buddhist nationalists, Pastor Samuel persists in his ministry, confident that the Lord will provide.

**Below:** Many of the children whom Pastor Samuel cares for come from poverty-stricken homes, and their families are unable to provide him with any financial support. Furthermore, the pastor and his wife have opened up their own home to four children in need.
Above: After Charles converted to Christianity, his zeal for the Gospel and fellowship with other believers grew tremendously. Today, he continues to witness to Muslims, despite the risk.

Right: When Charles converted to Christianity, he was locked inside a small, dark room and given seven days to repent and re-convert to Islam. When he refused, he was slowly starved.

Far Right: Thankfully, Charles survived numerous attempts on his life and today is a strong witness for Christ.

Want to hear more of Charles's personal testimony?
Tune into episodes 33 and 34 of Into the Deep, ICC’s podcast hosted by ICC President Jeff King, available on Spotify, Pandora, iHeartRadio, Apple Podcasts, and www.persecution.org.
Charles has truly suffered for his conversion to Christianity. After being beaten, kidnapped, poisoned, and rejected by his entire Muslim family, God showed mercy and spared his life. ICC helped him relocate from his Muslim community to a nearby county. Despite all of this, shortly after moving, Charles started evangelizing to Muslim fundamentalists in his new town. He is currently discipling nine Muslim men and says that he would pay any price for his faith!
In response to COVID-19, ICC kept in close contact with hundreds of Bibles and Bikes beneficiaries across India. We prayed with these evangelists and listened to their concerns. ICC also provided them with critical food aid that brought joy and renewed their faith.
Two years ago, ICC launched a campaign to bring the Gospel to India’s rural and unreached communities. We call it our Bibles and Bikes for India initiative.

To date, ICC has empowered 820 rural evangelists throughout more than half of India’s 28 states to share the Gospel. We equipped each of these evangelists with a bicycle for transportation and 100 Bibles to distribute to new believers. Using these simple tools, the Bibles and Bikes evangelists visited 3,874 rural and previously unreached villages, started 448 new Christian fellowships, and led 6,084 individuals to faith in Christ as their Lord and Savior.

ICC is blown away by the impact the Bibles and Bikes initiative is already having in India, and we expect to reach our goal of empowering 1,000 evangelists by the end of 2020.
Imagine preaching the Gospel without a Bible. An underground pastor in Egypt did just that as he led his discipleship group as best as he could without a copy of the Bible to read at gatherings. For months, members of the group relied upon memory and borrowed pages of Scripture, since they did not have access to their own copy of the Bible.

ICC partnered with a Christian bookstore that provided the Bibles at a discount, enabling everyone access to Scripture. “This is the most precious gift. We have been praying for it for three months,” said one Muslim-background believer. Another added, “Thanks for the people who think about us and send us these Bibles.”

Above: ICC purchased 74 Bibles that were distributed to Muslim-background believers in Egypt.

Top Right: With the help of generous donors, ICC printed and shipped tens of thousands of Bibles into Laos.

Bottom Right: Underground church members proudly show off their new Bibles.

24,000
Bibles distributed in Laos
In communist Laos, every aspect of religious life is controlled by the government. Underground churches in Laos have to operate in secrecy and are limited in resources, particularly Bibles. ICC recently sponsored Gospel outreach efforts in Laos, where $5,000 worth of Bibles were brought in and freely distributed to churches in need. Approximately 24,000 Bibles from ICC have flowed directly into the hands of Christians in Laos who lack access to the written Word of God.
Turkey
Genocide nearly eliminated Christianity from Turkey a century ago. To help rebuild the Church, ICC supports the ministries of underground pastors in Turkey.

Kenya
Kenya is one of the few (mostly) safe havens for Christians in East Africa. However, sharing a border with Somalia leads to various issues, including Islamic extremism. ICC was able to rebuild a damaged church and supports an evangelist in a Muslim-dominated area of Nairobi.

Egypt
Facing abuse from their families and even death threats, Muslim-background believers in Egypt face extreme pressure after conversion. ICC supports them with safehouses and discipleship in their new journey.

Uganda
Though Uganda is a primarily Christian nation, it has many strong Muslim communities throughout the country where converts to Christianity are abused, disowned, and threatened by family and neighbors. ICC supports their discipleship and care as they transition to their new life in Christ.

Eritrea
Referred to as the “North Korea of Africa,” Eritrea is one of the most closed countries in the world. Evangelism is outlawed and Christians face indefinite imprisonment. ICC smuggles audio-Bibles into Eritrea to support the brave underground Church.

Iraq
The horrors of ISIS left many Iraqis curious about Christianity, leading many to convert. ICC helps converts relocate, rebuild their lives, and receive discipleship so they can live with security and stability.
Years of civil war have ravaged Yemen, leaving many hungry for a message of peace. ICC provided relief for Gospel-seekers suffering from famine.

ICC continues to invest in the underground Church in Afghanistan. Ranked one of the toughest places to be a Christian in the world, these investments provide small businesses for underground pastors, translation and publication of Christian literature, Christian radio broadcasts, and monthly support for underground pastors.

Across Pakistan, ICC trained 328 pastors and church leaders to effectively and safely reach out to their Muslim neighbors and members of Pakistan’s convert community. We also employed a massive follow-up network for those interested in learning more about Jesus.

ICC supports evangelists and church planters in Iran where suicide bombings, imprisonment, and discrimination are heartbreaking realities for many Christians in the region.

Persecution in India continued to escalate in 2020. To counter this, ICC trains church leaders how to legally avoid, mitigate, and manage arrests. ICC also supports an army of church planters with their ministry needs.

ICC supported the broadcast of the Gospel into North Korea twice daily through radio, bringing hope to the hermit nation.

With the help of local partners, ICC smuggled thousands of Bibles into Laos for evangelism and to support believers without Bibles.

ICC provided 1,000 printed Hmong Bibles and 100 audio-Bibles to Hmong Christians who have limited access to the Word or are illiterate and live in rural areas.

Indonesia contains the largest Muslim population in the world. ICC supports Muslim-background believers who are evangelizing and discipling Muslims with small businesses so that they can safely minister in dangerous areas.
The popularity of podcasts soared in 2020. Not only are they easy to fit into the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, they inform and entertain us like few mediums can. It’s easy to consume a podcast while working, doing chores around the house, or working out.

ICC launched its podcast, Into the Deep, hosted by ICC president Jeff King, in 2020. The podcast features weekly interviews and stories about persecution and the spiritual growth that comes from it.

Each interview offers a deep dive into the lives of the persecuted, international policy experts, and spiritual leaders.

Listen to new episodes of Into the Deep weekly on iTunes, Spotify, Pandora, iHeartRadio, or www.persecution.org.
Despite its flaws, social media is a powerful tool that can be used to bring about positive change for those in need. In July 2020, we issued a call to our Instagram followers about the need for Hope House child sponsors. Actor and advocate for the persecuted Nathaniel Buzolic came across the post, and graciously helped us spread the word on his own platform. Within a matter of hours, all of the remaining children were matched up with sponsors! Thanks to this exciting development, we were able to expand our program and bring several new children in. It might seem like a small gesture, but the simple act of a “like” or share can truly bring about tangible change in the lives of the persecuted.

The Digital Frontier

Social Media Reach:
Nearly 900,000 Followers

Facebook: 820,000
@persecuted

Twitter: 75,300
@persecutionnews

Instagram: 3,500
@internationalchristianconcern

69 news releases

102 press interviews

1,320,000 website pageviews

111,249 video views
ADVOCATING FOR THE PERSECUTED

ICC is constantly advocating for the rights and freedoms of Christians around the world. We bring religious freedom issues to the table in D.C. with one goal in mind: to open prison doors and to push back countries that persecute. Here are a few highlights of our advocacy work in 2020:

Focus Countries in 2020

- Iran
- Pakistan
- Algeria

Above: ICC hosted some of its distinguished fellows to discuss the importance of international religious freedom.

Below: ICC’s Advocacy Director, Matias Perttula, visited a persecuted country earlier this year before the pandemic hit.
US GovChooses ICC to ID Persecutors

Persecutors of Christians are often wealthy foreign government leaders. They travel abroad and their children are often educated in the West. Thankfully, that leaves them vulnerable to US human rights laws. That's where ICC comes in. We gather evidence on persecutors and submit our findings to the US government with the hopes of pressuring these foreign governments to implement change. These sanctions can cause disruption in their plans and make it impossible for the persecutors or their families to travel to the West.

ICC was chosen by a congressional commission to provide them with the names of these persecutors and proof of their human rights abuses. Last year, ICC exposed Iranian judges who were unjustly sending Christians to prison. Based on our recommendation, multiple judges in Iran were successfully sanctioned by the US government for their human rights abuses.

ICC Partners with Churches in Algeria

When several of Algeria’s largest churches were forcibly closed in 2019, ICC began to work with the Algerian Church to advocate for their right to worship. This advocacy effort continues to this day as, unfortunately, the Algerian government has done little to expand religious freedom. Still, the issue seems to be gaining international attention, with the State Department and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom each pressuring Algeria to make changes.

Petition for the Release of a Captive Teen

In October 2019, Huma Younus, a 14-year-old Christian girl in Pakistan, was kidnapped at gunpoint. She was repeatedly raped, forced to convert to Islam, and married against her will to her kidnapper. She is now pregnant and remains in the custody of her captors. ICC has been tirelessly working on her case in Washington D.C. and launched a petition calling for her release. We are cautiously optimistic that we can secure her release, so please keep her in prayer.
CONTACT ICC TO HELP THE HURTING:

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