**PRINCIPAL CONVICTED...**

for seeking justice for her students

The former Principal of Sheth M A High School in Andheri School, Ms Sherly Paul has written to the Education Minister against the reinstatement of a teacher, accused of sexually harassing nearly 40 Std. X Students, who is now out on bail. She said that she fears for the students safety.

In December last year, some Std. X students had approached the then Principal, complaining about their Algebra teacher, who had sexually harassed them.

"As the Principal of the school, I took into consideration complaints by over 40 students and filed an FIR against the teacher at D N Nagar police station" said Ms Paul. After speaking to a few students, the police arrested the teacher the same month and charged him under the POSCO Act. He was remanded in judicial custody.

Meanwhile, according to allegations made by the school management against Paul, several teachers had signed a petition saying they were harassed by the Principal and doubted her administrative knowledge.

Paul was terminated of her employment on official grounds on the basis of these false allegations, instead of the school management standing along side her and fighting for the rights and safety of her students!

Fired for standing for truth and her values, Ms Paul now had to suffer the added humiliation of watching the accused teacher go back to work while she sat at home.

The Principal is very concerned as his reinstatement is allegedly in violation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act, which states that any school staffer accused of molesting or harassing a child, should be debarred from work, until proven not guilty.

She had filed a case with the local court and the High Court. It is to be noted that Ms Paul, represented her own case as she could not afford a lawyer; while the school was represented by a team of lawyers!

We request the Church to fast and pray, to weed out abuse in schools (pls find link below - encourage you to support).

We thank God for the judiciary that was impartial and without prejudice; who stood for the tenets of truth.

In spite of being the lone voice in this school, fighting for truth and justice, she is also petitioning the Prime Minister of India to stop Child Sexual and Technology based sexual abuse in schools (pls find link below - encourage you to support).

We request the Church to fast and pray, to weed out this menace from our society and this land of India.


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PuNDeyBiBg

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**EDITOR’S NOTE**

True servants of God are always persecuted. We read in Daniel 11:33, that in the last days, godly people will be attacked, imprisoned and killed.

James was killed by King Herod. Abel was killed. Every true prophet in the Old Testament was persecuted. John the Baptist was beheaded. Jesus was crucified. Stephen was stoned to death. Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified. As far as we know, all the apostles, except John, were killed. Many God fearing missionaries have been killed in other lands.

Jesus has never promised that we would escape tribulation. He did say that we could overcome even as He overcame. He is far more interested in making us overcomers than in saving us out of tribulation, because He is far more interested in our character than in our comfort.

"Be faithful until death and I will give you a crown of life." (Rev 2:10), is the only word of encouragement and comfort that the Lord gave them. Even today, when the disciples and servants of Jesus are being tortured and persecuted for His Name in many lands, the Lord does not take them away from the earth. He will not rapture us to heaven before the great tribulation either. He will do something far better. He will make us overcomers in the midst of the great tribulation. Jesus is far more interested in saving us from evil than in saving us from tribulation. He permits us to go through tribulation because He knows that, that is the only way that we can become spiritually strong.

The little trials that we face at home and at work now, are a preparation for the greater ones that will come. That is why it is essential that we learn faithfulness in the hidden life - when we are tempted in the secret places of our life, in our thoughts, attitudes, motives, in money matters, etc. If we are unfaithful in the little things, we will be unfaithful to the Lord in the day of tribulation as well. If we cannot run with men now, how will we run with horses then? If we are not faithful in a time of ease, how will we be faithful in a time of trouble? (Jer. 12:5).

In the midst of tribulation, let us rejoice that all the little trials that we face at home and at work now, are a preparation for the greater ones that will come. If we cannot run with men now, how can we become spiritually strong? Hallelujah!

God is seeking to train us today to be His army soldiers in that soon coming end days.

Shibu Thomas

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**INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARTYRDOM DAY**

**MISSION:** TO LINK THE FREE CHURCH OF THE WORLD WITH THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN INDIA

**AIM:** FREEDOM TO WORSHIP JESUS CHRIST IN INDIA

**MOTTO:** SERVE PERSECUTED – LOVE PERSECUTOR

**PERSECUTION RELIEF**

AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT TO THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN INDIA

www.persecutionrelief.org

**"THE EARLY CHURCH WAS MARRIED TO POVERTY, PRISONS & PERSECUTIONS. IS TODAY'S CHURCH MARRIED TO PROSPERITY, PERSONALITY & POPULARITY?"**
We have little idea what brought Perpetua to faith in Christ, or how long she had been a Christian, or how she lived her Christian life. Thanks to her diary, and that of another prisoner, we have some idea of her last days—an ordeal that so impressed the famous Augustine that he preached four sermons about her death.

Perpetua was a Christian noblewoman who, at the turn of the third century, lived with her husband, her son, and her slave, Felicitas, in Carthage (in modern Tunisia). At this time, North Africa was the center of a vibrant Christian community. It is no surprise, then, that when Emperor Septimius Severus determined to cripple Christianity (he believed it undermined Roman patriotism), he focused his attention on North Africa. Among the first to be arrested were five new Christians taking classes to prepare for baptism, one of whom was Perpetua.

Her father immediately came to her in prison. He was a pagan, and he saw an easy way for Perpetua to save herself. He entreated her simply to deny that she was a pagan, and he saw an easy way for Perpetua to save herself. He entreated her simply to deny that she was a Christian.

"Father do you see this vase here?" she replied.

"Could it be called by any other name than what I am, a Christian?"

In the next days, Perpetua was moved to a better part of the prison and allowed to breast-feed her child. With her hearing approaching, her father visited again, this time, pleading more passionately:

"Have pity on my gray head. Have pity on me, your father, if I deserve to be called your father, if I have favored you above all your brothers, if I have raised you to reach this prime of your life."

He threw himself down before her and kissed her hands. "Do not abandon me to be the reproach of men. Think of your brothers; think of your mother and your aunt; think of your child, who will not be able to live once you are gone. Give up your pride!"

Perpetua was touched but remained unshaken. She tried to comfort her father—"It will all happen in the prisoner’s dock as God wills, for you may be sure that we are not left to ourselves but are all in his power"—but he walked out of the prison dejected. The day of the hearing arrived, Perpetua and her friends were marched before the governor, Hilarianus. Perpetua’s friends were questioned first, and each in turn admitted to being a Christian, and each in turn refused to make a sacrifice (an act of emperor worship). Then the governor turned to question Perpetua.

At that moment, her father, carrying Perpetua’s son in his arms, burst into the room. He grabbed Perpetua and pleaded, "Perform the sacrifice. Have pity on your baby!"

Hilarianus, probably wishing to avoid the unpleasantness of executing a mother who still suckled a child, added, "Have pity on your father’s gray head; have pity on your infant son. Offer the sacrifice for the welfare of the emperor."

Perpetua replied simply: "I will not."

"Are you a Christian then?" asked the governor.

"Yes I am," Perpetua replied.

Her father interrupted again, begging her to sacrifice, but Hilarianus had heard enough: he ordered soldiers to beat him into silence. He then condemned Perpetua and her friends to die in the arena.

Perpetua, her friends, and her slave, Felicitas (who had subsequently been arrested), were dressed in belted tunics. When they entered the stadium, wild beasts and gladiators roamed the arena floor, and in the stands, crowds roared to see blood. They didn’t have to wait long.

Immediately a wild heifer charged the group. Perpetua was tossed into the air and onto her back. She sat up, adjusted her ripped tunic, and walked over to help Felicitas. Then a leopard was let loose, and it wasn’t long before the tunics of the Christians were stained with blood.

This was too deliberate for the impatient crowd, which began calling for death for the Christians. So Perpetua, Felicitas, and friends were lined up, and one by one, were slain by the sword.

( Credits: ChristianityToday.com)

India's quota system for Dalits, tribals in jeopardy

Economic status should not be the parameter to decide whether or not people can access reserved jobs and opportunities

Ritu Sharma, New Delhi, India, Sept. 13, 2016

A decision to allow 10 percent of government jobs and educational opportunities to be reserved for people from the upper caste in India will adversely affect quotas mandated by the Constitution for Dalit and tribal communities.

The Supreme Court accepted the petition by the Gujarat government on Sept. 9 challenging the state court’s Aug. 4 decision to quash its order to reserve 10 percent of educational seats for upper caste people. But the Gujarat government claimed that it was merely looking out for poorer elements of the upper castes. Christian leaders say the move defeats the purpose of the quota system in India — a form of positive discrimination where people from low caste groups are allowed access to official positions and university places. They say that the quota system should only be for the betterment of marginalized sections of society such as the Dalits — formally known as "untouchables" — and tribal people.

Members of the Dalit community protest for their rights in Ahmedabad, the capital of Gujarat state in this 2014 file photo. (Photo by AP)
Kayla Mueller Refused to Deny Christ Despite Being Raped and Tortured by ISIS, Ex-Hostage Says

By Stoyan Zaimov, Christian Post Reporter
September 2, 2016 | 12:09 pm

Kayla Mueller’s family in Arizona received news of her death in February 2015, after IS sent photos of her dead body in a white burial shroud, supposedly as a sign of respect. The humanitarian worker is believed to have been married off to a top IS official as a sign of respect. The humanitarian worker is believed to have been married off to a top IS official during her captivity.

The jihadist group claimed that Mueller, who was captured in 2013 after leaving a hospital in Syria, had been killed during a Jordanian airstrike on one of its targets.

Mueller’s strong Christian faith was evident in her letters to her family, where she explained that faith gave her courage.

“I remember mom always telling me that all in all in the end the only one you really have is God. I have come to a place in experience where, in every sense of the word, I have surrendered myself to our creator b/c literally there was no else ... + by God + by your prayers I have felt tenderly cradled in freefall,” she wrote in one of her letters.

Other former sex slaves who escaped IS captivity have also said that Mueller put others before herself, and at one point even refused the chance to escape with the other girls, because she thought her American appearance could put the others in danger. Kathleen Day, a campus minister at Northern Arizona University, where Mueller studied, praised the girls who escaped IS for sharing Mueller’s testimony.

“These young women and hostages were all alone,” Day told AP. “They had no power. They had no voice. They had no money yet they stayed steady in their compassion and outreach to others.”

Carl and Marsha Mueller, the parents of the slain humanitarian worker, are meanwhile still waiting on President Obama to honor a pledge to make a donation to the foundation created around their daughter, focused on her commitment to serve the needy.

“The president could have been a hero, but he chose not to,” Carl Mueller told ABC News.

A White House official responded in a statement by suggesting that Obama will still help out Kayla’s Hands.

“The president will continue to support the goals of the organization in different ways, including by making a donation,” as pledged to the Mueller family, the official said.
Synopsis
Cornelia "Corrie" ten Boom was born in Haarlem, Netherlands, in 1892, and grew up in a devoutly religious family. During World War II, she and her family harbored hundreds of Jews to protect them from arrest by Nazi authorities. Betrayed by a fellow Dutch citizen, the entire family was imprisoned. Corrie survived and started a worldwide ministry and later told her story in a book entitled *The Hiding Place*.

Early Life
Cornelia Arnolda Johanna ten Boom was born on April 15, 1892, in Haarlem, Netherlands, near Amsterdam. Known as "Corrie" all her life, she was the youngest child, with two sisters, Betsie and Nollie, and one brother, Willem. Their father, Casper, was a jeweler and watchmaker. Cornelia was named after her mother.

The ten Boom family lived in the Beje house in Haarlem (short for Barteljorisstraat, the street where the house was located) in rooms above Casper’s watch shop. Family members were strict Calvinists in the Dutch Reformed Church. Faith inspired them to serve society, offering shelter, food and money to those in need. In this tradition, the family held a deep respect for the Jewish community in Amsterdam, considering them “God’s ancient people.”

Seeking a Vocation
After the death of her mother and a disappointing romance, Corrie trained to be a watchmaker and in 1922 became the first woman licensed as a watchmaker in Holland. Over the next decade, in addition to working in her father’s shop, she established a youth club for teenage girls, which provided religious instruction as well as classes in the performing arts, sewing and handicrafts.

World War II Changes Everything
In May 1940, the German Blitzkrieg ran though the Netherlands and the other Low Countries. Within months, the “Nazification” of the Dutch people began and the quiet life of the ten Boom family was changed forever. During the war, the Beje house became a refuge for Jews, students and intellectuals. The façade of the watch shop made the house an ideal front for these activities. A secret room, no larger than a small wardrobe closet, was built into Corrie’s bedroom behind a false wall. The space could hold up to six people, all of whom had to stand quiet and still. A crude ventilation system was installed to provide air for the occupants. When security sweeps came through the neighborhood, a buzzer in the house would signal danger, allowing the refugees a little over a minute to seek sanctuary in the hiding place.

Capture and Imprisonment
On February 28, 1944, a Dutch informant told the Nazis of the ten Booms’ activities and the Gestapo raided the home. They kept the house under surveillance, and by the end of the day 35 people, including the entire ten Boom family, were arrested. Although German soldiers thoroughly searched the house, they didn’t find the half-dozen Jews safely concealed in the hiding place. The six stayed in the cramped space for nearly three days before being rescued by the Dutch underground.

All ten Boom family members were incarcerated, including Corrie’s 84-year-old father, who soon died in the Scheveningen prison, located near The Hague. Corrie and her sister Betsie were remanded to the notorious Ravensbrück concentration camp, near Berlin. Betsie died there on December 16, 1944. Twelve days later, Corrie was released for reasons not completely known.

Work After the War
Corrie ten Boom returned to the Netherlands after the war and set up a rehabilitation center for concentration camp survivors. In the Christian spirit to which she was so devoted, she also took in those who had cooperated with the Germans during the occupation. In 1946, she began a worldwide ministry that took her to more than 60 countries. She received many tributes, including being knighted by the queen of the Netherlands. In 1971, she wrote a best-selling book of her experiences during World War II, entitled *The Hiding Place*. In 1975, the book was made into a movie starring Jeannette Clift as Corrie and Julie Harris as her sister Betsie.

In 1977, at age 85, Corrie ten Boom moved to Placentia, California. The next year, she suffered a series of strokes that left her paralyzed and unable to speak. She died on her 91st birthday, April 15, 1983. Her passing on this date evokes the Jewish tradition that states that only specially blessed people are granted the privilege of dying on the date they were born.

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Definition of CRUCIFIXION

Jesus’ Crucifixion was a horribly painful and disgraceful form of capital punishment used in the ancient world. This method of execution involved binding the victim’s hands and feet and nailing them to a cross.

Definition

The word crucifixion comes from the Latin “cruci-fixio,” or “crucifixus,” meaning “fixed to a cross.”

Roman crucifixion was an ancient method of execution in which the victim’s hands and feet were bound and nailed to a cross. It was one of the most painful and disgraceful methods of capital punishment. Victims were usually beaten and tortured and then forced to carry their own cross to the crucifixion site. The Roman cross was formed of wood, typically with a vertical stake and a horizontal cross beam near the top. Different types and shapes of crosses existed for different forms of crucifixion.

The Roman form of crucifixion was not employed in the Old Testament by the Jewish people, as they saw crucifixion as one of the most horrible, cursed forms of death (Deuteronomy 21:23). In New Testament Bible times, the Romans used this tortuous method of execution as a means of exerting authority and control over the population.

Different Forms of Crucifixion

Detailed descriptions of crucifixions are few, perhaps because secular historians could not bear to describe the gruesome events of this horrible practice. However, archaeological finds from first century Palestine have shed a great deal of light on this early form of death penalty. Four basic structures or types of crosses were used for crucifixion: Cruc Simplex, Cruc Commissa, Cruc Decussata, and Cruc Inmissa.

The Crucifixion of Jesus - Bible Story Summary

Jesus Christ, the central figure of Christianity, died on a Roman cross as recorded in Matthew 27:27-56, Mark 15:21-38, Luke 23:25-49, and John 19:16-37. Christian theology teaches that Christ’s death provided the perfect atoning sacrifice for the sins of all humankind, thus making the crucifix, or cross, one of the defining symbols of Christianity. Take some time to meditate on this Bible story about the crucifixion of Jesus, with Scripture references, interesting points or lessons to be learned from the story, and a question for reflection:

Timeline of Jesus’ Death by Crucifixion

Jesus’ final hours on the cross lasted from approximately 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., a period of about six hours. This timeline takes a detailed, hour-by-hour look at the events as recorded in Scripture, including the events just before and immediately following the crucifixion.

Good Friday - Remembering the Crucifixion

On the Christian Holy Day known as Good Friday, observed the Friday before Easter, Christians commemorate the passion, or suffering, and death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Many believers spend this day in fasting, prayer, repentance, and meditation on the agony of Christ on the cross.

Showing Hospitality

“And YHWH appeared unto him [Abraham] in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day. And he lined up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him. And when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, and said, ‘My Lord, if now I have found favor in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be given me, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant.’” - Gen. 18:1-5

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it," in the same way that Abraham “entertained angels without knowing it,” in the same way that Abraham entertained angels without knowing it, in the same way that Abraham entertained angels without knowing it.

One day in the winter of 1987-88, I was working on an oil painting and listening to some Keith Green music when I heard a knock at the door. I opened the door, and there stood a young lady trying to sell Avon products. She looked very down and depressed as she stood there in the cold, grey, damp weather and asked if we would be interested in buying anything. She was not real well-dressed, and she was not smiling. Her face and her demeanor said that she had already resigned herself to the disappointment of another “no sale.” She did not look at all like the typical Avon lady one sees in ads.

I was not about to buy any Avon products. I had no job, no regular income, and almost no money. We could not even afford a phone at that time. Besides, my wife, Teresa, did not wear any kind of make-up (nor did I!), so I politely said, “No thanks” and went back to my painting, slightly annoyed by the fact that my work had been momentarily interrupted by a door-to-door salesgirl.

Continued on pg. no. 7
Overcoming the CURSE OF WORDS

By Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

The curse of words includes words spoken by others (or even by yourself) that are intended to inflict harm or damage, to belittle you, or to wish you evil. Consider the example of David, cursed and belittled by Shimei, in 2 Samuel 16. Shimei falsely accused David, attributing David’s circumstances and the loss of his kingdom to God’s judgment for alleged past sins against the house of Saul. Shimei’s words hurt!

What are the words that have been spoken to you that have wounded you or “cursed” you, undeservedly? “You’re so clumsy... You’ll never amount to anything... You’ll never change... You’re going to be just like your mother... You’ll never find anyone to love you... I wish you were dead... I wish you’d never been born... You always... You never... etc.” Being a child of God doesn’t make you immune to others’ cursing. The key is how you respond to these wounds. There are two possible responses:

1. Abishai, David’s bodyguard and nephew, wanted to attack—to give a curse back (v. 9).
2. David, rather than defending himself or reacting violently, restrained himself. He recognized the sovereignty of God, responded humbly, and received Shimei’s curse as from the Lord (vv. 10-12).

How will you respond?

How to Overcome or Break Free from the Curse of Words in Your Life

1. Realize (remember) the blessing of God.
   - No one can curse you apart from God’s permission (Num. 22:12, 38; 23: 8, 20, 23).
   - If you are a child of God, you are blessed, in spite of (or regardless of) what others do to you.
   - The blessing of God is more powerful than any human curse.
   - Through the cross of Christ, God has made provision to set you free from every curse. No curse of words has to control your life any longer.
   - God protects and vindicates the righteous. Those who live godly lives do not have to worry about curses coming to rest upon them.

2. Review the curse.
   - What is the source of the words?
   - As you review the words others have said to you in light of the Word of God, ask: “Is this true? Does it agree with what God says?”

3. Reject any words that are not true.
   - Curses only have power over us if we believe them.
   - If they’re not true, they are powerless (Prov. 26:2).
   - When we believe them, we invest power in them.
   - Make a choice to reject words that do not line up with God’s Word.

4. Renew your mind.
   - Children may not know the truth, but adults are responsible to learn the truth.
   - Saturate your heart and mind with the Truth of God’s Word (Phil. 4:8-9). Replace lies with Truth.

5. Receive God’s blessing.
   - Even when you cannot “feel” God’s blessing, you can receive it by faith.
   - After you have received God’s blessing, you are free to bless others. (Jacob’s example—Gen. 48:49)

6. Release those who have cursed you.
   - We release others through forgiveness.
   - Forgiving others frees us to live victoriously in God’s blessing.

7. Repent of any cursing you have done to others.
   - Christians’ words should only be a source of blessing (James 3:8-11; 4:11).
   - Speaking evil of believers is a characteristic of non-believers (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:16).
   - Be careful about the impact of your words as a parent or with your spouse.
   - Don’t be careless with words. Refrain from jesting, teasing, criticizing or constant “evaluations” that leave their mark. Don’t make snap judgments or jump to conclusions—be “slow to speak” (James 1:19).

8. Refuse to return cursing for cursing.
   - Only return blessing for cursing (Rom. 12:14, 17-21).
   - The biblical principle is, you will reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7). If you bless others, you will be blessed. If you curse them, you will be cursed.

9. Resolve to speak blessing.
   - Speak blessings to everyone. Be proactive. Look for opportunities to bless, validate, and encourage.
   - Speak blessings not only to others, but also about others.
   - Give specific blessings—personal and appropriate (Gen. 48:1-3, 15-16; 49:28). Envision what God can do in others. Exercise faith on their behalf through a blessing that can transform their future (Heb. 11:20-21).
   - Don’t just think it. Say it—now! Don’t wait for the funeral.
   - Although there are many everyday opportunities to bless, blessings are also appropriate on special occasions (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.)
   - Blessings are especially important for those under your leadership or authority. (Wives can encourage their husbands to see the value of blessing their children.)
   - Words of blessing cause growth, give hope, and bring healing.
   - Blessings turn hearts toward the “Blesser”—our loving, just, and faithful God.

Words are powerful, and death and life are in the power of the tongue. When we curse, demean, diminish, or belittle with our words, we speak lies—Satan’s language. When we speak the truth of God’s Word into people’s lives, we bless them.


SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 16:9-12

Newborn Baby Rescued at Sea

Jim Denison | Denison Forum on Truth and Culture | Sunday, August 28, 2016

The front page of this morning’s Wall Street Journal has a poignant photo: a woman is holding a newborn baby surrounded by life jackets and a newborn baby being rescued at sea. They are among more than 700 migrants rescued yesterday from seven boats in the Mediterranean Sea and transferred to the Italian coast guard.

CNN reports today on another harrowing escape over the weekend. Southwest Airlines Flight 3472, en route from New Orleans to Orlando, was diverted to Pensacola, Florida, after an engine exploded. “It was thanks to that pilot that we’re all alive,” a passenger said after the plane landed safely.

One more story of resilience: according to CNN, a couple was married yesterday amidst the rubble of the deadly earthquake in Italy. They had planned to be married in the town church, but part of the building crumbled in the quake that killed at least 291 people. So they moved their wedding to the village square and made a memory the world is sharing today.

When people demonstrate courage in the face of devastating challenges, the culture takes notice.

This is especially true when Christians remain faithful in a faithless day. But it’s sometimes hard to trust God for a future outcome that redeems present suffering. So let’s consider this statement by the Apostle Paul: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are worth the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).

Consider this: the proverb “It was thanks to that pilot that we’re all alive,” a passenger said after the plane landed safely. When people demonstrate courage in the face of devastating challenges, the culture takes notice.

Taken together, these definitions render Paul’s promise true: “I am absolutely certain on the basis of all the evidence that every kind of suffering in this era of human existence is not worthy of the slightest comparison to the splendors that will be revealed fully to each and every one of us.”

What’s your problem today? What suffering in “this present time” is testing your faith?

I am convinced that God redeems all he allows. However, his redemption does not always take place immediately. Joseph languished for years in Pharaoh’s prison before ascending to his palace. Stephen died without knowing his influence on Paul the Apostle Acts 7:58). Much of God’s redemption of present suffering lies in future revelation.

But one day you will know what you do not know today: “Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known” (1 Corinthians 13:12).

In the meantime, know that the future reward of your present faithfulness far outweighs its cost. And remember that the world is watching your obedience. As the song says, “May all who come behind us find us faithful.”
How do we balance justice and forgiveness?  
“Can we pray for justice, and yet love our enemy at the same time?” The answer is yes.  
But let’s start with our own guilt. Christians know that if God dealt with us only according to justice, we would perish under his condemnation. We are guilty of treason against God in our sinful pride and rebellion. We deserve only judgment. Justice alone would condemn us to everlasting torment.  
But God does not deal with us only in terms of justice. Without compromising his justice he “justifies the ungodly” (Romans 4:5). That sounds unjust. And it would be if it were not for what God did in the life and death of Jesus Christ.  
The mercy of God moved him to send the Son of God to bear the wrath of God so as to vindicate the justice of God when he justifies sinners who have faith in Jesus. So we have our very life because of mercy and justice (Romans 3:25-26). They met in the cross.  
So we are not quick to demand justice unmixed with mercy. Jesus demands, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he causes his sun to rise on the righteous and on the wicked” (Matthew 5:44-45). And, of course Jesus modeled this for us as a perfect man. “While we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son” (Romans 5:10). And even as he died for his enemies he prayed, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).  
So the resounding command of the apostles is, “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. . . . Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. . . . Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. ‘But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink’” (Romans 12:14-20).  
When we live this way we magnify the glory of God’s mercy and the all-satisfying Treasure that he is to our souls. We show that because of his supreme value to us, we do not need the feeling of personal vengeance in order to be content.  
But it does not compromise this truth to say that God should also be glorified as the one who governs the world and delegates some of his authority to civil states. Therefore some of God’s divine rights as God are given to governments for the purposes of restraining evil and maintaining social order under just laws. This is what Paul means when he writes, “There is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.... [This authority is] a minister of God to you for good ... it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil” (Romans 13:1-4).  
God wills that human justice hold sway among governments, and between citizens and civil authority. He does not prescribe that governments always turn the other cheek. The government “does not bear the sword for nothing.” Police have the God-given right to use force to restrain evil and bring law-breakers to justice. And legitimate states have the God-given right to restrain life-threatening aggression and bring criminals to justice. If these truths are known, God-ordained exercise of divine prerogative would glorify the justice of God who mercifully ordains that the flood of sin and misery be restrained in the earth.  
Therefore, we will magnify the mercy of God by praying for our enemies to be saved and reconciled to God. At the personal level we will be willing to suffer for their everlasting good, and we will give them food and drink. We will put away malicious hatred and private vengeance. But at the public level we will also magnify the justice of God by praying and working for justice to be done on the earth, if necessary through wise and measured force from God-ordained authority.

www.desiringgod.org. Used by permission
Modi says discrimination against any community won’t be tolerated

Speaking at New Delhi in June 2015 (Hindustan Times) Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he won’t tolerate any discrimination or violence against any community and called anti-minority comments by some Sangh Parivar leaders “unfortunate” and “uncalled for”, in his strongest response yet on growing incidents of hate speeches.

“Our Constitution guarantees religious freedom to every citizen and that is not negotiable. I have said this before and I say it again: any discrimination or violence against any community will not be tolerated,” Modi said in an interview to United New of India (UNI).

When asked how he would rein in party leaders spewing hatred, Modi said his government stood for every Indian regardless of caste or creed and would work for the progress of every one of them. “Every faith in our country has equal rights; it is equal not only before the law but also before society,” he said.

“My government’s focus has been on governance and development. Our focal point is clear: Vikas, Vikas, Vikas; jobs, jobs, jobs.”

The PM was under fire over his silence regarding the controversial ghar-wapsi conversion programmes and allegations of religious persecution but broke his silence in February in an unequivocal condemnation of religious violence following a series of attacks on Christian properties in Delhi.

“My government will ensure that there is complete freedom of faith and that everyone has the undeniable right to retain or adopt the religion of his or her choice without coercion or undue influence,” Modi had said in February at a Christian event.

Analysts have warned a spate of hate speeches by members of the BJP as well as RSS and Sangh Parivar threaten to distract from the PM’s development agenda and give the Opposition, especially the Congress, a handle to stall Parliament.

Source: http://m.hindustantimes.com

Hon. Prime Minister,

We applauded your speech and the vision you had for future India, on religious freedom and communal harmony. Despite the reservations many Indians had, we placed high hopes in you as the next Prime Minister of this great nation. Unfortunately, the rise in the number of Christian Persecution cases, with a lot of attacks on house Churches, resulting in them closing down on account of fear of harassment is on the rise! There are many instances where people are oppressed and persecuted because of their faith. So many Christians in villages are boycotted and they are not allowed to use the basic facilities like water from community hand pump and even their cattle are not allowed to be fed.

We humbly request that as the guardian of this Nation, to ensure that for the Christian Minority Community, whatever is our entitlement and right, guaranteed by the Constitution of India, we must be permitted to exercise those rights without fear or favor.

As India aspires to be a world leader, we need to project our strengths, not weaknesses and religious intolerance. The Church in India is praying for you and your team, that India would be a better place to live in. May Jesus Christ grant you the Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge and may you continue taking India to greater heights. May God bless you and give Hon. Prime Minister good health and all wisdom to lead the nation.

INDIAN CHRISTIAN MARTYRDOM DAY

“In honour of ‘Bharat ki Beti’ and other ‘Bharatiya Christian Martyrs’, Persecution Relief has decided to remember 22 July 2017. This day commemorates the death of 14 - year old ‘Bharat ki Beti’, who was brutally raped and murdered in 2016, to take revenge on her family who were unwilling to forsake faith in Jesus Christ”.

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