

# FACES OF FAITH

## Christian Persecution at a Glance



### SYRIA

The once-vibrant Christian communities of Syria have been ravaged by years of conflict, persecution, and natural disasters. Much-reduced Christian communities are plagued by extreme malnutrition, Islamist oppression and attacks on some Christian-majority towns and villages.

ACN, committed to supporting persecuted Christians worldwide, is a beacon of hope in Syria, as the Syrian people continue to face immense challenges for their Faith.



A man worships amid ruins at the Armenian Catholic Cathedral in Aleppo

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### SUDAN

A military coup in October 2021 has plunged Christians back into uncertainty, with persecution on the rise. When civil war started in April of 2023, it led to overwhelming fear, hunger, despair in the hearts and lives of the people. But these women pictured here give their suffering over to Jesus, for they know that, no matter the struggle, they have Him and their Faith. ACN donors continue to be there providing both material and spiritual help through the religious on the ground.



Young refugees from South Sudan living in a camp for seven years.

### NIGERIA

According to Father Remigius Ihyula, a local project partner, 67 attacks have occurred since the beginning of 2024, resulting in 239 confirmed dead, 60 injured, and 65 kidnapped. In 2023, more than 500 people were killed. The young Christian woman pictured here, Maryamu, was kidnapped by Boko Haram when she was seven, held captive for nine years in the terrorists' camp where she was kept locked in a cage. ACN was there for Maryamu when she escaped, offering her trauma counseling and material and spiritual aid.



Maryamu, kidnapped at seven years old, and held in captivity for nine years.



Aid to the  
Church in Need  
ACN UNITED STATES

(800) 628-6333  
[info@churchinneed.org](mailto:info@churchinneed.org)  
[www.churchinneed.org](http://www.churchinneed.org)

Praying for peace to come to their country and people.



## INDIA

There has been a rapid increase in violence against Christians in 2024. Christian books burned, Churches destroyed, pastors killed and beaten, faithful “detained” while at services. Even in death, Christians cannot find peace, as burial rights are being denied in one India state. All the time these atrocities are happening, next to nothing is happening when it comes to police intervention and prosecution of perpetrators. But the religious we support never leave the sides of the faithful, especially at the most challenging of times.

## ETHIOPIA

The conflict in the Tigray region has led to increased attacks against Christians, including massacres and the destruction of historic monasteries. In June 2022, the World Health Organization said there were over 2.8 million displaced people. Catholics make up only one percent of the seven million citizens of Tigray, but the Church is there distributing much needed food and supplies to those in need, and ACN donors are there to support the Church with what she needs to accomplish this.



Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in Gubrye distribute emergency help.

## PAKISTAN

Increased reports of harassment, violence and gender-specific religious persecution. Growing threat of blasphemy allegations following 2021 legislation. Just recently, after being accused of blasphemy, a Christian mother of two was cornered in a field in Pakistan and beaten by a mob. And the grievous attacks in Jaranwala on August 16, 2023, when more than 20 churches were torched, and at least 100 Christian homes damaged, has still seen no justice.



Archbishop surveys damage of church after attacks in Jaranwala.



Faithful receiving Holy Communion in Nicaragua.

## CHINA

May 2024 marked the 100th anniversary of the consecration of China to the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of China, Queen of the Chinese People in Heaven. ACN pleads for its donors to pray for the Church in China and her faithful, as authorities have increased pressure on Christians, with arrests, the forced closure of churches and new extreme, severe legislation.



Children saying the rosary in Macao, China.

## NICARAGUA

Since 2022, 50 priests have been arrested. Approximately 15 percent of the country’s clergy now live abroad. Some have exiled themselves for fear of arrest; some were deported by the regime; and still others were denied re-entry to the country after traveling abroad. This country undoubtedly targets the Church and its members. We ask for your prayers and support as religious fight to remain with their people.