PERSECUTION RELIEF
PRAYER CALENDAR
AUGUST 2018
01 AUGUST - BIHAR
Pray for Pastor V. Thomson and 5 team members of India Mission, Bihar, who were ambushed by 20 religious fundamentalists, who abused, threatened and intimidated them for showing a Christian themed film in a village 2 Km away from Bachhawara, Begusarai, Bihar. Police rescued the team and detained them at the Police Station.

02 AUGUST, HARYANA
Pray for Pastor Ravi Chouhan, his wife and 2 young children, aged 5 and 3 ½ years, who were beaten up in the presence of his family. He was returning from a prayer meeting at a Christian family’s residence, located at Jalouli village, Panchkula District in Haryana. Truckers who were plying the road, stopped spotting the couple and their children being manhandled, as the perpetrators ran away from the spot, under the cover of darkness.

03 AUGUST, UTTAR PRADESH
A mob of 25-30 persons used their brute force to gain entry into the private residence of Rev. Sumer and attack his son. Rev. Sumer Samuel is in-charge of Methodist Church in village Bijoli, district Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. His son was attacked by their neighbour and local religious fanatics for occupying and renovating the unused Church building and parsonage, which was being used as den for all the evil activities and a safe-house for the wayward and rebellious men. Pray for the protection of Rev. Sumer Samuel and his family members.

04 AUGUST, BIHAR
Sunday Worship Service was attacked and the congregation beaten up by religious fundamentalists as Police accompanied the mob and remained mute spectators during the violence. Pastor Krishnanand Yadav and his wife, who is 6 months pregnant, ran upstairs along with their 14-month old daughter and locked themselves from the inside.

Policemen took Pastor, his pregnant wife, daughter and around 25 believers to Saharsa Sadar Police Station where they were rigorously questioned. Every one except for Pastor, were released the following day. Pray for Pastor Krishnanand Yadav & family, and the safety of the congregation.

05 AUGUST, TELANGANA
A Cottage meeting, being held at Bro. Parama Vinay Kumar’s residence at Telangana Nagar, Palvancha Mandal, Bhadra Sri Kothagudem District, Telangana, was attacked on 2-days, by religious fundamentalists, who beat up the congregation. P. Venkateswarlu, and his gang, barged into the residence shouting threats and abuse, beating the
believers indiscriminately, accusing them of converting people. Sis. Esther Rani, her son Ruben and 2 believers were beaten with chappals (foot-wear) and slapped by P. Venkateswarlu alleging conversions. On both occasions, Pastor Reuben lodged a complaint with the local Police Station at Palvancha Town. Police summoned both parties and negotiated a compromise. Pray for the protection of all cottage meetings.

06 AUGUST, CHHATTISGARH
Pray for Pastor Thomas George, and his wife who are affiliated with IFGM Ministries, ministering in a village called Jangalpur village in Dongargaon Tehsil, which is around 8kms from Rajnandgaon district in Chattisgarh. They were ambushed and confronted by the Village Sarpanch and 2 other men. They threatened and coerced Pastor to vacate their rented house immediately. They summoned the Police who arrested Pastor on false charges of religious conversion.

07 AUGUST, MANIPUR
Pastor Kontioujam Tendenda Meetei and 10 Christian families, living in Nungbrang Village, Imphal East District of Manipur State, have been ostracized and excommunicated for their faith in Jesus Christ. The Local Youth Club - Nungbrang Thumkhong Lairembi Youth Club, have imposed harsh social and economic sanctions have been imposed – cutting them from all village activities – every birth, every wedding, every death, every government scheme and subsidy – totally isolating them from the rest of the village community. The Christians have also been warned against assembling for prayer or worship service at their homes.

08 AUGUST, JHARKHAND
16 FMPB (Friends Missionary Prayer Band) – 7 women and 9 men Santal believers from Pakudia field (Santal Dumka Region), were held hostage by an angry mob of Phulpahadi villagers, had gone to Phulpahadi village, District of Dumka, Jharkhand, as they were on an outreach ministry. They were arrested by the Police based on the complaint lodged by the Village Chief.

09 AUGUST - UTTAR PRADESH
Unidentified men attacked and ambushed Bro. Ram Sudare, who was travelling on his vehicle, brutally beaten on allegations of changing his religion to Christianity and indulging in conversion activities of other villagers. Bro. Ram, a resident of Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, was critically injured and bleeding from the beatings, and rushed to the Hospital. When his Pastor tried to lodge a complaint, Police reportedly harassed and threatened to arrest the victim on conversion charges if he did not meet their demands of a bribe of Rs. 1000/- from Bro. Ram.
10 AUGUST – UTTAR PRADESH
Pastor Anil Kumar who is pastoring Jai Yesu Satsangh Church in Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, was conducting a meeting at the residence of a believer when a mob of more than 100 religious fanatics, invaded and illegally trespassed the venue of the prayer meeting and created a huge a ruckus. Later, with Police intervention, a compromise was reached between both parties.

11 AUGUST – TAMIL NADU
4 religious fanatics belonging to the Hindu Munnani Group, headed by Ajith, trespassed into a Pastor Stephen Paul’s house when he was away, physically assaulting his wife Prathibha, slapping and dragging her into the bedroom, molesting and outraging her modesty. They also beat the elderly men and sisters, who had gathered to pray, twisting their arms behind their back and causing injuries.

The 2nd incident - Pastor, his wife and family members were ambushed by the same group of men, who had gathered a mob of 20 others and mercilessly beat them up again.

3rd instance - as they tried to alight the ambulance, they were dragged out and beaten.

4th instance - finding their way on a scooter to a neighbouring village, the Hospital were threatened with violence if they treated Pastor & his family.

Pastor and his family travelled 75 kms, from Erode to Coimbatore, and finally were admitted in the Government Hospital.

12 AUGUST – UTTAR PRADESH
Over 400 Christians gather for worship service, at Yeshu Darbar Church at Raikashipur village, at Pratapgadh District, Uttar Pradesh, from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm, for the past 3 years. 3 Jeep’s filled with religious fanatics, armed with guns and sticks, barged into the Pastor Ram Kumar Gautam’s Church, firing shots into the air and shouting anti-Christian slogans. The mob surrounded the terrified congregation and began to indiscriminately and brutally beat everyone. Women and children and the elderly were not spared. Holy Bibles were torn and desecrated; personal belongings stolen, all Church equipment and electronic items including mic systems, chair, speakers etc. totally destroyed by the mob. Vehicles parked outside the Church – motor bikes and scooters, were vandalized and destroyed.
13 AUGUST – HARYANA
A case of ‘Forced Conversion’ under Section 295-A has been registered against Pastor Avianshu Kalra and his family members. Pastor is a Licensed Minister of the Assemblies of God, North India, serving as a Pastor of Karuna House of Prayer Church, located at Kalka Chowk, Ambala City, Haryana.

A Vijay Bhagat has charged Pastor of forcing them to throw away the idols and Sikh Gurus from their home, into the drain and telling them that they were converted to Christianity.

The State Shiv Sena Chief & Leadership, Dhami Sharma Local MLA and other right-wing religious fundamentalists, are allegedly trying to influence the process and procedures of investigation. They have also warned the Administration of Haryana of dire consequences if serious action is not taken against Pastor Avianshu and the Church.

14 AUGUST – TELANGANA
Please pray for Pastor Srinivas Sapa of “Good Fruit Ministries”, who’s Prayer Hall, was demolished at Sangameshwar Village, Dom akonda Mandal, Kamareddy Dist. Telangana by religious fundamentalists.

15 AUGUST, UTTAR PRADESH
Pray for Pastor Ram Sarup who was physically assaulted and beaten up by armed religious fundamentalists in Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh. They fired shots in the air as people ran for cover. Pastor lodged a complaint and the perpetrators also lodged a false complaint against Pastor. Police appear to be colluding with the fanatics as they are harassing Pastor and the Church.

16 AUGUST - MAHARASHTRA
Gamdevi police filed a FIR against Ezekiel Baskar (19), a born-again Christian from Vasai, a student of a South Mumbai college under the Black Magic Act after the parents of a female classmate from Grant Road accused him of trying to convert her. Although the girl claims that she chose to follow Jesus of her own free will, Ezekiel has been booked under sections 417 (cheating), 419 (cheating by personation) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of IPC that carry a maximum jail term of three years. Police have also invoked sections of the Black Magic Act, 2013.

17 AUGUST - ODISHA
Hindu fundamentalists in Baripada, Odisha, met with the Asanabahali church Christians in the village. They have given 15 days to either reject Christ or give up their houses
and all property and leave the village. A FIR was submitted at the local police station. Pray that our Christian brethren will get justice and live in peace.

18 AUGUST – BIHAR
Pray for Evangelists Reji, Shine and Jeet, members of India Mission, Bihar, who were ambushed by 20 religious fundamentalists, and brutally beaten for showing a Christian themed film in a village in Gaya, Bihar. Police rescued the team and detained them at the Police Station. After Police saw the whole film and finding no hateful content, SP ordered their release.

19 AUGUST – UTTAR PRADESH
Pray for Pastor Sabu Thomas from Church of God, who was falsely charged and arrested by the Police from Naka Hindola Police Station, while visiting a family in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

20 AUGUST, TELANGANA
Pray for Pastor Devadanam as the Church in Bommalaramaram village, Keesara mandala, Hyderabad, Telangana, was attacked and vandalized by Hindu fanatics. The main gate was removed and construction of the Church forcibly stopped. A complaint was given to Keesara police station however no arrests have been made so far.

21 AUGUST - JHARKHAND
Sisters Basmati and Sarita Kumari, were attacked by their family members in an attempt to renounce Christianity and revert back to their former religion, severely beating and threatening to kill them. They escaped to Uncle Pastor Anup Padhan’s residence, but villagers tracked them down took Pastor and 2 sisters to the Police Station, in Simdega city in Jharkhand State. With the support of the Police Officer, Mr. Singh was extremely supportive and through his intervention as well as the support of the Local Church Leaders, Pastor and the 2 sisters were released. Pray for the protection of Pastor Anup Padhan and Sisters Basmati and Sarita Kumari.

22 AUGUST - KARNATAKA
Pray for Evangelist Bro. Johnson who physically assaulted and the Church which was vandalized and attacked at Rudra Pattana near Hunsur, Karnataka. Pastor has been summoned to the Police Station. Pray for the safety of the congregation too.

23 AUGUST – TELANGANA
In a Land grabbing attempt, religious fundamentalists brutally attacked Pastor
Venkatesh Naik with knives and sticks, disputing the Church land ownership. Pray for Pastor Venkatesh Naik.

24 AUGUST – TAMIL NADU
Pray for Pastor Karur Jeyaseelan Natarajan and his son Samuel who were attacked by a mob of nearly 15 Hindu fundamentalists, at Bharathiyar Nagar in Thozhilpettai, on Trichy road in Karur, Tamil Nadu. Pastor Jeyaseelan was inaugurating a new branch of the church when this unprovoked attack happened. Samuel suffered a fracture of his hand and his shoulder and both were attempted taking treatment at G.H. Karur.

25 AUGUST – MAHARASHTRA
Pray for Sindhi Christians living among the Sindhi Community in Ulhasnagar, in Thane District of Maharashtra. Efforts are being made to stop the alleged conversion, to bring back Sindhi Christians to their original religion.

26 AUGUST – TELANGANA
Pray for Pastor Jairaju of “Christ Olive Prayer House”, who was threatened by religious fanatics and asked not to conduct Church services, although they are registered as a society. The Church is located at Chandnagar Rail Station, Opp. To Papiraddy Colony, Hyderabad, Telangana, who has been ministering for the last 8 years.

27 AUGUST – UTTAR PRADESH
Please pray for Ms. Akho Puro, Principal, Everest English High School, in Maharaj Ganj District, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, who has been falsely charged and arrested on ‘mis-management’ charges.

28 AUGUST, JHARKHAND
Officials of the government, run by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), are conducting searches in Christian institutions, particularly Missionaries of Charity (MC) homes, in state capital Ranchi and other cities such as Jamshedpur and Gumla. The searches and investigations started after MC Sister Concilia, who runs a home for unmarried mothers in Ranchi, was remanded in judicial custody. Christian leaders say the pro-Hindu government in India’s Jharkhand state has started a witch hunt against Christian institutions. Please pray.

29 AUGUST – TAMIL NADU
Pray for 100s of Sri Lankan refugee Christians, living in Coimbatore and Bhavana leave the refugee camp to attend Sunday Church outside. Now, the government has falsely
accused them of creating Law and order problem and prohibiting them from leaving the camps for Sunday Worship services.

30 AUGUST – NEW DELHI
Please pray as the proposed Higher Education Commission Act which plans to scrap the UGC and enforces absolute government control over colleges and universities. Pray for the Ministry of Human Resources & Development (MHRD) to recognize the value of public-funded education in the country.

31 AUGUST – MADHYA PRADESH
Leaders of Hindu groups in India have launched a campaign against St. Teresa of Kolkata and her Missionaries of Charity congregation after a nun was arrested on a charge of conducting an illegal adoption in a case which Christian leaders say aims to tarnish the church’s image.

The saint, commonly known as Mother Teresa, should be stripped of the highest civilian award — Bharat Ratna (jewel of India) — conferred on her in 1980 if the charges against the nun are proved to be true, said Rajiv Tuli, a leader of powerful Hindu group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Church pray.