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Documenting the wealth and beauty of faith around the world

Sparked by the Islamist terrorist attacks in France, including the assassination of Fr Jacques Hamel, two French citizens have with their documentary, "Faith the project", recorded religious diversity on the Silk Road.

Mélinée Le Priol

July 24, 2017

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Ekaterina (center) is about to welcome the Metropolitan of the Russian Orthodox Church to the only women's monastery in Uzbekistan. / [Faith the project](#)

Meeting groups in six countries ranging from Sufis in Turkey to Uighurs in China and Yarsans in Iran, Nabila Laajail and Frédéric Daudon traveled through six countries of the Middle East and Asia from Spring 2016 to April 2017.

A world tour of threatened religious minorities? Not quite.

Although Nabila and Frédéric did travel along the Silk Road gathering thousands of photos and hours of video and audio recordings, their objective was to document the wealth and beauty of faith around the world.

Such was the aim of “[Faith the project](#),” a modest community group founded by the two partners in February this year.

The Islamist terrorist attacks in France, including the assassination of Fr Jacques Hamel, sparked the initiative.

“Following the terrorist attacks, the amalgams that we heard about religion, particularly Islam, really frightened us,” they explained.

“Religions were regarded as capable of all sorts of crimes! That said, we lacked real knowledge on the issue... “

A former banker who has become a photographer, Frédéric is from a Catholic family in the Chamonix region. On the other hand, Nabila, who is of Moroccan origin, was born into a practicing Muslim family in Corsica. However,



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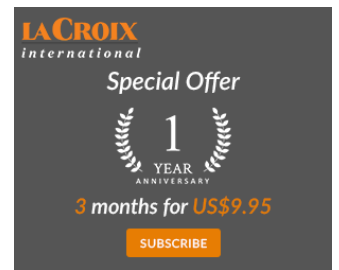
her religious culture was long limited to a few “scraps” picked up from her parents.

The reason they chose the Silk Road for their project was because of the incomparable religious diversity offered by the famed East-West route.

Nevertheless, after having contacted many universities, the duo stumbled on the idea of a longer term project in the form of [a website](#), a traveling exhibition and perhaps a book...

“It’s more necessary than ever to educate people!” they say.

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