

# ACN Insider Report: Ismael Martínez Sánchez

National Director, Dr Caroline Hull travelled with freelance photographer Ismael Martínez Sánchez on her recent project trip to Lebanon. She said: **“Ismael captures the mission of ACN through the lens of his camera.”**

Ismael Martínez Sánchez has a degree in Journalism from the University of Navarra and a Master's degree in Philosophy from Strathmore University (Kenya). He is currently undertaking his PhD and he has worked in more than thirty countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

## How do you tell stories through your images?

With time and with passion. My raw material is the reality of others, although the important thing as a photographer is not only reality, but how you see reality, because... what the head thinks, the heart speaks. And of what the heart speaks, the viewer speaks too.

**Faith encourages me to photograph the (hidden) hope of others by looking for a story behind each shot, a person behind the story and a hope behind those lives.**

## What impact can a photo have on fundraising in terms of showing the needs or showing needs being met?

My job as a corporate photographer is to carry out ACN's mission and identity with images. In my opinion, visual communication should be a reliable mirror of the company's identity.

**I look for ACN's “photographic DNA”, especially in places of pain or persecution.** Therefore, I try to develop visual images about the sacraments, works of mercy or “the good” of anyone in need.

## What does it take to create a powerful image?

Rather than “powerful image” I would call it “photography with soul”. **In any case, it takes documentation, intuition, time, invisibility... and luck.** I look for big pictures in small places or where hope shines on dismissed people.

## How have your visits to ACN projects affected your faith?

Every visit with ACN to Syria, Lebanon, the Amazon or India makes me put my feet on the ground, and I thank God. I open my heart and pray for those who pass in front of the lens.

**I try to transform the gospel of Christ into images, perhaps with a visual anthropology more of the light than of the cross.** A human photography that brings some hope to others.



Ismael Martínez Sánchez



Credit: Ismael Martínez Sánchez / ACN



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