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Monthly Edition

VOICE

OF THE CHRISTIANS

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A special report on Uttar Pradesh
Page No.37



A Persecution Relief Initiative

For Private Circulation within the Church only

*Therefore I take pleasure in
infirmities, in reproaches,
in needs, in persecutions,
in distresses, for Christ's sake.
For when I am weak,
then I am strong
2 Corinthians 12:10 .*



WWW.PERSECUTIONRELIEF.ORG

VOICE OF THE CHRISTIANS

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FOUNDER'S NOTE

One of my favorite Hymns - "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone", is one that gives me the reassurance and strength.

THE LORD MUST BUILD HIS HOUSE

As I go down memory lane over the past 3 years, I see the unmistakable presence of Holy Spirit at work, in the way He has led me and established Persecution Relief thus far. There is no way we could have achieved what we have today without His leading and counsel.

When God began to reveal to me His vision, His blueprint for this new project, I was very excited as all of us would be. I had no idea where to start, no plan, no endorsement or credentials. I did not realize the ramifications of the vision but as God began to open, layer after layer, I was amazed by the length, breadth, height and depth of the ministry! It was simply overwhelming.

Laying down the desires of my heart for God's greater purposes -my family, my privileged life style, my friends, my position in the community - giving up everything that I counted as worth, to walk in obedience to His voice - was a path of sacrifice, pain and denial.

As I started out, like Nehemiah, God instructed me, step by step, about the ministry. Once the blue print of the ministry was given and the ball started to roll, the pace began to pick up - quickly.

There were days when fear and uncertainty gripped my heart; when men and women of God dreamed dreams, saw visions of threats to my life, the weight of responsibility that comes with the ministry - navigating through all of this, was a sobering reminder that "He who began a good work in me, will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ".

I must admit that I have considered withdrawing and living a normal Christian life. Somedays, things appear to spin out of control - especially when you see the alarming increase of persecuted brethren and the pain and injustice they endure. But God is faithful. Every day, the Holy Spirit works in the mundane everyday moments of life, reassuring and encouraging, that God reigns.

One of my favorite Hymns - "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone", is one that gives me the reassurance and strength.

Also, another favorite scripture of mine is from the book of Revelation 1:18. It became even more significant as I was called to full-time ministry.

"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death" - Rev. 1: 18

The Lord continues to bless me with divine revelations and guidance, on how to manage this overwhelming need on the ground for His persecuted Church. The Lord continues to bless the work and shower it with His favour, opening doors to new opportunities and connections. Our work has grown tremendously and the number of persecution cases have exponentially increased.

This note is also an appeal to all readers, to volunteer, to serve the persecuted Church.

“Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).

I believe that there is no shortage of labourers among us. The task of re-building His Church and restoring / building the faith of these faithful servants of God, rests with each one of us. He won't compel you to go that way if you don't want to. However, if you wish to partner with re-building His Church, I invite you to support and volunteer with Persecution Relief.

HOW CAN YOU SERVE AS A VOLUNTEER ?

- **Ambassador** – how influential are you? Join us in spreading and raising awareness of persecution of Christians in India - to go out with advice and prayer, to Churches, Youth Groups, Bible Colleges, Christian Schools, and other settings; distributing literature and educating while raising awareness about Persecution Relief, with your own resources.
- **Videographer** - Are you a videographer? Can you make short films, long films, snippets?
- **Photographer** - Are you a Photographer? Can you visit the persecuted to cover their story, cover events, cover programs etc.?
- **Social Media Manager** - How knowledgeable are you at managing Social Media sites (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube)? Can you monitor, contribute, file, measure and guide the presence of our brand in the Social Media?
- **WhatsApp Manager** – Manage chats on both Android and iPhone, create WhatsApp Groups, archive messages, take a backup WhatsApp messages to computer, Export photos and videos
- **App. Developers** – to develop Prayer App. for the persecuted, App for helping the persecuted, to manage and run our existing App. for Persecution Relief Radio
- **For PR Studio:** Sound Engineers to run, maintain and record for our Persecution Relief Studio
- **For PR Office** – Accountants, Office Assistants proficient with Microsoft suite, Graphic and Web Designers, people who can assist in forging partnership with Churches and other Christian Organisations, experience to handle mass emails, Telephone /Toll Free Operators, Event Organizers etc.
- **Translators** – Translation of articles, news etc. in all regional languages (Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, Telugu etc.)
- **For PRO Team** – To speak to Police Dept. for securing release of unauthorized arrest, speaking to Media persons to update persecution stories real-time, write letters to the Prime Minister, President, Ministers etc., writing mails to the International Media, Human Rights Organisations etc.
- **For PR Magazine:** Are you a writer? Can you help in writing Magazine stories, Press Releases or Publicity Articles, Proof Read, Edit, Printer, Design etc.
- **For PR Events** – Event Managers to manage Persecution Relief Events – ICMD, ICDPP, ICPDP which are Annual Events
- **Prayer Warriors** – to organize Prayer Meetings, form teams, connect Districts – to pray for the Persecuted and the Persecutors

Only prayers will move the hearts of those God would choose to send. I pray that as you bow your knees before God, crying out to Him for more labourers for His harvest, it may well be that He calls you!

May our Churches set aside special seasons of corporate prayer, seeking the face of God for His persecuted bride.

May we be obedient to do exactly what Jesus has commanded, not merely suggested that we do. Let us pray!

The God who has called and chosen you is faithful to fulfil His promise to you and to me.



Shibu Thomas

Founder-PERSECUTION RELIEF
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Pastor Bijoy Varghese & Pastor Packiyaraj, Jammu & Kashmir



Pastor Bijoy has been ministering with Assemblies of God Church [AG] since past 10 years in Janipur, Jammu District, Jammu and Kashmir.

He has a “House Church” besides ministering in several villages around Jammu.

On 04th September, Pastor Bijoy along with Pastor Packiyaraj, who was visiting him, left home at around 9:30 am to nearby Agor village. There, they were evangelizing ‘door to door’, finding some people receptive to the gospel message, while other people turned them away.

As they reached the house of an 85-year old lady, and handed a Bible tract, she was enraged and shouted out that the neighbours gathered. She falsely accused the Christians of forcing and luring people to convert, took a lathi and beat them. Soon, the women in the neighbourhood including the men, brutally beat, punched and kicked the two men up with their bare hands and slippers.

Eventually, they put the 2 Christians in a vehicle and took them to the Police Station.

PERSECUTION RELIEF WERE INFORMED ABOUT THE INCIDENT AROUND 5 PM. SIS. RUBY, WIFE OF PASTOR BIJOY, **REPORTEDLY RECEIVED A CALL FROM HER HUSBAND AT AROUND 1.30 PM INFORMING HER THAT THEY HAD RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE AT THE VILLAGE. ALL TELEPHONE CONNECTIVITY WAS LOST POST THAT CALL.**

During this time, the mobile telephones, the ID Cards and all their personal belongings were confiscated.

While at the Police Station, the persecutors continued to beat the men, in the presence of the Police, who rescued them from the mob.

Persecution Relief were informed about the incident around 5 pm. Sis. Ruby, wife of Pastor Bijoy, reportedly received a call from her husband at around 1.30 pm informing her that they had ran into some trouble at the village. All telephone connectivity was lost post that call.

Pastor Manojmon, Coordinator, Persecution Relief, Jammu & Kashmir, and a few local Pastors, left Jammu to the nearest Police Station at village Agor.

Persecution Relief spoke with the SHO Dushyant Singh and made him aware of the facts on the ground. By the grace of God, after an hour, Pastor Bijoy and Pastor Packiyaraj were released without any charges.

RELIEF PROVIDED

“I AM SO THANKFUL TO BRO. SHIBU THOMAS FOR HELPING ME AND PASTOR PACKIYARAJ TO BE RELEASED FROM THE POLICE CUSTODY. THE MOMENT HE SPOKE TO US, HE REACHED OUT TO SP MR SINGH AND THE SHO. THOUGH THE SHO WAS NOT AVAILABLE, HE RUSHED BACK TO THE STATION AND HELPED US TO BE RELEASED.

I AM THANKFUL TO THE ENTIRE PERSECUTION RELIEF TEAM FOR YOUR CARE AND CONCERN - EVEN THOUGH YOU NEVER KNEW US, YET YOU REACHED OUT TO US. YOU EVEN UPDATED MY FAMILY ABOUT THE PROGRESS ON THE CASE.

MAY GOD BLESS PERSECUTION RELIEF TEAM. MY PRAYER AND BEST WISHES ARE ALWAYS WITH THEM”. - PASTOR BIJOY

Pastor M Varghese, Rajasthan



65 -year old Pastor Varghese was brutally beaten up by religious fundamentalists, then arrested by Police, for allegedly being involved in conversion activities at village in Suratgarh, Sri Ganganagar District, Rajasthan.

Pastor M. Varghese of IPC Ebenezer Church, was reportedly attacked because he visited an old lady, who invited him home for prayers. During the prayer meeting, religious fanatics

barged into the meeting, falsely accusing him of trying to convert the members of the home. The mob, shouting, 'Jai Sri Ram, Jai Sri Ram, attacked Pastor, mercilessly and brutally beating him in spite of his age and his pleas of innocence. They also senselessly vandalized Pastor's vehicle.

Later, Pastor was taken to the local Police Station, and falsely accused of being involved in conversion activities, a charge often leveled against Christians to target them.



RELIEF PROVIDED

“THANK YOU, PERSECUTION RELIEF TEAM FOR ALL YOUR HELP SPECIALLY THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT YOU EXTENDED TOWARDS MY SCANNING AND OTHER EXPENSES. I NEVER ASKED FOR ANYTHING BUT THANK FOR SENDING THE FINANCIAL IN A TIME LIKE THIS AND I AM ALSO THANKFUL FOR ALL YOUR CARE AND SUPPORT.- PR M VARGHESE

Instead of acting against the perpetrators of attack, the police filed charges against Pastor, under Section 107 and 151.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Pastor was strong and steadfast in his faith. He claimed that God filled his heart with peace and courage that every time they beat him, he kept saying “Hallelujah, thank you Jesus” and every time they demanded that he say, “Jai Sriram” – he refused to do so – instead he said “Jesus is Lord”, ‘Jesus is King”.

Rashtriya Susamachar Parishad, Uttar Pradesh

TRAINING PROGRAM ATTACKED BY RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISTS

A Training Program undertaken at Rashtriya Susamachar Parishad, located at Izzat Nagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, was attacked by a mob of religious fundamentalists this evening.

The 3-Day Training Program, was being held from 06 September – where 27 persons had enrolled.

Rashtriya Susamachar Parishad is a private and established Centre for the past 25 years. During the Program, an unidentified youth walked in observed the program and left. He soon returned with a slogan shouting mob, accompanied with Police Officials, who demanded that the proceedings be stopped.

Bro. Ashok Benjamin and Bro. Methi who were leading the discussion, were brutally beaten up by the mob, alleging ‘religious conversion’ training, while the Police Officials

were mute spectators. Both were eventually taken to Prem nagar Police Station, Bareilly, while the mob followed them there.

The large agitating mob of religious fanatics followed them, and the situation outside the Police Station was still hostile. However, more than 200 Believers also reached the Police Station.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Pastor Vijay Masih mentioned that the situation outside the Police Station was still hostile, as the religious fundamentalists had virtually created a siege around the police station, raising slogans.

By the grace of God, Police took the initiative to negotiate a compromise between both parties and no complaints were lodged. Thank you Church for Praying. Continue Praying for RSP.

RELIEF PROVIDED

“THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR COUNSEL AND TIMELY ADVISE. WE WERE HONOURED AND GREATLY BLESSED BY YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO USE YOU FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN INDIA” - DR JOY JULIUS RAJ HEAD (RSP)



Adopt a persecuted family



Prayerline24.com

- Daily 6 to 6.45 pm (New York time)
- Dial +1-712-432-8273, access code 218618#

Oklahoma Prayer Line

- Sunday 9 to 11 pm - Oklahoma time
- Dial +1-605-562-3140, access code 217 648

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Pastor Sahadevan, Kerala

BEATEN BY FUNDAMENTALISTS ON FALSE CHARGES OF CONVERSION, KERALA

Religious fanatics brutally beat and grievously injured Pastor Sahadevan while he was visiting a Christian family.

The incident took place at Chakkarapara Colony, Amboori Panchayat, Trivandrum District, Kerala. Pastor was invited to one of the Christians home to conduct a prayer meeting in their home. While the prayer meeting was in progress, religious fundamentalists barged into the private residence, accusing Pastor of converting people. Pastor was brutally beaten and asked to leave the house.

While there were 3 or 4 families belonging to the CSI Church residing in this Adivasi Colony, most of the residents are for the Hindu faith.

Pastor Sahadevan was rushed to the Government Ayurveda Hospital, Vellarada for treatment.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Pastor Sahadevan mentioned that he had been beaten up many times in the past, but was confident and joyful in Him who had called him.

When asked if he required any assistance since he was hospitalized, Pastor politely

“ PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN TERRORIZED AND THREATENED BY THE FUNDAMENTALISTS NOT TO ATTEND CHURCH IN THE FUTURE AND TO RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL FAITH. **THOSE WHO GO TO CHURCH ARE OFTEN THREATENED AND RIDICULED BY THESE FANATIC PEOPLE.** ”

declined any support. Instead he asked for prayers for the families attending Church.

“Please pray for the families who have been terrorized and threatened by the fundamentalists not to attend Church in the future and to return to their original faith. Those who go to church are often threatened and ridiculed by these fanatic people. “

In spite of being severely beaten, Pastor was unwilling to file a Police complaint. Instead, Pastor negotiated a compromise with the attackers as he had forgiven them.

Pray that God’s amazing grace and power will continue to rest upon Pastor Sahadevan as he walks as an ambassador of Jesus Christ.

Pr. Sunny K. John and Team

CHRISTIANS BEATEN WHILE EVANGELIZING, RAJASTHAN

A Group of Evangelists, visiting village Nosra, in Ahore Tehsil, Jalore District of Rajasthan State, were brutally attacked by a mob of religious fundamentalists, accusing them of involving in conversion activities.

Every year, these Evangelists visit the villages of Rajasthan and organise street side skits, to sensitize the people about the ill effects of drug abuse and encouraging prevention of substance abuse. Children and adults both through these awareness programs, as it is disseminated in the regional language, making the simplicity of the information and content, easily understandable, through drama form.

Pr. Sunny K. John (Sujangarh), ministers with Philadelphia Ministries at Rajasthan. Accompanying Pastor for this Drug Prevention Campaign and Gospel Outreach Ministry, were 8 members - Pr. Philip (Babu) Tonk, Pr. Biju Daniel (Nasirabad) Pr. Baiju (Kota) Pr. Joseph Cheeran (IBC Alumnus, Bundi) Pr. Mathew (Devri) Pr. Prabhan (Jalore) and Sisters Mini Sunny & Sumitra.



Bibles and Christian Tracts are distributed to anyone who is interested in receiving a copy.

A small crowd of curious and interested local villagers gathered to listen to their speeches and watch the skit. Suddenly, a mob of around a dozen religious fanatics surrounded them and brutally beat them, accusing them of converting people to Christianity. They caught all of them, put them in a vehicle and took them to the local Nosra Police Station, alleging that they were converting the villagers.

In the meantime, a Pastor Rajkumar from Jaipur, who received information, called



Persecution Relief, to alert about the attack. Persecution Relief team spoke to Mr. Vikas Sharma, SP Jalore, making him aware of the circumstances, who assured of a fair and just probe.

Pastor Sunny's wife, speaking to Persecution Relief from the Police Station, mentioned that the SP had informed the Police officials of Nosra to take serious action against the religious fanatics, considering the severity of the beating and critical injuries.

Pastor and the team, categorically stated that they did not wish to lodge a complaint as they had forgiven the perpetrators, as followers

of Jesus Christ. In spite of this, the Police Officer Nirmal, and SP were adamant and arrested the religious fanatics.

All 9 Evangelists were cordially looked after by the Police at Nosra Police Station, as they had to spend all night and the early part of the morning, completing their medical examination and legal formalities, before they were allowed to leave for home at Udaipur, with Police escort.

Church, pray that they will continue to be steadfast in sharing the Gospel, in spite of this setback.



RELIEF PROVIDED

“I AM GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE HELP YOU PROVIDED TO OUR ENTIRE TEAM. BRO. SHIBU, YOU KEPT YOURSELF AWAKE THE WHOLE NIGHT AS YOU SPOKE AND COORDINATED WITH THE CONCERNED POLICE OFFICIALS WHO WERE ALL SO SUPPORTIVE AND HELPED US.

ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAD PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED US, WERE BOOKED UNDER VARIOUS CHARGES. WE ARE ALSO THANKFUL FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR US. YOU WERE TRULY GOD SENT AND OUR STRENGTH AT A TIME LIKE THIS”. - SIS MINI, WIFE OF PASTOR SUNNY



**THE GREAT
THING ABOUT
GOD'S
PROTECTION IS
THAT IT KEEPS
A MAN SAFE IN
THE MIDST OF
ALL TROUBLES.**

FOUNDER - PERSECUTION RELIEF

Pastor Vinod Kumar James, Uttar Pradesh

GEMS BELIEVERS INTERROGATED, POLICE AMAZED AT THE TESTIMONIES, UTTAR PRADESH

3 dozen Police Officers walked into GEMS Prarthana Bhavan, while Sunday Worship Service was in progress, to investigate a complaint that illegal conversions and baptisms were being forcibly done.

Pastor Vinod Kumar James, ministers at GEMS Prarthana Bhawan, which is affiliated with GEMS (Gospel Echoing Missionary Society), since 2009, at Baresar village in Zamnia Block in Ghazipur District of Uttar Pradesh State.

On Sunday, 09th September, 2018, Police Officials of Ghaziabad and Zamnia Police Station, visited the Church while the Sunday Worship service was in progress. Pastor Vinod was asked to come outside to meet the officials, while the congregation continued worshipping.

As soon he walked out, Pastor was shocked to see a large posse of Policemen who had come along as they had received a complaint

from local people and a temple priest, that conversion activities were taking place, by force and allurements.

“I am not baptizing or converting anyone. I am simply sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ every Sunday and Friday”.

Pastor was asked if had the permission to use loudspeakers and microphones, to which Pastor responded -

“I had met with the SDM (Station District Magistrate) and asked for permission to which he said that since you are worshipping indoors, there is no need for permission”.

“I take permission when I conduct Public meetings”.

Insisting on keeping the sanctity of the Church, Pastor requested the Police Officials to take off their footwear which they obliged. Entering the Church, the Police questioned the congregated believers, who shared their testimonies. The Police were shocked at the

miraculous stories of healing of leprosy, insanity and other signs and wonders, in the name of Jesus Christ.

A Sister who was healed of Leprosy, made her way through the congregation, and shared about her miraculous transformation and healing, showing off her hands and legs. Several people who were healed of insanity also made their way to the Police Officials to tell their story.

Police Officials were clearly shocked to see living testimonies and witness of divine healing. The amazed Police Officials assured full support to the church and have told Pastor Vinod to come to the police station when called for enquiry. They asked a few more questions and apologized for interrupting the meeting and left.

Pastor also briefed the Police Officials of a priest in a temple opposite the Church, who had been harassing and falsely accusing the Church of conversion by force and allurements.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Pastor Vinod said that more than 26 persons suffering from Insanity, have been healed and people with Leprosy and other sicknesses have also experienced instant healing. Therefore, every one in the village, comes to Church for deliverance from some problem or the other.

Church, pray for the protection of Pastor Vinod Kumar and his family. Pray that the

missionary and believers may stand strong in the Lord and not to be disheartened, but to consider the trials as pure joy (James 1:2).

Pray for the police and administration to act justly; pray for the opposers to know the love of Jesus and the gospel.



2ND INDIAN CHRISTIAN DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED (ICDPP)

* MONDAY, 01ST OCTOBER 2018

*We dedicate this day
of prayer to Men and
Women across all
denominations, who
are being mightily
used by God, but
greatly afflicted and
facing discouraging
circumstances in
India.*

*Church, pray for the
protection over their
mind, body and
spirit, against all
infirmities or
reproaches or needs or
persecutions or
distresses, in the name
of Jesus Christ.*



OCTOBER
ONE
MONDAY



* or Sunday, 30th September / 7th October 2018

PRAYER POINTS

- **Pray for divine protection of men and women of God**, of all denominations, who minister across the length and breadth of India. Pray and cover them with the whole armor of God, as they do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- **Pray with expectation that our ‘fervent prayers’ will see the deliverance and release for the many servants of God, who are being held in prisons, on this ‘Day of Prayer’, simply because they trusted in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **Pray that men of God will be filled with the Holy Spirit power and will sustain through the persecution and not deny Christ.** When the servant girl questioned Peter, he denied Christ 3 times (Luke 22-54-57). Even after walking closely with Jesus, for 3 ½ years, Peter denied Christ out of fear. Yet, after Pentecost, Peter was transformed and filled with the Holy Spirit and witnessed to 1000’s of people and boldly say to them that they had crucified Jesus Christ
- **Pray for all persecuted Christians to be faithful to the end, in these hard times, for God says, “*If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, then how can you compete with horses?*” (Jer.12:5)**

- **Pray that men of God will not run away from their Godly mandate to minister to gentiles** like Jonah ran away to Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh. Pray that His disciples may *“Be faithful until death” to win the crown of life.*” (Rev.2:10)
- **Pray that men of God will endure and remain firm in their faith, despite any physical, emotion or psychological pain,** through the persecution. Pray that at no circumstance they would deny Christ, as *He has not given us a spirit of timidity or fear but of power, love and self-discipline* (2 Tim 1:7)
- **Pray for the persecuted Christians to find comfort in God’s powerful Word.** In *1 Corinthians 10:13*, it says, *God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation (trial) will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it”.* Satan and those who hate us, may desire to trouble us in many ways. But they cannot get at us without God’s permission.
- **Pray like Esther, who through her fasting and prayer intervention, risking death penalty,** found the favour of the Persian King Xerxes (Ahasueres), deposed the wicked Haman’s evil plans, and saved the entire Jewish nation. Let us save our fellow persecuted Christians through the power of prayer
- **Pray for the families of the persecuted Christians across India** – especially for protection and grace for the wives and children of Pastors; that their faith will not fail,

but wait for God's timing and His timetable. We have our example in Daniel that from the moment he began to pray, his request had been heard. But it took 21 days for the answer to come (Dan 10:12, 13). God may not answer our prayers immediately. But if we persist in prayer, the answer will definitely come.

- **Pray for new converts to Christ, who face rejection and persecution** from family, friends and the communities in which they live, to remain steadfast and committed to their faith; to have a robust praying support system
- **Pray that all persecuted Christians will pray like Daniel prayed** when he was persecuted, (Dan. 9: 5-19) not hating his persecutors but humbling himself saying (paraphrased) “Lord, WE Christians have dishonored Your Name in this land. We have not been the testimony for Christ that our country needed to see. We have failed. Lord, send us a revival. Lord, You are right, and our faces are covered with shame. Be merciful and forgive us. We have sinned against You”
- **Pray for scores of Christians being falsely booked under “Freedom of Religion Act”.** Recently, 16 Missionaries were arrested while visiting a village, alleging conversion activities. After 60 days in jail, 7 women have been released on bail, 9 men are still in jail; bail hearing scheduled this week.



15th September 2018

Church in Chains, an Irish voice for the Persecuted Church of the World, had their Annual Conference for 2018. Founder Persecution Relief, Bro. Shibu Thomas, was invited as the main speaker at Dublin, Ireland. It was attended by Partners of Church in Chains.



16th September 2018

Bro. Shibu Thomas was invited as speaker for the Sunday Worship at Crinken Church Dublin, Ireland, on 16th Sep 2018.



16th September 2018

Moved by the unbelievable suffering and inspired by the work done by Persecution Relief, Sis. Valerie gave her wedding ring for ministering to persecuted Christians in India, immediately after the sermon, at Church in Chains meeting.



Ireland Pentecostal Assembly, organized a special program on Sunday evening, 16th September 2018. Bro. Shibu Thomas, spoke to the Church, creating awareness on the hostility and lack of religious freedom for the Church in India and requested them, to uphold them in prayer.



17 September 2017

Founder, Persecution Relief was invited by Spirit Radio, an Irish Christian Radio Station, broadcasting to the cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Bray, Greystones, Dundalk, Naas Athlone, Carlow, Kilkenny and Newbridge on FM, was invited to speak about Religious Freedom in India.



Dr. K. A. Swamy, Gideon Life Member

The following is a very interesting and fascinating testimony of Dr. K. A. Swamy, converted from a Hindu family background, who had never read the Bible, much less heard about eternal Salvation in Jesus Christ. He met the Lord Jesus Christ, through a Gideon's Bible.

50-year-old Dr. Kusuma Anjaneya Swamy, holds a Doctorate and was a Professor of Commerce in City College, Hyderabad, Telangana. However, after his miraculous encounter with Jesus, he gave up everything to serve God full time. As a life member of Gideon's Hyderabad South Camp, he was actively involved distributing Bibles all across Hyderabad. He was a member of Lutheran Church, Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad.

Early in the morning of Saturday, 21st January 2017, Dr. K. A. Swamy was on his way to meet a Chartered Accountant, when he stopped to ask the way on the Tank Bund area of Hyderabad. He then started to distribute the New Testament Bibles (Gideon) that he was carrying, on the sidewalk of the road.



A group of fanatics confronted him and asked him to stop the distribution of Bibles, alleging him of trying to convert people. During this encounter, he was brutally mistreated and video clips shot by the extremists, went viral on the social media. It clearly showed 6 men questioning Swamy, including the one recording these videos on his cell phone.

“They used derogatory language abusing him, his wife and his children and in between the clips, they would hide the cell phone camera with their hand for the action they do not want the viewers to see,” said his friend R John Vinay Kumar.

Swamy tried hard to convince the extremists that it is his fundamental right given by the Constitution of India and that distributing the Bibles free was not a crime. They forced Swamy to put his Bible on his head and swear that “he will not distribute Bibles again”.



After an hour of rigorous grilling, they took Swamy along with them to the Mahankali Police Station in Secunderabad, the twin city of Hyderabad and not to the local Police Station, even after the Tank Bund area falls under the Gandhi Nagar Police Station in Hyderabad. He was further subjected to intensive questioning, during his detention, but stood firm in faith and stated that he was exercising his fundamental rights.

After being subjected to such intense psychological trauma, Dr. Swamy who was released later in the evening, was picked up by his friend Vinay Kumar. Driving him home, Dr. K. A. Swamy suffered a stroke and Vinay

Kumar, the only witness who spoke to Dr. Swamy before his stroke, rushed him to the Kamineni Hospital where he was diagnosed as suffering from bleeding in the brain, and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit, in a critical condition.

A member of right-wing Religious Fundamentalist Group, Srinath, has alleged in his written complaint against Dr. K. A. Swamy in the Mahankali Police Station, Secunderabad that Swamy approached him and handed him with a Bible. Srinath accuses Swamy of “abusing Hindu god’s and Hindu Dharam” and trying to convert him into Christianity.

The incident was greatly condemned by the Christian community all across the country. After strong reactions from Christians and Media, the police arrested Venkatesh Gupta, one of the Hindu extremist questioning Swamy in the video, on 25 January, 2017, according to media reports.

FAST FORWARD TO 2018:

Persecution Relief decided to catch up with Dr. Swamy and was pleasantly surprised to hear his brother in-law Bro. Abraham Lincoln, reminiscing about the initial days of our meeting.

“Persecution Relief were the first people to provide us with financial assistance when the story of Dr. Swamy broke out. We can never forget that. Thank you, Persecution Relief family”.

Sadly, Dr. Swamy is wheelchair-bound, unable to walk or speak for the past 1 ½ years. He has memory problems and is unable to recognize people – however, his cognitive sense is slowly returning. He is being cared for at his home, and a Physiotherapist works with him every day.

Sis. Sujatha, the dedicated, loyal wife of Dr. K. A. Swamy, works in a Christian Mission School, and is praying for a financial breakthrough. The medical expenses and care of her husband, reduces the monthly income of a Teacher to a fraction, with no frills. She lives with her 67-year-old mother, 70-year-old mother in-law and her 2 school going daughters aged 13- and 6-years.

Sis. Sujatha is very confident that Dr. Swamy will be healed completely and will serve the Lord in the coming days. She has requested for the valuable prayers of all believers across the globe.

CONCLUSION:

Dr. K. A. Swamy's life is so imitative and reminiscent of the way God sent His Son Jesus Christ, who could have had the world and its riches at His feet, but chose to come as a lamb amongst wolves, lay down His life, as an atonement for all mankind.

In today's context, the Bible and the newspaper is plain and clear - that to be an outspoken, evangelistic, socially engaged Christian is going to be increasingly

dangerous. It may be at the risk of ostracization, physical violence, molestation, false accusations, misunderstanding, denied promotions, or just may be the far greater risk of prison and persecution in Hyderabad, Uttar Pradesh or Tamil Nadu.

Jesus was taken outside the gate, away from the camp, and tortured and killed on a cross like a common criminal between two thieves.

We are all called to follow Jesus outside the camp where there is reproach and danger.

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come.

Let us stand together against evil, outside the camp.

Let us win the lost from outside the camp

Let us be inspired and go forth to Him outside the camp, and bear the abuse He endured.





Dr. Swamy - Estimated Medical & Pharmacy monthly expense	
Description	Cost
Cost of medicines per month	2409.22
Cost of surgical items per month	6190.00
Other allied medical expenses per month	29,600.00
Total Medical expense per month	38,199.22

**IF YOU WISH TO SUPPORT THIS FAMILY,
PLEASE CALL 9993200020
OR WRITE TO US AT
persecutionrelief@gmail.com**



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ATTACKS AGAINST COPTS ‘AMONG DEADLIEST ACTS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION’ – REPORT



“**F**ifty-three per cent of ISIS attacks against the public in 2017 were aimed at the Coptic community.” (Photo: World Watch Monitor)

Attacks by members of the Islamic State group against Egypt’s Coptic Christian community “were among the deadliest acts of religious persecution” last year, according a new report presented in Washington DC yesterday, 13 September.

“Fifty-three per cent of ISIS attacks against the public in 2017 were aimed at the Coptic community,” described by the Islamist group as its “favorite prey”, having threatened “to eliminate all ‘worshippers of the Cross’”, according to the Global Extremism Monitor for 2017, published by the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change.

“Overall, the Middle East’s Christian population is in decline,” the report noted, confirming earlier reports by World Watch

Monitor. “Christians make up some four per cent of the region’s population today, compared with 20 per cent before the First World War,” it said.

Blair criticized the over-emphasis on increasing security in response to violence. “Presently, the world collectively spends hundreds of billions of dollars every year on additional security in airports, protection and counter-terrorism. It spends a small fraction of that on soft-power measures that tackle the underlying ideology,” he said.

Instead, the report suggests that for the ideology to be defeated, a “comprehensive, multifaceted strategy” is needed which involves education, exposure of the “false readings groups use to justify their acts”, empowering community leaders and providing government institutions with resources to support them, and the use of evidence-based research and data.

GUJRANWALA’S CHRISTIAN SUFFERS ‘SERIOUS’ INJURIES IN MALE ACID ATTACK

A young Pakistani Christian sprayed in a “male acid attack,” as he suffers life-changing injuries. Gujranwala’s Faraz Baddar was attacked by unknown men – acid attacks are most often seen as a crime against women. Details emerged that Faraz has been attacked

previously, as he was tortured by the attackers.

The incident unfolded as Faraz was returning from his workplace. He was on his way home, when he was intercepted by two men riding a motorcycle. As a result of this, his entire body was burnt. Faraz is currently receiving medical treatment in Mayo Hospital, Lahore. He is kept in the burn’s unit of the hospital where he jostles to get back to normal life.

Faraz is employed at a local hospital in Gujranwala. He worked as manager in the hospital. Purportedly, the attack is a result of religion-based dislike. Social media reports claim that the attack comes as a result of extreme emotional hatred due to his Christian faith. It is been speculated that he was disliked, because his fellows did not like being working under the authority of a Christian.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S STATEMENT ON THE ISSUANCE OF HEAVY SENTENCES FOR CHRISTIANS IN IRAN



Amnesty International says four Christian citizens in Iran have been sentenced solely for “peaceful activities and gatherings for their religious ceremonies”, and has called on to be quashed.

On August 23, 2018, Amnesty International issued an appeal for urgent action to quash the sentences of the pastor “Victor Bet Tamraz” and his wife “ShamiramIssavi” and the Christian convert “Amin Afshar Naderi” and “HadiAsghari”.

In the Amnesty International’s appeal, it was stressed that these sentences were issued only due to the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedoms of religion and belief, expression, and association, through their Christian faith.

Victor Bet-Tamraz, his wife ShamiramIssavi, Amin Afshar-Naderi and HadiAsgari, have been sentenced to a total of 45 years in prison on charges of acting

against national security and spreading propaganda against the system through evangelism and the formation of house churches.

Pastor Victor Bet-Tamraz and ShamiramIssavi, ethnic Assyrian Christians, and Amin Afshar-Naderi and HadiAsgari, Christian converts, have been sentenced to 5 to 15 years in prison.

Holding Christmas gatherings, organizing and conducting house churches, and travelling outside Iran to attend Christian seminars, all of them are known as “illegal church activities” which “threaten national security”, and security agencies including Intelligence Organization of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Ministry of Intelligence, and the Islamic Republic’s judiciary attach these activities to the case, and the judge will issue a verdict based on this attachment.

The four Christian citizens who are all currently free on high bails, are awaiting the verdict of the appeal court.

Praying for People Who Don't Want Your Prayers

Francis Frangipane,
AUTHOR, RIVER OF LIFE MINISTRIES

PARDON FOR AN UNREPENTANT PEOPLE

“According to Your Word”

Moses sent twelve spies to Canaan to bring back a report of the land. When they returned, ten said that, though the land was good, Israel would surely be defeated by the inhabitants. Although Joshua and Caleb argued that Israel certainly could drive out their enemies, the people moaned, complained, and rebelled, even seeking to stone Joshua and Caleb and return with new leaders to Egypt. And again, the anger of the Lord was kindled against them and threatened to bring judgment (see Num 12:14).

Faithfully, once more Moses intercedes.

“I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as Thou hast declared. The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.” Num 14:17-18

Just as Abraham had prayed centuries before him, Moses focuses upon two things: the integrity of the Lord and His great mercy. God is slow to anger, He is abundant in lovingkindness, He forgives people. When the Scripture says He will “by no means clear the guilty,” it speaks of those who sin yet do not repent. Yet even here the Lord is able to be entreated.

Remember, the Israelites have rebelled, they are not even aware that their sin has them at the threshold of God’s wrath. The Lord looks at a nation of unrepentant, sinful people on one side and one man, Moses, praying on the other. Even though Moses acknowledges that the Lord will not “clear the guilty,” Moses still prays that God would forgive Israel, “Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Thy loving kindness, just as Thou also hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.” Num 14:19

Listen in awe at the Lord’s response to Moses’ mercy prayer. He says, “I have pardoned them according to your word” (Num 14:20). Incredible!

Three million Israelites had not repented, nor rent their hearts, nor confessed their sins to God and one another. Not one of them who sinned possessed a broken, contrite spirit. Yet, the Lord says, “I have pardoned them.” This is utterly amazing to me. The Lord granted Israel forgiveness “according to [Moses’] word.” Staggering!

One man with favor from God brought mercy upon three million people who had not repented. Then, in case we think this is some kind of easy grace, the Lord reaffirms His purpose with all nations, beginning with Israel. He says, “But indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord” (Num 14:21).

The integrity of the Lord is non-negotiable. He says, in effect, Though I forgive, I am not going to change My plans. All the earth will be filled with My glory.

When we ask God for mercy, we are not asking Him to compromise His intentions. We are only asking that He forgive the sins of people until He can fulfill His purpose. In truth, we are in complete agreement with His desire. We earnestly want His glory to overshadow America, to fall upon Canada, to roll through Europe and Asia, Israel and the Middle East all over the world, in fact. We shout a resounding “Yes!” to the purpose of God. Fill America with Your glory, Lord. Fill Canada. Fill Europe. Fill Israel and Africa, Asia and Australia with Your majestic glory. But we also pray, until Your purposes are

perfected, reveal Your mercy and forgive the sins of Your people.

We need a vision of God’s ultimate destiny for our nation and our world: “to be filled with the glory of the Lord.” He will hear our prayer for mercy as we reach, with Him, toward His ultimate goal. Do you doubt this? The mercy prayer worked for Moses. God brought Israel from Egypt to Canaan through the prayer of His servant.

You say, “But that was Moses, I am a nobody.” Jesus said, “He who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater” than the greatest prophets in the Old Testament (see Matt 11:11). How can that be? We have the power of Christ’s blood covenant to aid our quest for mercy!

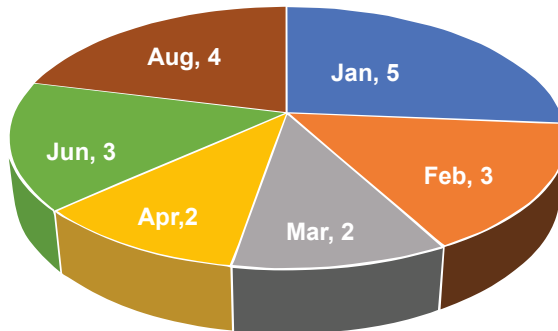
Yet, God indeed used Moses to bring an imperfect people from promise to fulfillment. Whether we are praying for our nation, our cities, our churches, or our family, the Lord will “pardon them according to your word.”

Lord Jesus, I am awed at Your willingness to show mercy. You actually changed Your mind about judgment on sinners because of one man, Moses. Lord, in my world and times, let me be that one who so delights You, who is so intimate with You, that my prayer for mercy outweighs Your need to destroy the unsaved. May the favor You have given to me be multiplied to those who yet do not know You, and may it spread until all the earth is filled with Your glory!

Amen!

PRAY FOR PEACE AND UNITY IN MADHYA PRADESH

**INCIDENTS RECORDED IN MADHYA PRADESH
JANUARY TO AUGUST 2018 (19 NOS)**



■ Jan ■ Feb ■ Mar ■ Apr ■ Jun ■ Aug



Pastor Ramesh Vasuniya and his son Rahul Vasuniya were ambushed by a mob of religious fanatics. They were brutally beaten and his son Rahul Vasuniya, beaten and dragged on the road for visiting a family who needed prayers.

Summary

- Madhya Pradesh recorded 19 incidents of attacks on Christians in the last 8 months
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is governing Madhya Pradesh state for the past 14 years
- Christians in Madhya Pradesh are frequently been subjected to intolerance, harassment, intimidation, and attacks by religious fanatics
- Open, daring physical attacks on Church Leaders and members are increasingly high – Sunday worship services and Prayer meetings are targeted and attacked openly with total impunity
- False accusations of conversion continue to be used to harass and tarnish the image of Christians by religious fanatics
- Arson attacks on Church and Christian homes; fanatics secretly entering Church premises and then attacking the congregation, Christian Institutions attacked, Restrictions on religious assembly, construction of Christians are openly obstructed and structure broken down – are some of the common forms of attacks on Christians

Prayer Points

- Pray that the communal mindset in the State would be crushed in Jesus' name.
- Pray for the men and women, mightily used by God, across all denominations, who are greatly afflicted and facing discouraging circumstances in Madhya Pradesh
- Pray against the Anti-Conversion Bill which is used to greatly target Christians and imprison them, be repealed

UTTAR PRADESH - THE EPICENTER OF INDIAN POLITICS



“GOD REIGNS OVER THE NATIONS; GOD SITS ON HIS HOLY THRONE” – PSALM 47:8

On 26th March 2017, a Hindu Priest was handed the governance of India’s largest state, Uttar Pradesh and expectations were great. It was expected that the new Hindu Priest - Chief Minister, who strongly believed and practiced Hindu philosophy, which laid emphasis on dharma, selflessness, commitment, fair-mindedness, perseverance as paramount qualities, would be radical and innovative. It was expected that his integrity, morality and sincerity would be the cornerstones of his governance, without bias and discrimination.

5-time consecutive MP from Gorakhpur, Yogi Adityanath, who is also the head priest of the Gorakhnath temple in the eastern UP city of Gorakhpur, assumed responsibility as the Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh. However, in a matter of time, with the alarming rise of right-wing acrimonious and frequent hardline speeches against the minority community by his party men, it slowly became evident that the agenda was suspect.

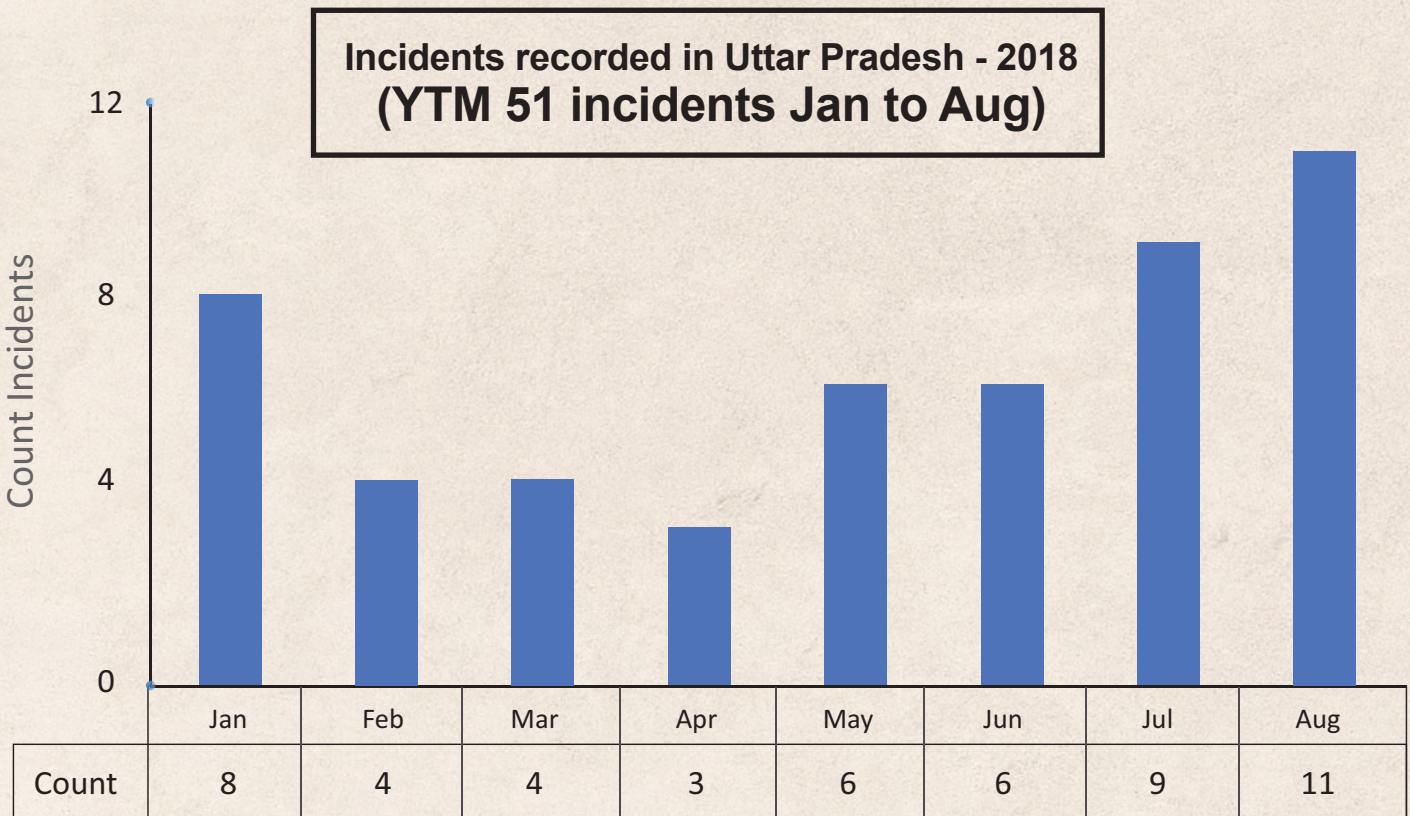
An open and hard-line proponent of Hinduism, Yogi believes that Hindutva should supplant secularism as the guiding principle of Indian society, which should be a concern for India, whose history is

punctuated by ferocious episodes of religious violence — often between its Hindu majority and Muslim minority. This would mean the political and cultural subservience of the country’s Christian and Muslim populations, if allowed to come to pass.

Among the 22 of the 29 states ruled by the governing Federal Government, the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, is emerging as the center of anti-Christian violence, as politicians use a fundamentalist form of Hinduism to intimidate minority communities.

Hindu fundamentalist organisations, falsely believe and propagate that Christians are a threat to Hinduism, as they are apparently converting people to Christianity, in large numbers - a charge often leveled against Christians to target them. The clash of philosophies and ideologies has resulted in major political ramifications, deepening the country’s political polarization

According to data recorded with Persecution Relief, Uttar Pradesh experienced a high number of violent attacks against Christians – **51 incidents recorded in the last 8 months of 2018.**



In the month of September, Uttar Pradesh saw a huge upsurge of persecution incidents, reported through both our **Toll-Free Number: 1800-1234-461** and through calls directly to Persecution Relief. It is alleged that religious fundamentalist organisations, in complicity with the Police, attacked several hundreds of Churches in Uttar Pradesh.

Partial list of incidents recorded by Persecution Relief till 26 September 2018:

- 8 September, a Training Program undertaken at Rashtriya Susamachar Parishad, located at Izzat Nagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, was attacked by a mob of religious fundamentalists this evening. Pastor Ashok Benjamin, Pastor Shiv Charan & Bro. Vijay who were leading the discussion, were brutally beaten up by the mob, alleging 'religious conversion'.
- 9 September, Pastor Vinod Kumar James, was ministering at GEMS Prarthana Bhawan, when 3 dozen Police officials came to the worship place, claiming that a complaint of alleged conversion and baptism of people from other religions was received.
- 11 September, Pastor Kuwar Singh, village Katahari, Jaunpur District, was returning home from a meeting when suddenly, a car stopped and asked if he knew where Christians worship. Responding in the negative, a car with a sticker "Pandey Sena", followed by Police on motor bikes, drove away.
- 16 September, Pastor Anil Kumar was arrested during a Sunday Worship service at Baghwanpur village, Piprauli Block in Gorakhpur District of Uttar Pradesh State on allegations of conversion.
- 16 September, Pastor Rajesh Bhojipura, Bareilly District, Uttar Pradesh, was threatened and warned by religious fanatics that he would be arrested if he did not stop worshipping Jesus Christ.
- 16 September, Pastor Anil Kumar, Praduman, Deepak Kumar, Monu and Ravinder were arrested under Section 147 & 153 A, by police in the middle of church service. They were released on bail on 18 September 2018.
- 16 September, D. S. Dasan and Bhansi team of Layman Evangelical Fellowship, in Chitaunakothi, Bhansi, Uttar Pradesh, were intimidated and threatened by a mob of religious fanatics, who entered the Church and demanded that the meeting be stopped and further meetings not be held.
- 22 September, Pastor P. Charles and Pastor Oral Roberts, of Prayer Fellowship Church, Rajajipura, Lucknow, were threatened not to gather for worship service in the future.
- 22 September, Pastor Moses Masih, Prayer Fellowship Church, Madhuapur village, Maliyabad Tehsil, around 25 kms from Lucknow, were gathered for Sunday Worship. Police Officials along with religious fanatics entered the Church and demanded that the meeting be stopped.

- 23 September, Pastor Raghuveer, affiliated to Assemblies of God, was ministering at Kariyabar village, Azamgarh District, during Sunday service, when a dozen Police Officials visited the Church, called him out and ordered him not to gather or conduct worship service without District Magistrate's permission.
- 23 September, Pastor Shailender Stephen, Assemblies of Believers Church, Shastri Nagar, Kanpur, was physically assaulted by a mob of religious fundamentalists, who held him by his collar, intimidated and threatened him not to conduct worship services in future.
- 23 and 24 September, Pastor Sawaru Prasad from Nauka Tola is a Village in Padrauna Block in Kushi Nagar District, was arrested on allegations of conversion. He was booked last year as well on the same charges.
- 23 September, Pastor Kuldeep Singh, from Maharajganj District, was arrested on charges of religious conversion

Jaunpur in focus:

Jaunpur is the district headquarters located to the northwest of the district of Varanasi in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh.

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), an organisation protecting religious freedom, has published a Press Release on 25th September 2018, reporting 12 incidents in Jaunpur alone, in the month of September.

Rapid Action Team (who work among the persecuted Church in Uttar Pradesh), stated that after a local News Paper and a prominent TV News Channel, broadcasted false and biased reports defaming Christians for 3 consecutive days, it stirred unrest and enmity among radical groups, who were up in arms against Christians in Uttar Pradesh. The report came up with detailed mapping of churches in Jaunpur. Most local New Papers were filled with anti-Christian news and radical groups were aroused. They started targeting churches and the leaders, the report added. A FIR was lodged against

Pastor Durga Prasad Yadav, where around 7000-8000 believers visit the Church every Sunday. Hindu nationalists filed false charges of fraudulent conversion, mounted a media slander campaign and attacked congregation members trying to attend the 7,000-member Jivan Jyoti Satsang Prarthana Kendra church in Bhulandih village, Jaunpur District. The Pastor suffered police brutality last year too, according to the report.

Across Uttar Pradesh, we learnt that from small house-churches to megachurches that see thousands of worshippers every week, experienced extraordinary, chilling and targeted violence. The ripple effects could be felt across other districts of Uttar Pradesh too.

Police Teams raided homes and if they could not find the Pastor, they arrested their relatives, humiliating and verbally abusing them. Mobile Phones, Bibles, Christian Literature and every other incriminating 'evidence' were illegally taken away from their homes.

With the confiscated memory cards, contacts on the phone were scrutinized and several other Pastors identified and arrested. Dozens of Pastors were arrested, and taken away for interrogation, as the fanatics accused them of being involved in religious conversions. Most of the Pastors and leaders in eastern Uttar Pradesh, went into hiding, at unknown locations, their phones switched off.

This witch-hunt was carried out without a shred of evidence or witness to corroborate their accusation of conversion.

Several Churches reported and shared videos of being hounded and chased away by Police personnel stopping them from going to Church, forcing them to return to their homes. Pastors who have not been arrested, have been shrewdly conveyed the message, that they will face the same fate if they dare to conduct worship services in the future.

Some Media Houses appear to be working in collusion with religious fanatics, as they have changed the narrative in their reporting. The Police Administration are under pressure from local religious militant groups, affiliated to Political parties.

A new trend emerged in many cases, where neighbours who had historic land disputes or past grievances, were using this opportunity to retaliate against the Pastor or his family members, by reporting them to the police or falsely accusing them of forceful conversion. Local politicians and goons were asking for protection money from Pastors thinking that Christians are receiving funds from abroad.

Persecution Relief has been receiving calls

from distressed and harassed Pastors, even in the middle of the night. Our Team has been proactively advocating with Senior Police Officials, securing the release of many Pastors.

Religious fanatic groups use their affiliation to political parties, to intimidate and harass innocent Christians. They often take the law in their own hands thinking that they can get away with perpetrating any form of crime without repercussions.

Let us not forget that the Lord is seated on the throne and He is in control. Like David said:

“I lift my eyes to the hill, where does my help come from

My help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth” – Psalm 121:1-2

It is important for us to understand that while we are to trust God, God has a big part for us to play in His plan. It is time for Christians to become educated about what is going on in India, to be prayerful, and then to be prepared. At the end of the day, we need to marry faith with wisdom and action.

Church, let us uphold Mr. Yogi & his Cabinet in prayer. Just as God raised a gentile king Darius, for His people, pray that God may use Mr. Yogi for His people in Uttar Pradesh.

Nothing is impossible with Jesus Christ, our Saviour & Lord. Pray with faith.



A DOZEN INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE REPORTED AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN UTTAR PRADESH IN JUST ABOUT 15 DAYS

- Pastors are being arrested at midnight treating them like terrorists
- Church goers are being stopped from going to Church
- Church services being stopped without furnishing any reasons

NEW DELHI, 25 SEPTEMBER, 2018

These days a very minute Christian population just about 0.11% out of 180,362 population of Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh is witnessing aggressive onslaught from Hindu fundamental groups. In this month, September 2018, this district has witnessed 12 incidents of violence against Christians. The Pastors are woken up in the middle of the night and being arrested on false allegation of fraudulent conversions. The roads connecting to Churches are blocked. The believers are stopped from going to Church and forcing them to return to home by the police. The other pastors those who have not been arrested are threatened. And they are not being allowed to conduct service in the Church.

These incidents are being instigated by false propaganda of certain media houses like Zee News and daily Hindi newspaper Dainik Jagran. According to them these pastors are luring the Hindus by performing miracles and by offering some allurements. Whereas the villagers have confessed on news channels that they have accepted Jesus because their prayers are being heard and they are cured from their diseases and there have started enjoying the life better.

SEQUENCE OF ATTACKS AGAINST CHRISTIANS IN JAUNPUR

- 05th Sept: Pastor Durga Prasad and 270 were arrested.
- 13th Sept: Friday Fasting Prayer being conducted by Pastor Ravindra was attacked by a mob of religious fanatics. Out of fear the Pastor and male members of the Church members ran away.
- 13th Sept: The brother of the head of the village Panchayat beats up the Church leader, Mr. Ram Milan, and forces him to stop the prayer meeting.

- 13th Sept: While the prayer meeting was going on Pastor Ram Ratan and another Pastor Thomas Osoof from Mumbai were disrupted and taken into custody by the police.
- 11th Sept: Pastor Rajendra Chouhan's along with Ratnesh Kumar, Manoj Kumar Chauhan, Jiyalal Murli and 3 other co-workers were arrested under pressure from extremists. They were released on bail on 14th Sept.
- 13th Sept: Pastor Gulabchand was taken into custody along with 3 other Church leaders. He was released on 14 September 2018 without any complaint against him.
- 16th Sept: The police team blocked all the roads connecting to Bhulandih church and asked the Sunday Church goers to go back home. Deepak, Rahul, Chandrabhushan, Rajendra and Virendra belonging to Bhulandih Church were arrested on 16th Sept and released on bail on 19 September 2018.
- 16th Sept: Pastor Anil Kumar, Praduman, Deepak Kumar, Monu and Ravinder were arrested by police in the middle of church service. They were released on bail on 18 September 2018.
- 23rd Sept: A mob of religious fanatics accompanied by the local police went around the village shouting slogans and then entered the Church disrupting the Sunday service. Pastor Ashok Rajbhar, his father and 3 more of Church members were taken into custody. Later father was let go.
- 23rd Sept: Another pastor conducting Sunday service was arrested.
- 23rd Sept: Pastor Chabilal was while conducting Sunday service.
- 24th Sept: The police asked Pastor Nanhe Lal to close down the Church

ABOUT JAUNPUR:

Jaunpur is the district headquarters located to the northwest of the district of Varanasi in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh. And it is 228 km southeast of state capital Lucknow. The district has 2 Lok Sabha and 9 Vidhan Sabha constituencies. As per provisional data of 2011 census, Jaunpur had population of 180,362 of which male and female were 93,718 and 86,644 respectively. The literacy rate was 82.83. With a sex ratio of 1024 female per 1000 male. The district has a population density of 1,113 people per km. There are 88.03% Hindus, 11.94% Muslims, 0.11% Christians, 0.03% Sikhs and 0.51% others including Bodh and Jain.

Inquiries:

