



# Christian Freedom<sup>®</sup> International



## CHRISTIANITY AT RISK ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST...

"Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3

AUGUST 2017



CFI  
IRAQ  
KURDISTAN  
Christian Freedom  
Inter





**CFI IS HELPING SUSTAIN PERSECUTED REFUGEES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.**



## CARING FOR THE PERSECUTED IN IRAQ...

**“ALTHOUGH 1.5 MILLION CHRISTIANS COMPRISED THE POPULATION (6%) AT THE TIME OF THE U.S. ACTIONS IN 2003, NOW ONLY A MERE 100,000-300,000 BELIEVERS (1%) ARE LEFT. VIOLENCE AND PERSECUTION HAVE LEFT MANY OF THEM AS IDPS IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF NORTHERN IRAQ.”**

➤ **A mobile clinic in Northern Iraq supplied by CFI**





“...A 2016 REPORT SUGGESTS THAT THE CHRISTIAN POPULATION [OF SYRIA] HAS DECLINED FROM 1.5 MILLION TO JUST 500,000.

“ [TURKEY] HAS PERHAPS SEEN THE SHARPEST DECLINE OF ITS CHRISTIAN POPULATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH LESS THAN 1% OF BELIEVERS REMAINING INSIDE ITS BORDERS.



➤ The Kurdish Army in Northern Iraq brings refugees who have been displaced from their homes, and trapped in danger by ISIS, to the mobile clinics that are supported by CFI and caring believers like you. They work in areas recently reclaimed from ISIS, where normal medical aid is non-existent.



# HELP us KEEP OTHERS INFORMED ABOUT *the* PERSECUTED CHURCH

## PLEASE

PASS THIS NEWSLETTER  
ALONG WHEN YOU ARE  
FINISHED READING IT.



➤ Students at an elementary school for refugee and displaced children in Iraq are grateful for the provision of basic necessities as well as the hope in knowing they are not forgotten.

➤ By God's grace, CFI's partnership with our co-workers in the Middle East has continued to help fellow Christians who remain in the crossfire of persecution throughout the Kurdistan/Iraq/Syria/Turkey regions. Right now, we're supplying operations for two mobile medical units in reclaimed towns such as Mosul, as well as other unstable areas, and providing the delivery of relief aid in refugee camps.

We can't thank you  
enough for your support  
and prayers.



## CONTACT US!

P.O. BOX 535  
FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630  
1.800.323.CARE  
INFO@CHRISTIANFREEDOM.ORG

f CFI FREEDOM

@CFI\_FREEDOM

CHRISTIANFREEDOMINTL

@CFI\_FREEDOM

CHRISTIANFREEDOM.ORG



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Christian Freedom International is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). Members of the ECFA are held to the highest standards of financial responsibility. Gifts are used for the project identified unless our Board of Directors, in good faith, determines that the changing situation in the Persecuted Church requires applying them to another urgent project. Your gift to Christian Freedom International is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



# Christian Freedom<sup>®</sup> International

Jim Jacobson  
President

August 2017

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

*Matthew 5:10*

Dear Friend,

I'd like to give you an update about the tragedy of the disappearing Church.

This is no mystery, and these events are nothing new. In fact, it's been going on for decades, all while the world stood by watching this great tragedy unfold.

It may shock you to know that more than 7.2 billion people – more than **74% of the world's population** – currently live in religiously hostile countries. But what may not be as surprising to you is that most of the top 50 countries where Christians face the worst persecution are Muslim-majority countries, many in the Middle East. Specifically for Christians, the most dangerous countries to live in today include North Korea, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Relentless violence, instability, and conflict have forced hundreds of thousands of Christians to immigrate when they could, or flee and live as refugees or Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). What this means is that, out of the 30-35 million believers that once made their homes in the Middle East, only a fraction remain.

While the growing crisis of persecution in the Middle East has affected Christians in countries such as Iran, Jordan, Egypt, and Israel, reports indicate that the worst of it has been in Iraq, Syria and Turkey:

- **Iraq:** Although 1.5 million Christians comprised the population (6%) at the time of the U.S. actions in 2003, now only a mere 100,000-300,000 believers (1%) are left. Violence and persecution have left many of them as IDPs in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq;
- **Syria:** A 2016 report suggests that the Christian population has declined from 1.5 million to just 500,000. In fact, the population has become so small that Christians will remain in danger of persecution at the hands of Muslim extremists, no matter who gains power in the country;
- **Turkey:** This nation has perhaps seen the sharpest decline of its Christian population in the Middle East, with less than 1% of believers remaining inside its borders.

*(over, please)*

The gravity of this crisis should move us to action for two reasons: one, the disappearance of Christianity in the Middle East would bankrupt a region whose culture has, historically, been rich with the diversity and traditions of a Christian presence.

But more importantly, the second reason is that, as believers ourselves, we are called to "remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3 NIV).

By God's grace, CFI's partnership with our co-workers in the Middle East has continued to help fellow Christians who remain in the crossfire of persecution throughout the Kurdistan/Iraq/Syria/Turkey regions. Right now, we're supplying operations for two mobile medical units in reclaimed towns such as Mosul, as well as other unstable areas, and providing the delivery of relief aid in refugee camps. We're also supporting church rebuilding teams and an elementary school for refugee and displaced children, all of which you will read about in the enclosed newsletter.

We continue to rely on you, and others as compassionate as you, who have cared enough about the persecuted Church to partner with the ministry of CFI through prayer and financial support. With your donation, we can provide critical medicine for injured and suffering believers, funds to support medical professionals to perform this dire work, and countless other supplies for these projects. ***Thousands of Middle Eastern Christians, who have either chosen to remain in their homeland despite persecution, or who have been left to languish in refugee camps, need our support now more than ever before.***

As we continue to provide you with updates of this mission, please remember to pray for those suffering for their faith in the Middle East. May God richly bless your caring and generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,



Jim Jacobson  
President

P.S. Our relief and support to persecuted Christians can only be accomplished with your help. We can't thank you enough for your support and prayers.