

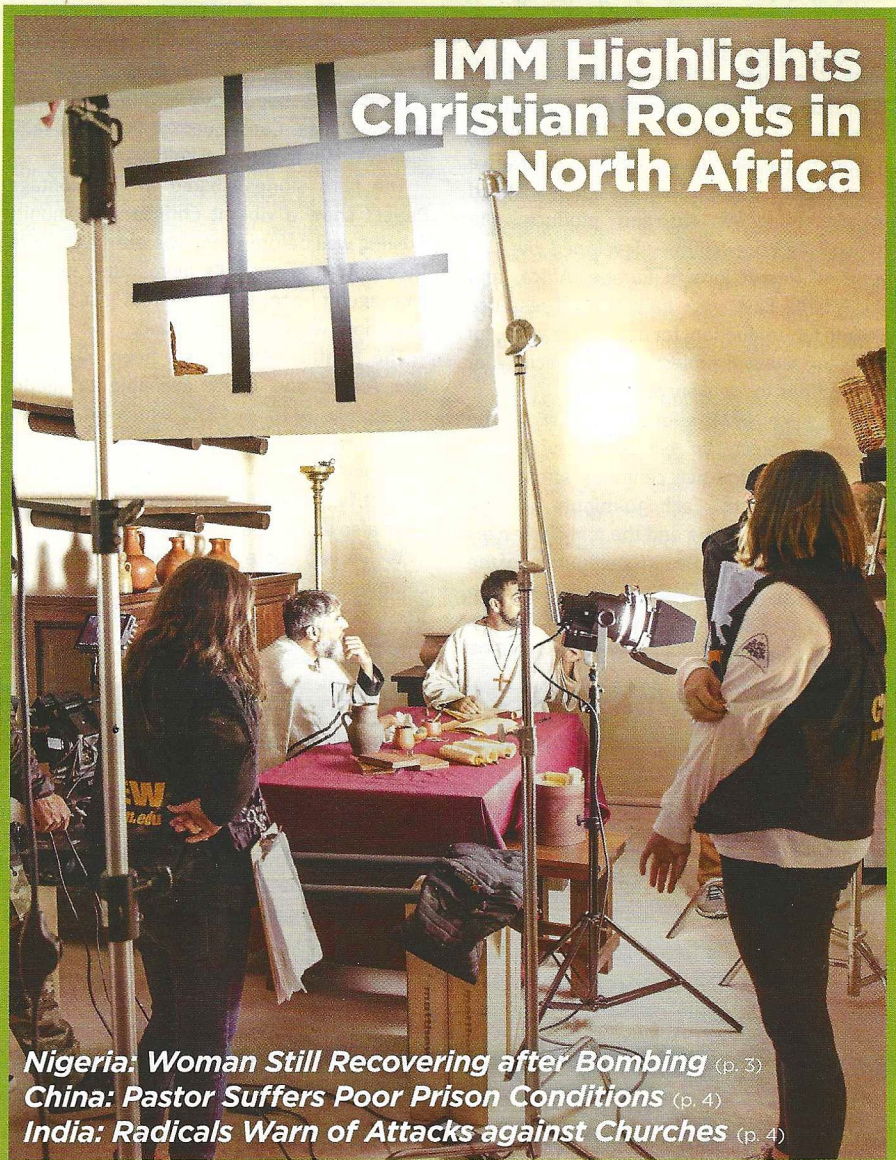
**significant  
news for  
christians**

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

# THE Church Around the WORLD

May  
2022

## IMM Highlights Christian Roots in North Africa



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## IMM Highlights Christian Roots in North Africa (1)

See Jesus on every screen—that's the main goal for International Media Ministries (IMM). Headquartered in Madrid, Spain, IMM was founded in 1981 by Assemblies of God World Missions (USA) to produce a wide variety of media, including Bible-based dramatic films, children's television programming, and thought-provoking conversation starters in almost 70 languages.

As an IMM representative explains, "International Media Ministries' mission is to partner with missionaries, media outlets, nationals and churches to develop innovative access to the gospel. That mission is instilled in everything we do and produce. Our networking connections—developed over 40 years of interactions in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East . . . help us find resource people for production, for on-camera work, for choosing relevant projects, and especially for connections for delivery outlets."

One such IMM effort underway is the Heritage Project, an eight-part docudrama series on the first five centuries after Christ walked the earth. Each 30-minute episode highlights real people and the real challenges they faced under the Roman government of the time. The stories of Cyprian, Victor, Tertullian, Perpetua and Felicitas, the Scillitan Martyrs, Antony, Quodvultdeus, and Augustine

demonstrate the sacrifices they made for Jesus Christ while facing persecution as the Roman Empire fell apart. These stories are rooted in places like Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia, which emphasizes the influence these North African historical figures had on Christianity that can still be felt today.

Now the challenge is to make sure as many people as possible see these powerful, faith-based stories, especially in North Africa. Often, Islamic societies give their citizens the impression that everyone in their country or region has always been Muslim and that conversion is impossible within their strict religious rules. Consequently, their true faith history is lost to the local culture.

The faith stories shared in the Heritage Project show a vibrant Christian community existing well before Islam was even a thought. They bring the gospel's desperately needed message of hope, telling viewers just how far God's love will go to reach them.

The Heritage Project has been translated into Arabic and made available to media outlets like SAT-7 ARABIC, which broadcasts to 21 Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Other outlets, like Belight.TV, StoryChannel, and Arab Vision have also discussed possible broadcasting.

"We've had some people within the Coptic community also express excitement about these stories, which is a big encouragement. . . . SAT-7 reached out before we were ready

## PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED

### Recommended Scripture:

**Genesis 5:1–7:24 | Matthew 3:1–7:24 | Psalm 3:1-8 | Proverbs 1:10-19**

Building a large boat wasn't on Noah's to-do list. But once God handed him blueprints, boat building became Noah's top priority. Noah's response to God was one of faithful obedience despite opposition. He listened to what God said and then did what God asked of him.

*Lord, I pray for my brothers and sisters who suffer for being your witnesses. In the midst of persecution, may they hear your voice and respond with obedience, doing what you call them to do even if obedience comes at a high cost. Amen.*

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



The Voice of the Martyrs

vom.org



for delivery as they'd heard good things, so it seems the project is going to touch many people. More regions are requesting use of them," IMM said.

Of course, the complex production and distribution process comes with unique challenges—like ensuring proper digital file sharing and maximizing storage space for long-term availability and accessibility.

"Each country and project brings its own set of trials, but perseverance pays off and Jesus gets put onto more screens. Flexibility and readiness to try a new method is important," IMM said. "During production, the connections and the timing of people's schedules was remarkable with the way things are going with COVID and shutdowns; we are grateful things moved this quickly and that we had funds to commit to move right away when it was possible."

Despite some of these technical challenges and the everchanging logistics associated with the pandemic, IMM has seen the work of God and the gospel already changing lives.

"When people view these programs, they are usually surprised at the history of the region and at the way history repeats itself," IMM said. "A follow-up worker who received Christ via media and now responds to inquiries said she had seen the park where ancient Carthage existed her whole life, but had no idea that her own people who were Christians had been there or died there. She is so excited to see these on television and to use them as she talks to people one on one."

It's estimated that the Heritage Project has received more than 21 million views, reaching people in Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Algeria, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Mauritania, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, and Bahrain. That number is only expected to grow.

How can you help put Jesus on every screen? Pray for the translations, for the presenters in new languages, and for those who are viewing these programs online and on satellite channels. You can find an English translation of the Heritage Project under the US title *Lost Legacy Reclaimed* on Redeem TV or Amazon Prime. You can also purchase the DVDs of seasons one and two at [VisionVideo.com](http://VisionVideo.com).

*Financial support for these projects was provided to IMM as a Tyndale House Foundation grantee. Tyndale House Foundation is a faith-driven public charity that distributes grants to Christian ministries around the globe. To learn more, visit [Tyndale.foundation](http://Tyndale.foundation).*

## **Nigeria: Woman Still Recovering after Boko Haram Bombing (2)**

Lydia Ishaya lost her husband in 2015 when Boko Haram shot and killed him. A year later, Lydia was in the market when Boko Haram attacked again, this time bombing the area multiple times. When the second bomb hit, Lydia, eight months pregnant, was thrown to



the ground by the blast. After crawling on her hands and knees to escape the smoke and chaos, she discovered her left leg was broken, the skin on her hand and face had peeled off, and her right eye was so severely injured that she was unable to see. She cried out for help, and others near the scene helped her to a clinic where she connected with a pastor who took her to a hospital in Jos. At the hospital, she gave birth; her daughter was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and was unable to move. Lydia's right eye had to be removed, and her leg required iron rods screwed into the bones to help it heal correctly. Since then, she's had multiple surgeries on her leg to repair the damage.

*Pray that Lydia continues to recover and that all pain would cease in her leg. Pray for healing for her daughter, who is immobile and undergoing physiotherapy to treat her condition.*



## China: Pastor Suffers Poor Prison Conditions (3)

Although prison officials have stated that Wang Yi, pastor of Early Rain Church, is doing well in prison, a source familiar with his condition has said the opposite is true. The source shared that prison authorities are holding the pastor in a highly restricted cell. He is not allowed to have visitors or

even speak with other inmates, except for two criminal offenders who are tasked with watching him. Pastor Wang eats and sleeps in the same cell with these two men. Guards refer to them as the “three-person mutual supervision group.” The pastor is fed moldy rice and given expired medication when he requires medical attention. Prison officials continue to harass Pastor Wang’s wife, son, and elderly parents, who live under virtual house arrest with officers stationed outside their apartment.

*Pray that Pastor Wang receives more humane treatment in prison and that he continues to be a light to the guards and other prisoners. Pray for his mental and physical health, for the health of his family, and for all of them to remain bold in their faith.*

## India: Radicals Warn of Attacks against Churches (4)

After holding a rally, radicals in Gujarat state issued a statement to district authorities, telling them that if they did not stop church activities in the region, the radicals would take matters into their own hands. The document issued by the radicals listed the names of 56 churches and pastors and gave district authorities 3 days to act. In response, the police told pastors not to conduct church services or they would risk attack by the radicals—and that the police would not protect the Christians. Instead, they said they would arrest the pastors. Several pastors have already been arrested, many of the churches have stopped meeting, and pastors are unable to visit people. “The churches are all in fear and seek prayer for this matter,” wrote a contact with The Voice of the Martyrs.

*Pray that these Christians will be able to worship and work freely, and pray for the hearts of the radicals and the police to be changed.*