refuge
[ref·u·ge] noun
a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger, or trouble.

CONTENTS

About ICC.................................................................04
Africa ............................................................................06
Middle East...............................................................12
South Asia.................................................................18
Southeast Asia.........................................................24
Advocacy for the Persecuted.................................28
Awareness .................................................................30

ON THE COVER
A mother with her daughter and newborn live in an IDP camp in Nigeria after they were displaced from Fulani militant attacks. Overview of IDP camp on back cover.

Photo: International Christian Concern

OUR MISSION: Since 1996, ICC has served the global persecuted church through a three-pronged approach of advocacy, awareness, and assistance. ICC exists to bandage the wounds of persecuted Christians and to build the church in the toughest parts of the world.

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.
So much of our work at International Christian Concern (ICC) involves being a source of refuge for our persecuted brothers and sisters. As believers in Christ, we must follow the example of David, who said, “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold (Psalm 18:2).”

Earlier in the year, a devastating earthquake pummeled Christians in northern Turkey and Syria. We gave temporary refuge — tents, food, clothing, medical products. We also picked up the pieces and helped Pakistani believers after a radical mob descended on the Christian community of Jaranwala.

Because of your help, we are grateful to come alongside many widows in IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps in Africa, whose husbands were killed by militias. There are thousands who need our help. I’m excited to share in the coming weeks about a new project to help them secure land, seed, baby chickens, and a stove — so they can support themselves and make money. We are laying the foundation for this important initiative.

And in the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo), we support an orphanage that cares for orphans of parents who are killed by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).

We read in the Book of James, that “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress ... (James 1:27).” To provide refuge.

What a privilege it is to be a safe harbor for persecuted followers of Christ who need rest.

Thank you for allowing us to be a place of refuge for so many brothers and sisters in their time of greatest need.

Refuge: Our 2023 theme for our annual report comes from Psalm 18:2, “…my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”
ABOUT ICC

OUR MISSION
International Christian Concern (ICC) exists to relieve the suffering of the worldwide persecuted church and help it grow in strength and breadth. ICC accomplishes its mission through effective assistance, advocacy, and awareness with integrity toward God and our donors.

A HOLISTIC ATTACK ON PERSECUTION

WE ADVOCATE
by working with government leaders and challenging persecuting countries.

WE ASSIST
by coming alongside Christians in their time of greatest need.

WE AWAKEN
by bringing persecution awareness to the sacred and secular world.

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

REVENUE
- 2020: $3,573,529
- 2021: $5,689,580
- 2022: $4,186,166

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION
- 2020: $444,985
- 2021: $624,408
- 2022: $602,668

FUNDRAISING
- 2020: $50,714
- 2021: $40,031
- 2022: $34,105

PROGRAM
- 2020: $2,283,116
- 2021: $3,646,164
- 2022: $2,127,839

OUR IMPACT

PROJECTS
- 247 APPROVED
- 164 COMPLETED

IMPACT
- 5,351 BENEFICIARIES HELPED
- 29 COUNTRIES SERVED

FUNDS
- 1.24M FUNDS SENT OUT YTD
WHERE WE WORK

ALGERIA
AFGHANISTAN
CAMEROON
DRC
EGYPT
ETHIOPIA
ERITREA
THE GAMBIA
GAZA
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAN
IRAQ
KENYA
LAOS
LIBYA
MAURITANIA
NEPAL
NIGERIA
NORTH KOREA
PAKISTAN
SOMALIA
SUDAN
SYRIA
TANZANIA
TURKEY
UGANDA
ZAMBIA

ICC MAJOR PROJECTS

Hope House

GOAL Open 10 New Hope Houses

CURRENTLY OPEN
IN PROGRESS
NEED

Hope House Countries

Generation Transformation

GOAL

150 CHILDREN ENROLLED
200 CHILDREN ENROLLED

Nigeria Farms

GOAL

114 CURRENT COMPLETED FARMS
80 TOTAL FARMS

Bibles & Pastors

GOAL

18,476 BIBLES DISTRIBUTED
203 PASTORS EQUIPPED AND TRAINED

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ICC HEADQUARTERS)

ICC STAFF & PROJECTS
Worshipers gather on Sundays, rain or shine, in central Nigeria. Radical Fulani militants burned 500 homes and a church on Easter 2021 and then again in 2022. Undeterred, hundreds of Christians continue to worship the Lord weekly at the same burned church.

“Sometimes we worship in the rain. I am passionate to preach the gospel of Christ,” said the church’s pastor. But many members stopped coming after the attacks, making it difficult to raise funds for repairs. Nevertheless, the community remains determined to rebuild, and we’ve come alongside them. Earlier this year, we asked you to help us rebuild, and the response was overwhelming. We’ve already begun to rebuild, and you can see the skeleton of the roof begin to take shape. After our headquarters staff visited the church, the community cannot express the hope it has brought to them. The pastor, at the time, was suffering from the flu since the roof on his house was also off from the attacks and sleeps out in the rain.

“[The pastor] said something interesting as we walked around the rubble of a church with no chairs. He said, ‘Our church has people and no chairs, and in the U.S., you have chairs and no people in your churches.’ I could understand why he was saying that when I saw crowds of people congregating around the church when we arrived. This is a very big Christian community who loves Jesus and to see their church in ruins was heartbreaking,” said one of ICC’s headquarters staff members.

Thank you! With your support, we started to rebuild this church and add a much-needed roof.
BLESSING ORPHANS ABUNDANTLY

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Young children in the Congo face a heart-wrenching reality because of Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) terrorists committing unspeakable brutalities. Thousands of children witness the harrowing demise of their parents, followed by unimaginable suffering. A compassionate pastor and his wife venture into the forest and bring these children to the orphanage that you help support. These children are not just survivors; they are a vital part of God’s eternal kingdom. With the increasing number of children found, the orphanage faces resource limitations despite earlier aid, including food, mattresses, medical care, and a long-term fishing project. Yet, there is still a pressing need for added support.

“ICC has become part of us and for that we are so thankful. The children at the orphanage are very happy about the many gifts you have been giving us,” said the pastor’s wife. “The donations that come from you make you part of the few people changing the stories for many orphans in the Congo. The kids now have shoes, food, and medicines, and we trust God that this project will bring healing to the orphans that are still struggling with the reality that their parents were killed. Once again, thank you for your life.”

STITCHING HOPE AND FAITH

TANZANIA | Many prisoners in Tanzania come from Muslim backgrounds, and through the good work of prison ministries—and ultimately, the grace of God—many people have converted to Christianity. After these individuals leave the prison system, they find persecution from their own families, including abandonment, violence, and death threats. ICC and our partners bought 10 sewing machines for a church (which also serves as short-term housing) to teach hundreds of young women how to sew various articles of women’s clothing. They now have the necessary skills to start their own tailoring business.

One student told ICC, “I thank God that He knows our problems. He knows the hardships that we were going through for faith in Christ. I am happy that he has heard my prayers and that he has not left me in all situations. Now I expect that after finishing the tailoring training, I will be able to take care of myself and continue in faith. Thank you to the Christians who supported this project.”
LOVE AND LOSS IN THE FACE OF TERROR

KENYA | A chilling tragedy unfolded for four families as al-Shabab, the notorious Somali-based Islamic terrorist group, executed four Christian workers. Left behind in the wake of the attack was Joseph’s wife Catherine, burdened not only by the immense sorrow of losing her husband, but also by the weight of the pregnancy of their sixth child.

“I lost him when I needed him most,” she lamented. “Not that he was unimportant before I conceived our baby but because we needed his support during the pregnancy and after the delivery of the baby. But the Lord had other plans.”

Hearing of this tragic event, we came alongside to offer support to the four families. “Thank you for extending your generosity to me and my baby. Just over a month after delivering her, we were going through a difficult period, and I was wondering how we were going to survive. Now I have food in the house and money to buy her clothes and take her to the clinic. I will also keep part of the money to start a grocery store after she grows up in a few months.”

ICC GIVES LIFE TO RECENT CONVERTS

UGANDA | Sara’s life took a dramatic turn in 2022 when she embraced Christianity, igniting a firestorm of persecution. Sara was baptized, and what should have been a joyous and transformative experience turned into a life-threatening situation.

Her radical Islamic husband reacted with fury upon learning of her conversion. After this, Sara’s church leaders relocated her— but it wasn’t long until he found her and threatened her children, forcing her to relocate yet again. Her husband took all her belongings, and she was left with nothing. With your help, we provided her with household supplies (pictured right), rent, school fees, and a small business.

“Since [my husband] chased me away with nothing, I was living like a beggar until today when I received the items you brought for me. I am very thankful for the food and the other important household things given to me and my children to help us rise from the dust and focus on life once again,” said Sara.

ICC has helped dozens of Christian converts from Islam in Uganda, throughout Africa, and beyond.
In 2023, we’ve helped start or assist 75 small businesses for persecuted families and individuals in our Africa region.

Did you know?

ICC opened projects in three new countries in Africa this year: Zambia, Cameroon, and Gambia.
To protect the identities of those we serve, specific locations have been censored.
TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD; BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM.  

RISING FROM THE RUBBLE  

TURKEY & SYRIA

After the devastating earthquakes that struck southeast Turkey near the Syrian border in February, we stepped into action to help Christian communities who already felt the effects of generations of persecution in the region because of your generous support. We worked with our partners on the ground to distribute food, hygiene, and power supplies to earthquake victims.

In May, we partnered with a local Christian radio station to repair and set up a transmitter to broadcast Christian radio in the earthquake zone.

And in Syria, our field teams launched three initiatives, offering food packages, hygiene supplies, and support for Christian families, as well as retreats for church leaders who opened their doors to aid earthquake survivors. These trainings were requested by the leaders, to better prepare them for managing future crises and to help process and heal from the secondary trauma from helping those suffering from the earthquake.

We organized a summer art program for displaced Christian children, creating a healing and enjoyable space for them. Currently, we are exploring options to provide new housing for the remaining Christian families in the Turkish earthquake zone.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2023, we’ve helped start or assist 107 small businesses for persecuted families and individuals in our Africa region.
SYRIA | Haitham and his wife were forced to flee their home due to the war. Because they were Christians, they were not safe. They sought refuge, where they faced challenges while renting a home and working to make ends meet. When they returned home, they started from scratch with rented accommodations and a shop, while Haitham’s wife pursued her Ph.D., determined to rebuild their life. We helped Haitham buy supplies to jump start his small business to support his family.

In response to the aid, Haitham said, “Every year I felt like I was living in the crucifixion and was waiting to live the resurrection. This year, I feel like I am living in the resurrection in my life.” When we followed up a few months later, he said, “My situation changed almost 50%. The number of my customers and income rose because of the help that I got from you. I was in a depression before I got the aid, as I was feeling that everything was black around me, now I am looking at everything with hope. Now, I am sure that whenever we feel that we are drowning, God’s hand will not leave us.”

YEAS ON ARTSAKH

ARTSAKH | We’ve been watching the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh (Recognized as Artsakh among Armenians) for multiple years and have even implemented assistance projects. In December 2022, Azerbaijan blockaded the Lachin Corridor, the only road that connects Artsakh to the outside world, creating a dire humanitarian crisis for the region’s 120,000 population. Then, on the night of Sept. 18, Azerbaijan launched a lightning military operation which ended in the country claiming full control of the Christian-majority Artsakh enclave. This led to the mass exodus of ethnic Christian Armenians back to Armenia, further worsening the humanitarian crisis. ICC continues to monitor the situation and supply aid in the most efficient and ethical manner.

A LIFELINE TO A BETTER FUTURE

HOPE HOUSE | For generations, Christians in Muslim-majority countries have borne the weight of discrimination, often relegated to second- or third-class citizens, with limited access to opportunities for growth. Their children, especially, face the harsh reality of denied education, which is often regarded as a pathway out of poverty. Hope House, ICC’s primary education initiative, recognizes this injustice and resolves to break these cycles of persecution and poverty.

Hope House offers a lifeline to Christian students. In the classroom, children not only receive essential education in literature, social studies, and mathematics, but also find spiritual guidance through discipleship and Bible classes. With the opening of a center in the Middle East and launching our newest center in India (more details on page 22) this year, Hope House extends its hand of compassion and change.
EGYPT

ICC’S ONE-TIME PROJECTS IN 2023

BUSINESSES THAT EMPOWER

Neeama is a Christian widow with two handicapped sons. Her extremist Muslim neighbor falsely accused her son of attacking his wife. Motivated out of revenge, the husband and his family attacked Neeama and her son in their home, beating and insulting them. Neeama reported the offense to the police, but no accountability was taken, forcing her family to move away from their abusive neighbors. With no source of income, we helped Neeama start a beauty shop business to sell products and generate income.

Neeama said, “Ten years have passed since the death of my husband, and I feel lonely and have no one to help me. But now I feel that God answered me and sent you. I am very happy to have this project and I believe this project is compensation from God for the injustice we experienced. I hope you keep praying for me and my children.”

FROM RANSOM TO REDEMPTION

After extremists kidnapped Mary’s husband because of his faith, their family was forced to pay a large ransom. Bankrupt, we came alongside the family to help them start a linen project and Mary sells towels, bed sheets, and blankets to cover their debts and support the family. Mary said, “This project is a compensation from God for what we’ve been through. I thank God for everything, and I know that the best is yet to come with Jesus. I am so grateful for the way that God has been at work in our lives. Thank you all for supporting me and my family. God bless you.”

CULTIVATING HOPE

Marianne and her family worked as caretakers when her husband began leaving for extended periods of time. Eventually, he converted to Islam, married a Muslim woman, and demanded custody of the children, forcing Marianne to flee with her children. She now works as a vegetable seller, making a meager income, and struggles with spoilage without a freezer for her produce. We helped Marianne with all the necessary equipment to make her vegetable stand thrive and support her family. She said, “God blessed me more than I expected and dreamed and opened a wide door for me to earn a living. I thank God and I thank you for generously providing for me.”

AN EVER-PRESENT GOD

Irene’s husband is disabled and unable to work after a stroke a few years ago, making her the sole provider for her family. At work, her boss sexually harasses her and tries to get her to leave her husband and convert to Islam, a pressure that many Christians feel from the Muslim-majority. We helped Irene leave her job and the pressure from her employer and helped her start a small business with her daughter selling clothes to provide for her family. Shortly after receiving the funds for the project, her husband passed away. Amid all her circumstances, she was still able to thank God. She said, “I don’t understand why God took my husband, but I’m sure He won’t abandon me and my daughter.”

To protect the identities of those we serve, specific locations have been censored.
ICC’S ONE-TIME PROJECTS IN 2023

CHRISTIAN CONVERTS

Amina embraced Jesus and was exiled from her family. Her husband deserted her and her children. Her suffering was relentless, marked by her son’s tragic death a few years ago. After moving to a safe town, Amina is learning how to sew as a livelihood. Her daughter serves on the church’s media team. Their life will never be the same, but they will forever be marked by the love of Christ and his loving body of believers.

Through your generous support, we care for dozens of new Christian believers in the Middle East. Each new convert needs at least six months of base-level care that includes a safe place to live, medical care, food, job training, and a small business to provide financial support for their new life.

ICC helps many Christian converts from Islam escape their dangerous living situations by providing business covers and meeting other crucial needs. However, due to the extreme sensitivity of these cases, we cannot divulge the specific details or locations of the Christians we rescue and provide a safe cover for.

A NEW CHAPTER

Nabeel and his family have been displaced multiple times in the last 20 years. He was working construction in 2003 when life became difficult for Christians, prompting him and his family to move to Qaraqosh. When ISIS invaded in 2014, he was forced to flee, yet again. In his new location, he opened a small grocery shop with his brother. After yet another move, he hopes to start a grocery auto rickshaw business to support his family and enable his son to return to school. Thanks to your generosity, we provided Nabeel with an auto rickshaw to jump start his business. “Today I will start a new chapter in my life working on my own, thanks to you. This auto rickshaw is a dream that came true... A heartfelt thank you! You are a real Christian organization because you represent Jesus on earth.”

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2023, we’ve helped start or assist 107 small businesses for persecuted families and individuals.
To protect the identities of those we serve, specific locations have been censored.

**RETURNING HOME**

- Mithaq, a former resident of Qaraqosh, had a thriving plumbing shop before the 2014 ISIS invasion. After fleeing, he and his family face a challenging and emotional journey, searching for a permanent home for two months. He decided to return home to Qaraqosh to discover his home and shop had been robbed. We helped him replace many of the items that ISIS looted to restart his life back at home. Mithaq said, “Previously I used to struggle because I didn’t have the proper equipment... I used to wonder when God would help me while supporting my family. Truly, I am now standing on my own feet, thanks to you and the mercy of God. My family and I love and appreciate you. We will never forget the help you provided.”

**HELP FROM ABOVE**

- Siban’s life was flourishing with a successful blacksmithing shop until the invasion of ISIS forced them to flee. They endured challenging living conditions for a year before returning to Qaraqosh, only to find their home burned and shop robbed. Siban was able to renovate his home, but we helped him reopen his blacksmithing shop to make an income, as he hopes to get married soon. He said, “My dream has come true. I now work for myself, all thanks to you. My mother used to tell me, ‘Jesus loves you, my child. Don’t worry.’ Now I understand the meaning of my mother’s words. Jesus helped me through all of you... I will work hard and persevere to improve myself in my work and save money to get married and bring joy to my mother.”

**A SIMPLE DREAM COME TRUE**

- Aysen had a thriving painting business before the ISIS invasion disrupted their lives. Following their displacement, they searched for stable living. Eventually, the liberation of Qaraqosh brought hope, but when they returned, their home, like so many others, was in ruins. We helped Aysen buy the necessary supplies to restart his business. “My joy cannot be described,” he said. “You have revived hope within me to stay in Qaraqosh because I will work hard as I have all I need for painting... I finally have an air spray gun, which was one of my simple dreams, and it has come true. You are amazing. I love you all very much and thank you for everything.”

**RETURN TO REFUGE**

- Sarmad enjoyed a peaceful life in Qaraqosh until ISIS disrupted everything. They fled the Islamic terrorist group like most Christians, but returned, only to discover their possessions stolen. We helped him acquire the tools necessary to restart his roofing business. He expressed, “I sincerely thank you from the depths of my heart for inspiring me in life and work. Thanks to you, I now have a variety of good tools... I don’t know how to repay your kindness. There were days when I lacked confidence at work because others had equipment that made their work faster. But now, with my new equipment, people will come to me because they know I have the latest tools. Thank you!”

**SUHA’S PASTRY BUSINESS**

- Suha and her family experience the shock of the ISIS invasion while attending her father’s funeral. They fled to Erbil and later rented a house. Her mother’s depression and high medical expenses were challenging, but Suha learned to make pastries to support her family. We helped Suha establish her pastry business when her family moved back home to Qaraqosh. “I truly thank you for lifting me up by providing me with the needed items,” she said. “I don’t know how to repay you all... I will support my husband and cover the expenses for my daughter’s epilepsy treatment. I will always pray for you. I know that everything that has happened to me is from God, and you are truly God’s children. I feel more encouraged in life and motivated in my work because I have the necessary and good equipment that qualifies me for the job.”
HELPING CHRISTIAN FAMILIES RISE FROM THE ASHES

PAKISTAN

Much of the world was shocked by the nightmare that descended on a Christian community in Pakistan this August. The dust has long settled, and the world has all but moved on. Yet, hundreds of Christian families and pastors are still picking up the pieces, trying to regain a foothold in the world that they lost. And we are there to help them.

A mob of 5,000 radical Muslims descended upon Jaranwala in a rampage. They set 26 churches ablaze, along with 196 homes, and many businesses. Angry mobs gathered after a false blasphemy allegation against a Christian, a fragile reminder of the discrimination and harassment that Christians in Pakistan face on a daily basis.

We had two of our ICC in-country staff on the ground interviewing victims and distributing aid shortly after the mob left.

“What I encountered was a scene of profound devastation. Every item within the homes had been reduced to ashes or torn into unrecognizable pieces. From ceiling fans to toilet seats, no object had been spared from the relentless flames,” said Ginger, ICC staff member.

The next day, a remarkable scene unfolded, highlighting the community’s reliance on the Lord.

“In a remarkable display of unwavering faith, they organized a large church gathering right amidst those charred streets. There, they worshiped, prayed, and conducted their Sunday service, undeterred by fear or adversity,” said Ginger.

Thanks to your help, we are distributing long-term care packages to multiple families who lost everything. These will include household items to replace the burned and destroyed home goods.
CULTIVATING CROPS AFTER CHAOS

- Gaurav and 25 other Christian believers were victims of anti-Christian riots that occurred in Chhattisgarh between Dec. 18, 2022, and Jan. 2, 2023. Rioters looted Christian homes, destroyed household items, and the seeds the farmers had stored for cultivation in the upcoming monsoon season. With their seeds gone, Christian farmers who rely on agriculture for their livelihood are unable to cultivate for the season, compounding the challenges they face after being looted and displaced during the riots. More than 2,000 Christians, many injured by radical Hindu nationalists. We bought seeds and fertilizers for 100 Christian farmers to help them cultivate and support their families and community. “I had no seeds or fertilizer to cultivate the land, but now I have been given seeds and fertilizers. I will do crop work successfully. I thank God and your organization for this great help to me and all the people,” said one of the Christian farmers.

A CHURCH PLANTERS PLIGHT

- In the middle of the day, a group of around 20 to 25 people from a neighboring village threatened to attack Pastor Manoj’s house. Fearing for his life, the pastor fled and informed the police about the attack. Despite having informed the police earlier about the threats, the attackers damaged his property, including his house, church roof, and destroyed personal documents. We set up Pastor Manoj in a temporary rented house outside his village due to safety concerns until the situation can calm down. We also provided him with food and other necessities during this difficult season.
FALSE CONVERSION ALLEGATIONS

Pastor Rakesh was taken into police custody in the middle of a Sunday worship service, accused of converting people to Christianity. Radical Hindu nationalists, accompanied by police, entered the church, verbally abused the pastor, and arrested him on false conversion charges. Before his arrest, nearly 150 Christians would gather at his church, but its doors have remained closed. His extended family have all abandoned him, leaving him in a precarious situation with food shortages and financial difficulties. We bought an auto rickshaw to support his family while his church remains closed. “Thank you so much for helping me get an auto rickshaw. It’s really helped us a lot for meeting family needs and ministry needs, and to stand for God and do His ministry continually.”

CHARGED UNDER ANTI-CONVERSION LAWS

A group of 16 Christians, including Pastor Rahul, were falsely charged under Uttar Pradesh’s anti-conversion laws earlier this year. During Sunday worship, a mob of 15-20 radical Hindu nationalists, along with 10 police, disrupted the 250-person service. The mob verbally abused the Christians and captured videos and pictures of the gathering. After an hour of harassment, 16 Christians were taken to the police station for interrogation. Since the incident, these Christians face intense pressure from locals. We supplied three months of groceries for these individuals to alleviate the burden of supplying their basic needs, as well as supported the travel and court-related expenses during their legal proceedings. “You were a huge blessing; when we were hungry and very much needy, you stood with us and helped us. Thank you very much for your great concern for us. In times of trouble and hopeless, you strengthened an encouraged us,” said the pastor.

REFUSING TO RENOUNCE

Prakash and his wife were violently attacked on January 13 in their village by his own relatives who were influenced by radical Hindu nationalists. The young couple had converted to Christianity two months prior to the attack, and they were brutally beaten because they refused to renounce their new faith. To add to that, the attackers destroyed their home and food supplies. We helped the couple and their young son rebuild their home and provided them with groceries. “We thank God for the provision of rebuilding our house. Thank you for helping us during this time of persecution. You stood with us and supported us by meeting our food needs and living needs. Thank you so much.”

FLEEING PERSECUTION

Pastor Ravi and his family fled their village at night on New Year’s Day to escape an impending mob attack of more than 500 radical Hindu nationalists. Lost in the darkness, Pastor Ravi his family for four days. While they fled, the mob attacked and desecrated his home, making it impossible for him to conduct church services. He relies on the tithes and offerings from his congregation for survival. These events were part of larger anti-Christian riots in the area, where hundreds of Christians were displaced or hospitalized.

We came alongside Pastor Ravi and provided his family, along with two other families affected, groceries and other essentials for three months. The pastor said, “We are so thankful for you standing along with me and my family, supporting me in these tough times in our life. It’s such a big blessing to my family... We were in a critical situation in the last six weeks due to persecution in Chhattisgarh. We thank you and we are encouraged and strengthened so much by your help.”

BRUISING THE BODY OF CHRIST

A mob of more than 60 radical Hindu nationalists attacked a church during Sunday morning worship in Uttar Pradesh. Chanting pro-Hindu slogans and accusing Christians of illegal conversions, the assailants stormed the church, severely injuring the pastor and his son. Women attending the service were subject to brutal beatings and abuse. Not only did the attackers physically harm the congregation, they vandalized the church and destroyed many items—even the church’s cross. We helped rebuild the church and helped the pastor and other congregants with food aid while they get recover from this horrifying attack. “We are so thankful to ICC for standing along with the persecuted family and supplying groceries and medical treatment to survive in these tough times in our life. It’s such a big blessing to my family.”

To protect the identities of those we serve, specific locations have been censored.
EXPANDING HOPE IN INDIA

INDIA

We recognize that education can break the cycle of poverty and persecution. Our goal this year was to add 10 Hope Houses to those we already have in the Middle East and beyond. These are Christian-based centers that supply education and sustenance to children and their families. We partner with churches and give kids the tools to succeed.

We recently launched a Hope House in India. Our team visited the 40 kids, along with leaders of the village who are thrilled with the school. The center has been open for a year and the students have shown amazing progress. We presented certificates to the children—they and their parents were beyond grateful.

We even used the center this summer to train young women on computers so they can enter the workforce.

Thank you so much for supporting our education initiatives that are changing lives, families, and communities.

BIKES & BIBLES

INDIA

One of our flagship programs is our Bikes & Bibles initiative in India. We have trained and equipped more than 1,000 church planters throughout the years, each with a bicycle and 100 New Testaments to take into hard-to-reach communities in a country that’s hostile toward Christianity. This year, we’ve equipped 140 new church planters with more 14,000 Bibles in India alone!

These courageous and passionate evangelists reach difficult areas where they are often harassed and threatened by Hindu radicals. Two of our U.S.-based staff recently visited a rural community and gave 20 bikes and 2,000 Bibles to 20 pastors.

“Nothing is more inspiring than meeting the Christian leaders in hostile territory. It’s so much easier to be a Christian in the West when compared to our brothers and sisters abroad. These people love God and live out Christ despite the harassments, physical abuse, torture and killing. It would be so simple to denounce God and live the way 99% of the rest of the country does, but instead they seek to expand the Kingdom and thank God for the opportunity. To be a small part in God’s plan for these places is extremely humbling,” said one of the staffers who visited.

“These people love God and live out Christ despite the harassments, physical abuse, torture, and killing. It would be so simple to denounce God...but instead they seek to expand the Kingdom.”

- ICC U.S.-BASED STAFFER WHO VISITED INDIA
GENERATION TRANSFORMATION

PAKISTAN

Our Generation Transformation initiative serves college and vocational students who wouldn’t otherwise have the opportunity to continue their education. The opportunities for these young Christians to break generations of persecution skyrocket with a secondary education.

We have 220 students enrolled in our Generation Transformation program, including 28 new students in intermediate schooling so they can start university in the near future.

In addition, we’ve invested in vocational training on top of our three and four year degrees as well as expanded in our media school training. We’re building out more locations and more topics of study to expand the program next year!

SHARE THE MEAL

INDIA

Christians in Chhattisgarh, India are suffering. Hundreds of believers were displaced after violent attacks during Christmas and New Year’s last year. Mobs of radical Hindu nationalists went on a rampage. They looted and vandalized homes and churches and attacked believers. Thousands of Christians were left homeless in the central Indian state.

In the aftermath, a serious food crisis in Chhattisgarh and neighboring Uttar Pradesh emerged. Pastors are often beaten by mobs and then arrested for “illegally” sharing their faith. Radical Hindu nationalists use anti-conversion laws to falsely accuse pastors and stir up trouble. When pastors are arrested or lose their jobs, their families suffer. With your help, we’ve distributed hundreds of food packages through our ‘Share the Meal’ program.
FROM OUTCASTS TO BELOVED

INDONESIA

A safe house in Indonesia, supported by ICC, supplies solace to a group of young believers. These brave individuals have converted from Islam to Christianity, a choice that had made them outcasts in the eyes of their Islamic community, marked as apostates, and deserving of the gravest consequences. As they embark on this new journey, with next to nothing, we’ve provided furniture and essential supplies (pictured below), ensuring their new beginning is supported by their family in faith.

Separated from their families and former lives, they find comfort in the embrace of the local church to which runs the safe house. Here, they are nurtured, given the strength to start anew, and emboldened to overcome the persecution they had endured.

As they rebuilt their lives within the loving community that surrounded them, the safe house in Indonesia stood as a testament to the resilience of faith in the face of adversity.

“BUT LET ALL WHO TAKE REFUGE IN YOU BE GLAD; LET THEM EVER SING FOR JOY. SPREAD YOUR PROTECTION OVER THEM, THAT THOSE WHO LOVE YOUR NAME MAY REJOICE IN YOU.”

PSALM 5:11
FREE TO WORSHIP AT LAST

- Ani dreamed of meeting Jesus one night. His family threatened to harm him if he didn’t denounce Christianity. After he fled his family, ICC paid for housing for one year so he could remain safe.

FINDING CHRIST IN A TSUNAMI

- Isla was raised in a strict Islamic family but had deep questions about the faith. She began to explore Christianity after the 2004 tsunami. Isla became connected with a local church where she met her husband. Despite being cut off from her family and losing her inheritance, she found strength in Christ and began working as a tailor to support her three children. ICC helped secure a home for the family this year after facing additional persecution from her community.

REFUGE AND REVIVAL

- Putra encountered Christ when her friend for prayed for her ailing son, leading to a miraculous recovery. Despite facing family opposition and physical abuse following her conversion, Putra found love and support through Rudi who encouraged her to study Christianity with other former Muslims who had converted. She was baptized a year later and married Rudi. Her family’s disapproval led to a violent abduction. Putra and Rudi sought refuge and a fresh start with the support of ICC.

RETURNING TO JESUS

- Siti was raised in a Christian family but converted to Islam after his brothers converted. The pivotal moment came a few years ago when Siti’s mother passed away, prompting a deep remorse for straying from his Christian faith. Despite the backlash from his Islamic community, Siti returned to Jesus.

SEEKING SOLACE IN CHRIST

- Dewi is a widower with three children, who found faith in Christ after the loss of his wife. When his parents-in-law discovered his conversion, they expelled him from their home. Dewi now lives in a rented home with ICC’s help, while his in-laws have possession of his children.

AN EVANGELIST’S DREAM

- Joko, a practicing Muslim had a dream where he was visited by a figure in a white robe, after having conversations with his Christian friend about Jesus. This affirmed the truth in his friend’s words, leading him to follow Jesus. Joko was baptized and enthusiastically shared his faith with his neighbors and acquaintances, resulting in his family’s anger and refusal to support him. Joko relied on others for support until ICC stepped in to help him establish a fish farming business.

To protect the identities of those we serve, specific locations have been censored.
BRINGING HOPE TO THE OPPRESSED

NORTH KOREA & CHINA | Two of the underlying causes of persecution, among many, are evil and Marxism. The Apostle Paul tells us that our battle is against the “…powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12).” And in many communist countries, leaders target Christians because of their loyalties to Jesus rather than the government.

Nowhere are these two causes of persecution more evident than in China and North Korea. Christians are forced to go underground or risk imprisonment, torture, or death. The 400,000 Christians in North Korea must practice in secret – a 2-year-old was sentenced to life in prison this year when his parents were found with a Bible. And China’s leader Xi Jinping demands Christians put him and his Communist party first before Christ.

With your help, International Christian Concern (ICC) makes these two regimes a priority in bringing hope to our brothers and sisters. We continue to work with a partner that broadcasts daily Christian messages into North Korea – gospel programming, Bible teachings, prayers, Biblical dramas, and sermons – to introduce North Koreans to Jesus Christ. These broadcasts bring life-changing exposure and salvation. In China, we advocate for pastors who are arrested and yet faithfully serve the underground church.

We learned this year that many North Korean Christians who fled to China in the past to escape persecution, were unfortunately bused back to the hermit kingdom for repatriation. We joined other organizations and contacted government officials to save the 100 or so refugees who now face certain imprisonment, interrogation, and worse.

WHEN THE WORD OF GOD IS BANNED

ICC supported local Christians to smuggle 2,000 plus Bibles to Muslim-background believers (MBBs) in a Southeast Asian nation under heavy scrutiny from government officials.

After receiving one of these Bibles, a believer said, “Thank you for this Bible. You have fulfilled one of my dreams to have an actual copy of a Bible in my mother tongue. Receiving this Bible in my language means I can teach and be glad in the Lord Jesus for His words.”

We cannot name the country given the high level of persecution and monitoring of Christians there.
We celebrated the release of two Christian prisoners in Algeria this year. The two men – whose names are withheld for security purposes – were arrested and imprisoned for producing Christian radio and TV programs. Sadly, they were arrested on Christmas Eve, and have been sitting in jail ever since. Their families had no means of support, so we provided them with necessities. One family is expecting a baby.

Meanwhile, our Advocacy team worked closely on their case behind the scenes with U.S. government officials, sharing information about the prisoners and other persecuted Christians in Algeria. Our work contributed to the men recently being released to their families. Praise the Lord!

This is an example of how the three areas of our ministry work together – assistance (provided aid to the families), advocacy (worked with top level officials), and awareness (told the world about their case).

None of this would be possible without the sacrifices of our friends and donors.
AN EPIC OPPORTUNITY

The work of our advocacy team is often overshadowed by our aid projects and awareness work. Advocacy entails behind the scenes phone calls and outreach to government officials on behalf of hurting and imprisoned believers. Our staffers had an unprecedented event this year to help foreign leaders better understand religious freedom laws in their country. It must have been the Lord’s doing, because it was an epic opportunity for our team and these government leaders. Because of safety concerns we are not able to share more. Thank you for your ongoing prayers for this initiative.

FAMILY REUNION IN THE US

The 74-year-old mother of an Iranian American Christian received her U.S. visa this year. She is the mother of a missionary who, along with his wife, were deported from Turkey to the United States. They were issued an N-82 code – a tactic used by the Turkish government to claim that missionary work is a threat to national security. The deportation created a hardship for the couple because he was the sole caretaker for his mother. Our Advocacy team worked behind the scenes on the case, contacting the U.S. Dept. of State and embassy officials to speed up the mother’s U.S. visa application so the family could be united.

2023 REPORTS

Syria Brief: Understanding the Current Climate for Religious Freedom in Syria

Crisis in the Congo: The DRC Comprehensive Report

Unchecked: The Rise of Hindu Nationalism, Legal Repression, and Mob Violence in the World’s Largest Democracy

READ MORE AT: persecution.org/reports.
WE WARN AND MARVEL

Our goal for awareness is twofold. We want to awaken the West to persecution that is taking place. And second, to show how the Lord is working out His redemptive plan through the lives of believers and His church.

We read in the latter part of Matthew 16:18 (NIV), where Jesus tells Peter and the disciples that He will build His church and “… the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Since the Garden, the ‘adversary’ has been doing what he can to thwart God’s church. It is our responsibility to tell the world how evil, Marxism, radical Islam, and discrimination are hindering the Lord’s plan.

When the Apostle Paul faced persecution in his ministry, he warned Timothy: “Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message (2 Timothy 4:14-15).”

Through our International Christian Concern (ICC) website, press releases, in-depth reports, magazine, social media, Insider Reports, appeal letters, videos, and more, the Awareness team uncovers the many perils that Christians face.

We don’t, however, want to stop there. We are blessed to be able to share the hope that followers of Christ have under tremendous hardship and sacrifice.

The Lord is coming alongside the broken, as He promises. He is purifying the church, rescuing the lost and making His presence felt in large and small ways. He is piercing the hearts of the oppressors and drawing them to Himself (like He did with Paul). The underground church is exploding where threatened the most.

We marvel at how the Lord works through our brothers and sisters.

By telling their stories we want to “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who gives you the reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:14).”

ICC President Jeff King gave several high-profile interviews on religious freedom and Christian persecution topics.
**Awareness Highlights**

**Awareness Year in Numbers**

**Mission Statement**

“We share engaging stories and information about Christian persecution that empower change, stir hearts, and prompt action to help followers of Christ and grow His church.”

**Awareness Year in Numbers**

- **Website Articles**: 474
- **Press Releases**: 27
- **Videos**: 104

**Web Page Views**: 1.1 Mil

**Most Popular Website Articles**

1. Killings Continue in Nigeria Despite Farming Communities Curfew
2. Chinese Communist Party Government Rewrites Portions of the Bible
3. Christian Beaten Unconscious for Refusing to Deny His Faith in India

**Press Releases**

1. Nine Indian Christians Hospitalized in Attack
2. Raymond Ibrahim: The Shocking History of Islam
3. Praising God in the Storm
4. Discussion with Päivi Räsänen, Finnish PM
5. 33 Killed in Nigeria Attack

**Top Videos**

1. Nine Indian Christians Hospitalized in Attack
2. Raymond Ibrahim: The Shocking History of Islam
3. Praising God in the Storm
4. Discussion with Päivi Räsänen, Finnish PM
5. 33 Killed in Nigeria Attack
WHAT SETS ICC APART?

**AGILE**
We are fast, nimble, and get in where others can’t. We execute difficult projects on the ground.

**LONG-TERM CARE**
We work with victims for the long-term when needed but don’t create dependency.

**INTEGRITY**
We have a 5-Star Charity Navigator Rating with 28 years in ministry. We have a long history of growth.

**MINISTRY FIRST**
We put ministry before fundraising, serving the Lord and the persecuted first. We believe funds follow Godly work.