





# Thank You









***“For three days my wife, our two children and I hadn’t eaten anything. In this critical and crucial moment, you sent us a large gift to bless our family. Our joy has no limits. We are immensely thankful for this timely help.”***

***- Pastor GWC, India***



**THANK YOU!**







# Following Jesus in the Midst of Suffering and Persecution

*"...Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." - John 12:24*





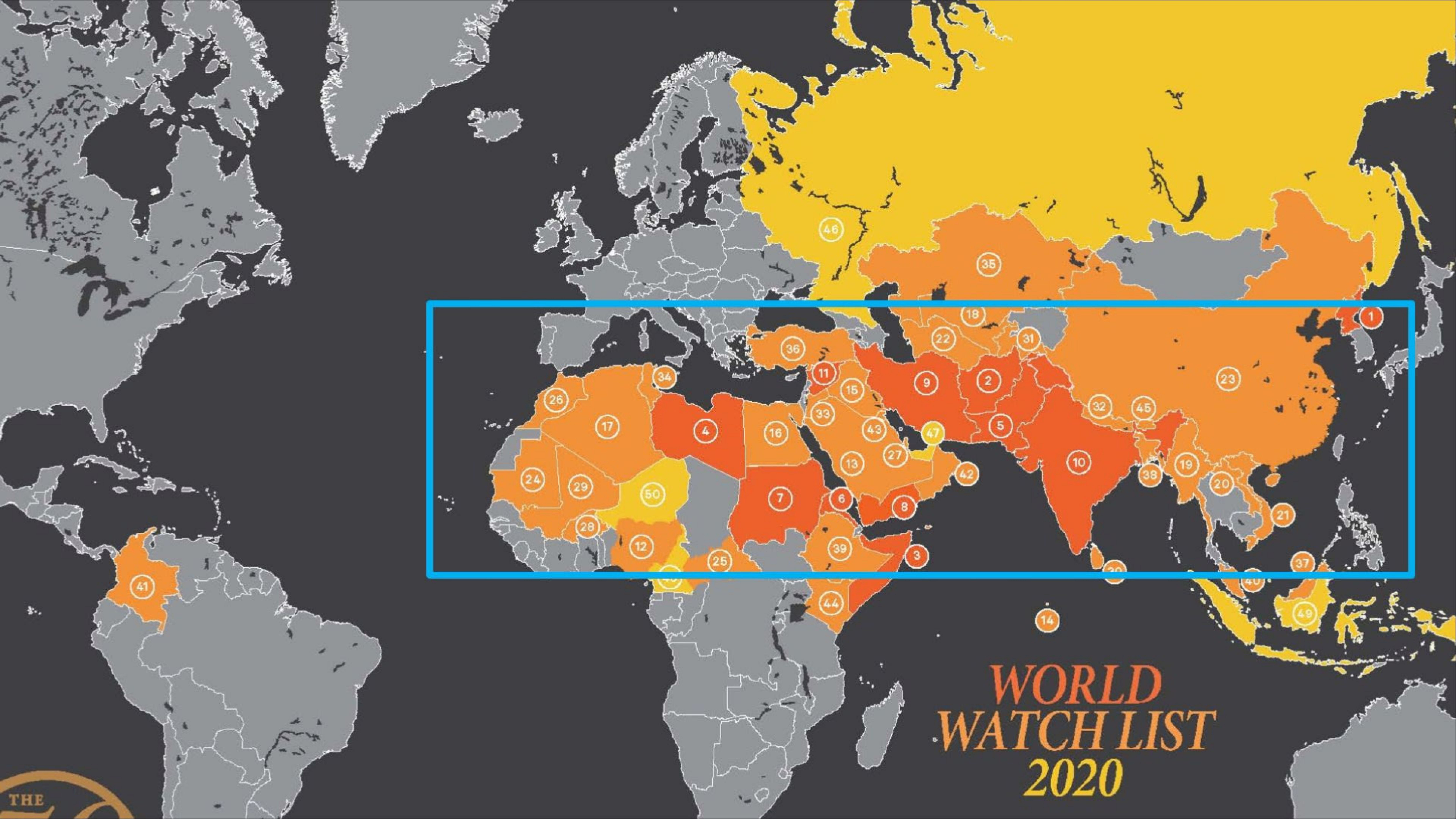


# Persecution

- **6% Increase**
- **260 million in 50 countries**
- **8 – 11 people killed everyday**







**WORLD  
WATCH LIST  
2020**



# I. Why are Christians Persecuted?



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## 1. They are COMMITTED followers of Jesus

- Suffering is part of the Christian identity (John 15:18 – 20)
- Christian Suffering is a blessing, not a shame or punishment (Matt 5:11)
- They live their lives with eternity in their eyes! (Matt. 16:21)



# 1. Why are Christians Persecuted?

2. They have CHOSEN to live a godly life, not a comfortable Christian life!

*(2 Tim. 3:12)*



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Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani



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Mohammadreza



# I. Why are Christians Persecuted?

2. They have CHOSEN to live a godly life, not a comfortable Christian life!

- They cannot compromise with the World and its philosophies (1 John 2:15)



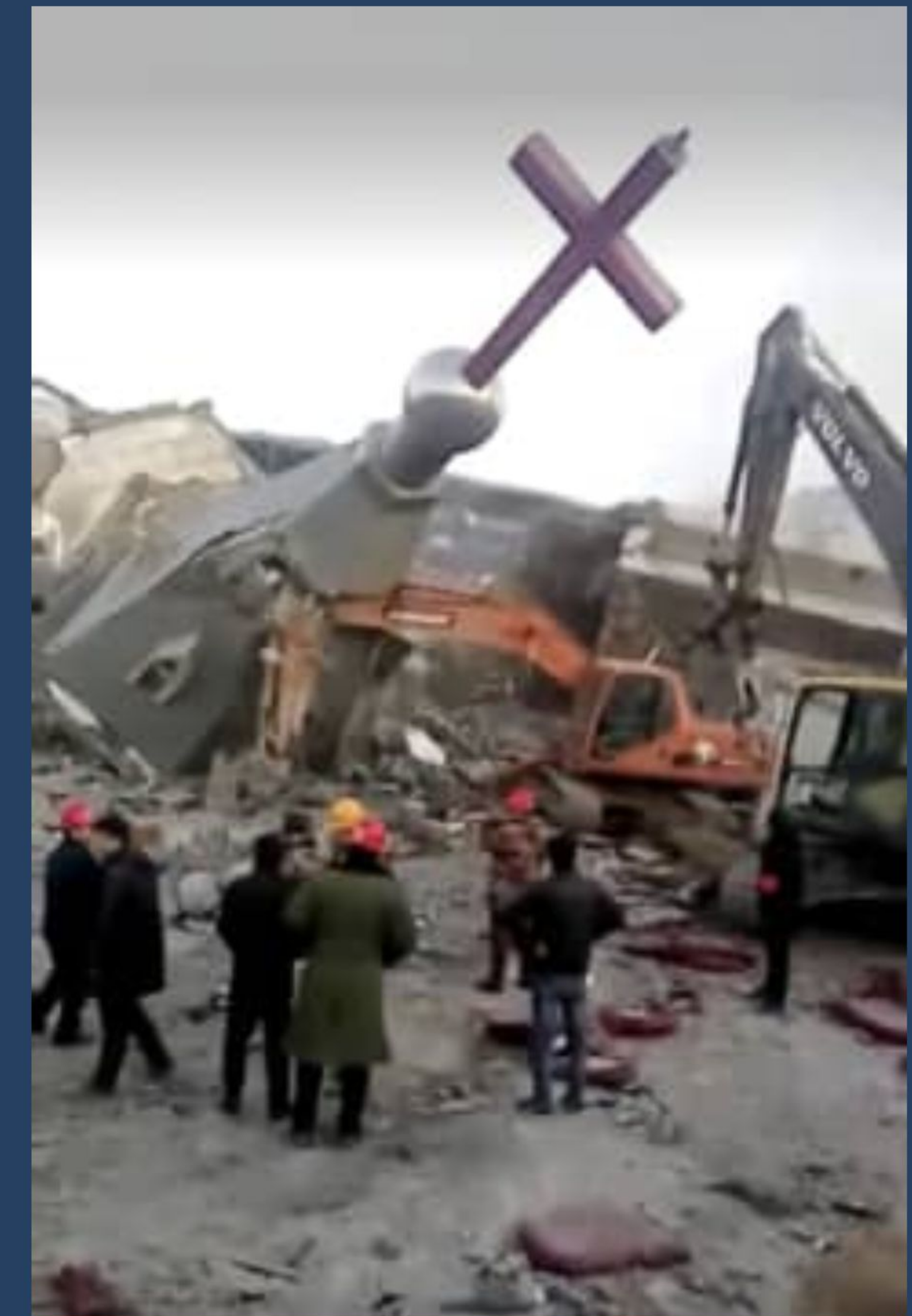
**1. Why are Christians Persecuted?**

**3. They are Great-Commission Christians (Acts 8).**



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## 3. They are Great-Commission Christians (Acts 8).

*"They hung me up across an iron gate, then they yanked open the gate and my whole body lifted until my chest nearly split in two. I hung like that for four hours." - Peter Xu Yongze*





# 1. Why are Christians Persecuted?

## 3. They are Great-Commission Christians (Acts 8).





# II. How Does the Church Handle Persecution?

## 1. Praise God, Joyfully

(Acts 5:40 – 41, 16:25)



# II. How Does the Church Handle Persecution?

## 1. Praise God, Joyfully

(Acts 5:40 – 41, 16:25)

## 2. Ponder on the Word Consistently

(John 15:20)



# II. How Does the Church Handle Persecution?

3. Preach the Word regularly

(Acts 5:42)



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3. Preach the Word regularly

*(Acts 5:42)*

4. Pray unceasingly

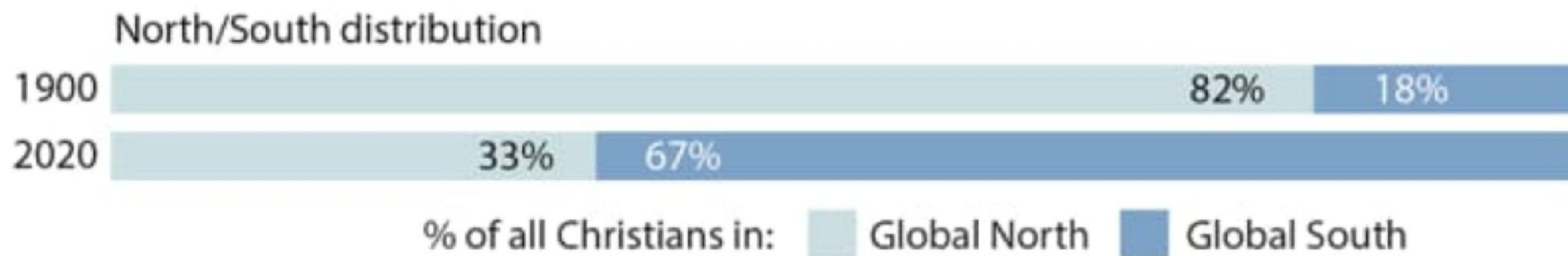
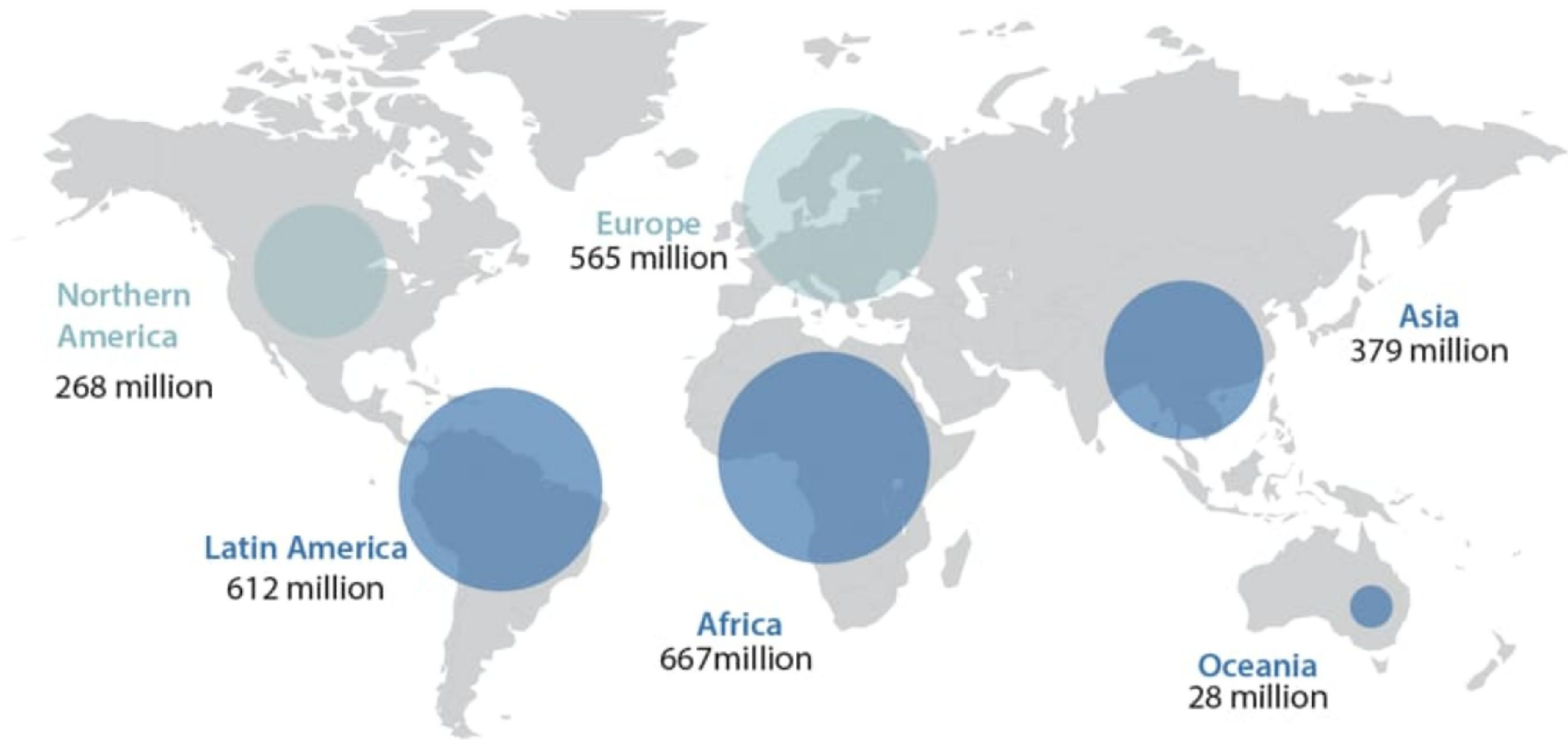
*(Matt. 5:44)*



# III. What does it mean to US?



# Christians by continent, 2020



Source: World Christian Database



**“The very things that we think would produce personnel and energy and creative investment of time and money in the cause of Christ and his kingdom, instead produce, again and again, the exact opposite—weakness, apathy, lethargy, self-centeredness, preoccupation with security.”**

**– John Piper**



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No turning back,  
no turning back."**



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