



## MISSIONS FOCUS

From bulletin: September 25, 2022

Our Missionaries, their health and ministries affected by Covid-19

### Church Around the World, October 2022 Edition

From today's bulletin / Missions Report from Missions Team

The headline for this month's newsletter is: "Cultivating Food, Faith and a Future in South Sudan" (Africa).

In the Upper Nile, a state of South Sudan, the church is the only reliable provider of social services.

Prayer for efforts to help with: food scarcity, education, women empowerment, youth empowerment.

Prayer suggestions for the persecuted:

"Lord, I pray for my persecuted brothers and sisters in Indian prisons (India). May they stand firmly on you as their foundation. May they receive the encouragement, strength and help they need as they face laws meant to ensnare and to prevent them from giving a faithful witness in their communities. Amen. "

Other prayer suggestions for the other brief articles:

- 1) Pray that Kabir and his family can find adequate housing and that God would provide their basic necessities. Pray that the Hindu extremists who attacked the church would hear the gospel and put their trust in Jesus Christ.
- 2) Pray for these families to remain firm in their faith as they endure hostility from their community members. Pray that the rest of their community comes to faith in Christ.
- 3) Pray for the Christians in this region (Kenya) to remain firm in their faith amid this hostile opposition. Pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones in the attacks.



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**CHINESE BIBLE CHURCH**  
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To read the entire newsletter, there's hard copies in the MC Lobby OR  
Continue to the next page where it is attached!

*Thank you for reading about and praying for our missionaries, countries and  
people locally and globally!*

**BACBC.ORG**

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**significant  
news for  
christians**

Some news that's encouraging—some disturbing. Read with discernment. Watch and pray.

# THE Church Around the WORLD

October  
2022

An aerial photograph of a city at sunset, with a wide river flowing through it. Several bridges are visible, including a large arch bridge and a long trestle bridge. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the sky is a warm, golden color. The text "Cultivating Food, Faith, and a Future in South Sudan" is overlaid on the top right of the image.

## Cultivating Food, Faith, and a Future in South Sudan

***India: Hindu Mob Disrupts Church, Burns Home*** (pp. 3–4)

***Mexico: Christian Families Kicked Out of Community*** (p. 4)

***Kenya: Christians Killed in Suspected al-Shabab Attacks*** (p. 4)

## Cultivating Food, Faith, and a Future in South Sudan (1)

In the Upper Nile, a state of South Sudan, the church is the only reliable provider of social services. Thousands of refugees and locals have been displaced by civil war, COVID-19, and area flooding, which puts these social services in high demand.

Part of the mission of the Diocese of Renk, based in South Sudan, is to help meet those needs. The diocese was founded in 1995 and is currently made up of 13 congregations and more than 30,000 members. It is one of 61 dioceses in the province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS), which was created to reflect the separation of South Sudan from Sudan. In total, the ECSS has more than 3.5 million members.

To serve and minister locally, the ECSS has partnered with other dioceses globally. With help from partners like the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, the Diocese of Renk has built schools, a health clinic, a seminary, and churches, and it has also established microfinance enterprises throughout the area.

“[We] served the vast majority of the population. . . . During COVID and area floodings, many flocked to Renk as the only safe place. We were able to help them and provide shelter and support,” said a representative from the Diocese of Renk.

Recent efforts focused on food scarcity, education, empowering women and youth, and fully equipping and furnishing the Diocese of Renk’s headquarters and conference center. Here are some details of those efforts:

**Food Scarcity:** The Diocese of Renk operates six acres of “self-reliance” gardens. An additional 1,000 acres is a farm for sorghum, sesame, and groundnuts. While farming has been challenging because of insects, birds, and bad weather, it has provided food, jobs, and income for the local community, and they’ve learned to apply insecticides to mitigate crop destruction.

**Education:** Formal education is one of the highest investment priorities of the Diocese of Renk. Understanding that it’s critical to develop sound leaders in South Sudan, the diocese offers financial aid to students who are willing to work for the diocese after completing their studies.

**Women Empowerment:** To support women in the community, the diocese hosts regular trainings in literacy, small business skills and management, family and childcare, sewing, embroidery, and beadwork.

**Youth Empowerment:** To help develop local youth, the diocese hosts Bible studies, prayer groups, and worship gatherings while offering trainings on farming, small business, and computers.

## PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED

### Recommended Scripture:

**Genesis 18:16–19:29 | Matthew 6:25–7:14 | Psalm 8:1-9 | Proverbs 2:6-15**

Persecution sometimes comes in the form of oppressive laws. In India, Christians are often arrested and held for up to three weeks after being falsely accused of forcing or bribing Hindus to convert to Christianity. Without legal assistance, they’re unable to post bail or prove that charges are unfounded.

*Lord, I pray for my persecuted brothers and sisters in Indian prisons. May they stand firmly on you as their foundation. And may they receive the encouragement, strength, and help they need as they face laws meant to ensnare and to prevent them from giving a faithful witness in their communities. Amen.*

More prayer prompts are available in *The One Year Pray for the Persecuted Bible*.



**The Voice of the Martyrs** vom.org



## The Church Around the WORLD

### Headquarters and Conference Center:

This building serves the entire Upper Nile area, providing space for offices, trainings, and conferences. While the building is almost fully complete, high costs of building materials and shipping remain big challenges for ongoing development.

Regarding these ongoing efforts, a Diocese of Renk representative said, “God did miracles through his people who are implementing His work on earth. Building the main diocesan offices, purchasing and installing faster Internet, training diocesan workers and securing diocesan garden fields are not easy tasks. God is powerful and rich. The hearts of the people here are encouraged to know you are praying for them and care about their needs and offer support. The community is more stable and healthier because of empowerment and education. People are encouraged as they are able to be more self-reliant and develop leadership skills. The entire Renk community benefited from the project. This makes them more open to the gospel the church offers.”

The Diocese of Renk received financial support for these projects through the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, a Tyndale House Foundation grantee. Archbishop Joseph Garang Atem Zorial said, “The ongoing steady support of the Foundation given in your collaborative spirit provides a space for the Holy Spirit to work. We are freed to all work together. This year has been a year

of many challenges and many changes. The burdens can be heavy. But God is faithful and works through the prayers of his people. Your support remains an encouragement to me personally and helps me to be the leader that is needed to help guide the church in South Sudan to lead in peace and reconciliation, education, empowerment and proclamation of the gospel. I give thanks for you and hold you in my prayers.”

*Tyndale House Foundation is a grantmaking organization that partners with Christian ministries around the world. To learn more, visit [tyndale.foundation](http://tyndale.foundation).*



### India: Hindu Mob Disrupts Church, Burns Home (2)

Last fall, Kabir, his four sons and their families went to a 9 a.m. church service in a nearby Indian village. As the service started,

about 50 members of the Hindu extremist group Vishva Hindu Parishad disrupted the service and called the police, making false accusations against the pastor. The mob threatened to demolish the church building. As police arrived, someone from Kabir's village ran to the church and informed his family that their house had been burned down. Kabir and his 23 family members returned to his home and saw it and their recently harvested crops destroyed. The family members, who lived together, are now without a home and basic necessities such as clothing and food.

*Pray that Kabir and his family can find adequate housing and that God would provide their basic necessities. Pray that they would continue to grow in their faith. Pray that the Hindu extremists who attacked the church and destroyed Kabir's home would hear the gospel and put their trust in Jesus Christ.*



## Mexico: Christian Families Kicked Out of Community (3)

Several families have been kicked out of a village in eastern Oaxaca state because of their Christian faith. The traditional religion of the village honors pagan idols through

drunken festivals, and the Christian families refused to participate in the festivals. As a result, some of the Christians were arrested by the village authorities, and the families were driven from their community. The families are currently staying in their pastor's house.

*Pray for these families to remain firm in their faith as they endure hostility from their community members. Pray they can find refuge in a community where they can practice their faith without fear of further opposition, and pray that the rest of their community comes to faith in Christ.*

## Kenya: Christians Killed in Suspected al-Shabab Attacks (4)

Multiple Christians have been killed since the beginning of 2022 by attackers who are suspected to be connected to al-Shabab, an Islamic extremist group that targets Christians throughout Somalia and Kenya. Since January, attackers organized in groups of around 30 people and armed with guns and knives have led brutal assaults on multiple villages in Lamu County. Several Christians were shot, stabbed, or burned beyond recognition, and one woman was tied up and forced to watch the attackers behead her husband. "The main purpose of the attacks is to create fear," a frontline worker said. "They are not happy with churches being built and are opposed to the preaching of the gospel. They want to threaten Christians' safety so that [the Christians] may run away and possibly go back to where they came from."

*Pray for the Christians in this region to remain firm in their faith amid this hostile opposition. Pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones in the attacks.*