

Sermon Outline

Introduction-

- **Who is ICC**
 - **Started in 96 to serve as a bridge for the persecuted. Bring news back to West and Aid East to those in need.**
- **What do we do**
 - **Awareness**
 - **Assistance**
 - **Advocacy**
- **Where we work**
 - **4 regions (Africa, Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia)**
 - **Active reps in 12 countries**
 - **Active projects in about 30 countries**

Bible verses

- **Matthew 5:10 – Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- **Matthew 10:23 - When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.**
- **2 Corinthians 12:10 – That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**
- **Romans 8:35 – Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?**
- **John 15:18 – If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.**
- **Matthew 5:44 – But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.**
- **2 Timothy 3:12 – In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**
- **Romans 12:13 – Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**
- **Acts 11:19 - Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews.**

Persecution-

- **What**

- *Any Hostile act against a person based on their Faith Identity or Faith Activity*
- *This does mean that there are plenty of in need people we can't help, but our call is to serve our suffering brothers and sisters*
- **Where**
 - *Literally everywhere Muslim Countries, Secular Countries, Communist Countries, Christian Countries, Buddhist Countries, Hindu Countries.....)*
- **Who**
 - *Literally Anyone*
- **When**
 - *All the Time*
- **Why**
 - *Power, Money, Hate, Convenience....*

Example-

Nigeria- For the past 18 years, there has been increasing strife between the Muslim north and Christian South in Nigeria.

- **Boko Haram**
 - *Displaced Millions*
 - *Dead between 20,000 and 70,000*
 - *Billions in damaged and stolen good and properties*
- **Fulani Militants**
 - *Displaced Millions*
 - *2,000 Killed in 2018 alone*
 - *Unknown Damage and Stolen Properties*
- **Sharia Law**
 - *12 Northern State have enacted Sharia.*
 - *Social boycotts and discrimination*

Biggest Issue Today

- **Fulani Crisis throughout the Middle Belt**
 - **Government has turned a blind eye**
 - *Label it as historical herder farmer conflict*
 - *Small regional issues*
 - *No one is ever prosecuted for the mass murders that take place*
 - *Military accused of atrocities*
 - **Millions displaced**
 - *Nearly all of them are farmers*
 - *Have no land left to farm*
 - *Living with friends or relatives*
 - *Puts strain on whole communities*
 - *Food shortage in large areas of Nigeria*
 - **Children**
 - *Many orphans*
 - *Overfilling orphanages/ using kids in fights with promise of food and security*
 - *Not able to go to school*
 - *Living in fear of attacks*

- **How ICC is Helping**
 - **Nigeria Communal Farms**
 - *Each farm helps 75 families who have lost loved ones, been displaced, and have no access to work or ways to care for themselves.*
 - *8 live farms in 2019*
 - *75 families per farm (500 People)*
 - *60-100 Acres per farm*
 - *Brings dignity back to these people as they do not have to rely solely on others goodwill*
 - *Can provide for themselves*
 - *Relieves burden on whole community*
 - **Meet Marice**
 - *Talk about her story*
 - *Attacked on December 4, 2017 in the early morning*
 - *Ran with Son from house*
 - *Son caught and murdered in front of her*
 - *Then she caught and slashed, losing two fingers*
 - *Husband finds her in a pool of her own blood, barely conscience*
 - *Rushed to Hospital*
 - **One year Later**
 - *I meet her in the middle of a Rice field working to provide for her family*
 - *She is full of joy and hope for the future*
 - *Instead of anger, she feels grateful for God sparing her life*
 - *She has no hatred for those who attacked her.*
 - *Super strong and hardworking, just wants to care for her family, despite injuries.*