“BUT WATCH OUT FOR YOURSELVES, FOR THEY WILL DELIVER YOU UP TO COUNCILS, AND YOU WILL BE BEATEN IN THE SYNAGOGUES. YOU WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE RULERS AND KINGS FOR MY SAKE, FOR A TESTIMONY TO THEM. AND THE GOSPEL MUST FIRST BE PREACHED TO ALL THE NATIONS.”

MARK 13:9-10 (NKJV)
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As we step into 2019, let us pause and look back over how the Lord has led us - and let that renew our faith. Let us remind ourselves of the promises in the Bible.

**“He who kneels before God can stand before anyone”**.

Jesus was brutally crucified on the Cross. Eleven of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ were martyred. The Bible is filled with testimonies of those who have endured hardship on account of Christ. History is stained with the blood of martyrs.

From the dawn of Christianity, persecution has been sustained and persistent in various forms. Although India and the world may boast about sending the man to the moon and other great exploits, in a modern-enough era of 2018, persecution continues in nuanced forms. In recent years, there is blatant and conspicuous, deep-held bias and religious discrimination against Christians, which is getting worse and quite quickly.

In business, there is anti-Christian bigotry and Christian businessmen find commerce being taken away from them; promotions in many companies are denied to professionals; Christian Academia face discrimination and secular-establishment-safe Christian Colleges and Schools are meted some of the worst treatment.

The fact that the Church has founded universities and hospitals, was a patron of the arts, and preached a gospel that brought order into civilization, is completely and totally negated. The Christian critics will give credit to anyone except the Church and Christians.

The Church has been marginalised, banished from the public square and our faith is being restricted to four walls of our churches. It is considered unacceptable and intolerable that anyone should mention Jesus Christ. Prayer has been forbidden in schools and public places. Nativity sets need to go they demand and Christmas trees must be burned!

Religious fanatics pigeon-hole Christians – they take an observation and generalize it to describe Christians all over. Christians are often caricatured in the media as simpletons, a sad, angry, boring, backward, repressed lot, who hate science.

Persecuted or not, we need to look forward - in faith. Our joy as Christians is to keep our eyes on Jesus and make his name known. God has wonderful things in store for us. We don’t know when we will have
to leave this world. But before the Lord comes, we look forward to doing something useful for Him on this earth. Most people in the world look to the future with fear and anxiety. But we look forward in faith.

We need to continue to inspire the world and be the fragrance of Jesus Christ. Just as the disciples while on the road to Emmaus, acknowledged that their hearts burned; our hearts must burn for Jesus so that the fire may spread out. We cannot allow our focus to be on the divisions and classifications and take a defensive stance. The Gospel commands us” to go” not “retreat”.

**In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths** *(Proverbs 3:6)*

The Lord is in the midst of His church, which is His body on earth. We acknowledge the Lord and magnify Him, when we show and value His body. If you don’t appreciate and value the church, each one of us individually, will be the loser, not the church.

The established and mega Churches, need to step in and support independent and house Churches who are being harassed for their faith. Opportunities to help our persecuted brothers and sisters are in abundance. The main-line Churches must be diligent to take care of those in trouble.

Following Stephen’s biblical example, instead of cursing our persecutors, let us ask the Lord to forgive them. It is not an easy task to love and pray for those who attack us, yet Jesus commands it of us.

Let the persecutions continue.

“WE HAVE A GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES SURROUNDING US. SINCE 2016, OVER 10 PERSONS HAVE BEEN MARTYRED FOR THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. STAY STRONG IN YOUR FAITH! WE ARE NOT ALONE AND WILL NOT BE FORSAKEN!”

Jesus said His church would suffer persecution, but would not be defeated. Jesus told us this would occur. No one is greater than His master. If they persecuted Jesus, surely, we know our day is coming too.

We have a great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Since 2016, over 10 persons have been martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ. Stay strong in your faith! We are not alone and will not be forsaken!

Our rewards will be great in Heaven!

As we step into 2019, let us pause and look back over how the Lord has led us - and let that renew our faith. Let us remind ourselves of the promises in the Bible.

We need to look back, not in discouragement but with gratitude to God, for what He has done. That’s the backward look that encourages us more than anything else.

The Lord has never let us down and never will.

A blessed 2019 to all of you.

Shibu Thomas
Founder-PERSECUTION RELIEF
founder@persecutionrelief.org
Fanatics vandalize Pastor's car for praying in believer's house, Telangana

A Legal Advocate, a Pujari and religious fanatics, locked inside the house, more than 10 persons who were attending a Prayer meeting at a Christian’s home, and threatened them with dire consequences, alleging religious conversion.

Pastor Baburao Garu has been ministering with ‘Covenant Church’ at Housing Board Colony in Karimnagar district of Telangana, for the past 15 years.

With the advent of Christmas Season, Pastor had a busy schedule visiting homes of believers of his Church, who requested for prayers and blessings. One such home that he was visiting for was Sis. Kamalamma.

On 9th December 2018, Pastor along with a few believers visited Sister’s home. After the prayer meeting, while they tried to exit, they found the front door locked from the outside. When they tried to exit from the rear, they were shocked to find a mob of religious fanatics, along with the neighbour Advocate and the local temple Pujari, blocking their exit!

Shouting anti-Christian slogans and abuses, they verbally assaulted the house owner Sis. Kamalamma. Absolutely taken aback by the venom and fury of their attack, they demanded to know what was happening inside the house. When she told them that they were just praying, they demanded to know why prayers were held in the house instead of a Church?

“Is this a house or a Church?

“Why are you indulging in conversion activities here?
“Why don’t you come to hanuman temple and pray”?

“Which country culture have you brought to this area? This is a pre-dominant Brahmin area. How did the Pastor dare to enter into this area?”

Intimidating and threatening them, they warned Pastor not to come back into the area or be prepared to face serious consequences.

Unidentified religious fanatics also vandalized Pastor’s personal 10-year old Maruti Van, which was parked near the Housing Board Colony residence, escalating communal tension and polarizing communities. This car was the only means of transport for Pastor and his family, which was also used to transport the congregation members.

Pastor later lodged a complaint with the Karimnagar 1 Town Police Station. The Police have promised a probe and adequate action.

Speaking to Persecution Relief on a conference call, translated by Rev. Sarat Tamu, Pastor appeared very disappointed since it was a practice, which he followed for several years, to visit the Believers and pray for their families during the Christmas season. More than 100 believers congregate every Sunday in a temporary shed outside his residence in Karimnagar.

“My Car is 10-years old and will not be able to get Insurance coverage for the repair of my vehicle. I am very grateful to Persecution Relief for the financial support given to me to get the vehicle repaired. I have never heard about this organisation and I am also thankful to Rev. Sarat Tamu who told me about them. Thank you Bro. Shibu for your generosity. God bless you”.

-Pastor Baburao Garu
On 16th November, around 2.00 am in the morning, a Church in Ahladpur village in Nevada Block in Kaushambi District of Uttar Pradesh, was burned with “criminal intent”. Standing as a grim testament to this ghastly and horrific hate crime, are the half-burnt and charred wooden logs. All else, was burnt down to ashes.

Pastor Sone Lal has been ministering with Dwar Ashram, a subsidiary of Yeshu Ashram, since 2014. Just 4 months ago, after years of cutting back and saving, Pastor managed to buy a small plot of land, to build a temporary structure, as a place of worship, made with Bamboo and coconut fronds - a comfortable place that could accommodate around 1200 persons who gathered every Sunday to worship Jesus Christ.

In the early hours of Friday, 16th October, Pastor Sone received a call from members who live around the vicinity of the Church, informing him of the fire outbreak.
This is not the first time the Church is being attacked. We were not allowed to gather for worship for over 3 months because of false allegations and accusations made against us of indulging in conversion activities.

Rushing to the scene of the crime, Pastor who lived around 3 kms away, was disappointed to find the Church structure burnt down to ashes.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, he narrated the whole incident claiming that this was not the first attack on this church.

“This is not the first time the Church is being attacked. We were not allowed to gather for worship for over 3 months because of false allegations and accusations made against us of indulging in conversion activities”

“Ultimately, I approached the High Court of Allahabad and secured permission to worship again”.

“I feel very sad about what happened.” Pastor said. “However, I am very eager to return and rebuild the Church. This is the land God gave me... I’m not afraid to go back and rebuild the Church. The Holy Spirit makes me strong.”

Church, please help out and support the work this local Church is doing, so that many more may come to know Jesus Christ. Please help rebuild this Church and may a spiritual revival begin in this village of Uttar Pradesh.

Pastor reported the matter to Sarai Akil Police Station and a FIR has been lodged against unidentified persons.

Dr. Manoj Jacob from Yeshu Ashram informed Persecution Relief about this incident.

This is not the first time that charges of conversion have been slapped against Christians in this state. According to data recorded with Persecution Relief, Uttar Pradesh experienced a high number of violent attacks against Christians – 91 incidents recorded in the last 10 months of 2018.

Relief Provided

“Thank you for the immediate support provided to meet all the legal expenses. Though we have never met, I am deeply touched by your proactiveness and empathy. God bless Persecution Relief”

- Pastor Sone Lal
Jesus film show raided by religious fanatics, Pastor attacked, Bihar

Pastor working in a remote village of Bihar, was attacked by angry villagers while showing the JESUS film.

Pastor Sojan was visiting different villages, during the Christmas Season and was showing them the Jesus film, which people appeared to be receptive to.

On the 8th of December, accompanied by a few other Pastors and believers, the team travelled in an Eco Van, to reach village Ghoswari, in Ghoswari Panchayat, Bakhtiyarpur Block, around 60 kms from Patna city.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, local Pastor Sohan from Patna described the attack.

“Just as we were about to start the film show, around 35-40 men attacked us, shouting slogans ‘bharat mata ki jai’ and screaming abuses at the terrified audience. The local villagers and the fanatics were angered that we were showing the JESUS film.

“They switched off the Projector cutting off the power supply and destroyed the Laptop, throwing it on to the ground”, said Pastor Sohan.

In spite of trying to reason with them and explain that the screening of the film was part of the Christmas program, and no conversion was taking place, they were not prepared to listed to any reasoning.

They vehemently stated, “This is Hindustan and NO FOREIGN GODS are allowed here”.

Another Bro. Vinod Kumar, stood up against the fanatics.
However, the mob pursued him. While two men held his hands, the other goons kicked him on his back, punched him on his stomach and rained his body with blows. Eventually, the leader of the mob made him sit near a telephone tower and called the police to report the incident.

“Who are you to stop the film? We will continue showing it”. But he was pacified by his son and wife and taken home.

Sensing that the situation could escalate, the team packed up their belongings and began loading it into the Eco Van. However, the fanatics were relentless and soon, many more fanatics joined and demanded that all the Christians chant Vande Mataram. Eventually the fanatics dispersed the team and the Christians left the location around 10.30 pm, and returned to Patna.

Since Bro. Vinod Kumar was depressed about the attack, his wife had requested Pastor Sojan to visit and encourage him. Sunday Worship Service and weekly meetings are held every week at the residence of Bro. Vinod for the past 3 years. So, Pastor Sojan decided to join them. Even though Pastor has this unpleasant encounter on Saturday, he was still willing to visit Bro. Vinod Kumar’s residence, in spite of knowing the risks, just to encourage him. How many of us would stick our necks out in similar situations? Fear did not hold him back but he went ahead trusting God, willing to go the extra mile.

Pastor took a train, then an auto and walked a short distance, to reach Bro. Vinod’s home. Recognizing him, villagers of Ghoswari who had attacked the screening of the Jesus film, recognized him from the previous night and began following him. Sensing danger, Pastor changed the route, evading the fanatics and finally reached Bro. Vinod’s house.

Reaching Bro. Vinod’s house, around 10.30 am, Pastor found a huge crowd gathered outside his house. Bro. Vinod had stepped out for an errand and not wanting to put the family in any danger, he asked Sister to send the believers back home and left the residence. Sister asked Pastor to move to another believer’s house close by, but Pastor decided to walk back.

As he was walking back, a mob of around 25 youths followed him by foot and 2 in motorcycles. After a short distance, they began questioning him, asking why he was visiting their village. Finally, they brutally beat and abused him, recording this entire episode on video.

Strangely, while he was being beaten, an elderly man passing by, enquired about what was going on. The fanatics told him that he was indulging in conversion activities while Pastor told him that he was a social service worker and wanted to help reform and help people from addictions and make this village a better place. The elderly man asked them to let him go. Hoping to find respite from further physical assaults, Pastor got up and began to walk away.
However, the mob pursued him. While two men held his hands, the other goons kicked him on his back, punched him on his stomach and rained his body with blows. Eventually, the leader of the mob made him sit near a Telephone Tower and called the Police to report the incident.

While waiting for the Police to arrive, a young man, a believer, who was passing by, recognized Pastor and greeted him. The mob caught hold of him too and began to question him. Pastor kept cautioning the young man to leave and not speak but the mob threatened and terrified him, to falsely incriminate the Pastor, forcing him to say that Pastor had bribed him Rs. 500/-, to convert to Christianity.

The Police arrived just in time and took over the situation. The fanatics produced the boy in front of the Police and forced him to testify that Pastor had bribed him with Rs. 500/- to convert to Christianity. The terrified boy told the Police as he had been tutored by the fanatics. However, the Police were able to identify that the youth was being coerced and did not believe the false allegations levelled by the fanatics against the Pastor or the young boy. They rescued Pastor and took him to Bakhtiyarpur Police station.

When Persecution Relief learned of this incident, through the local Pastor Jean, the Team immediately contacted the SHO Mr Khan and appraised him about the incident. He described that the situation could have taken a turn for the worse and turned to a ‘mob-lynching’ type situation, but for the timely intervention of the Police. Pastor was taken to the Police Station in the afternoon, and released around 6.00 pm in the evening.

The SHO personally took Pastor Sojan in his vehicle, to the incident spot to verify details and eventually dropped him off at home.

Persecution Relief Team also spoke with the Superintendent of Police (SP) Rural, Mr. Ananth Kumar, who said that he was aware of the incident and would ensure that no false charges are levelled against the Pastor. On the following day, Pastor Sohan visited
“I called Persecution Relief founder and he immediately spoke to Pastor Sojan-Jeewan Jyothi Mission who was held at the Police Station. Later, he also spoke SHO Khan and then he called SP Anant Kumar and secured Pr Sojan’s release. Few days back I met him in person at Patna and after speaking to him I was so encouraged by his commitment towards the Persecuted Church in India and that has encouraged me to help my friend Pr Sojan in this case”.

-Rev Jean. T. George - Pentecostal Church of India

“Thanks, Persecutionrelief Relief for your help which I cannot forget in my life time, as I was in the SHO Police Vehicle you called the SHO Khan mobile and he gave the phone to me and your words of comfort was my strength and after that I was so relaxed that somebody is their outside to stand with me and help me. Thanks for being continually in touch we me”.

-Pastor Sojan, Jeewan Jyothi Mission

SP Ananth Kumar at his office to express his gratitude for the timely support and the justice rendered.

Church, pray that persecution would not deter missionaries and be a hindrance to the propagation of the Gospel.

Pray that God would give men of God, a servant’s heart, willing to serve sacrificially.

Pray for God’s supernatural protection of all Pastors and Missionaries, working in different difficult parts of India.
A CASUAL CHRISTIAN IS NEVER PERSECUTED

Founder, Persecution Relief
A mob of religious fanatics along with a media crew, barged into a Christians home, disrupting a prayer meeting, shouting anti-Christian slogans, verbally assaulting and terrorizing the group of Christians.

Pastor Jacob Murali, affiliated with NPN (National Prayer Network) and 4 other brothers, were at a Christians home for a prayer meeting. Suddenly, the house was invaded by a rowdy and a fierce mob of religious fanatics along with a crew of media armed with video cameras, who were shouting, yelling, and threatening to beat them up, accusing them of religious conversion.

Nearly 100 persons dragged these terrified men to Mohabatpur Police Station, at Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh, and accused them of religious conversion.

Alleging religious conversion, the hostile mob, continued to surround and gherao the Police Station for several hours, demanding that a FIR be filed against these men.
Persecution Relief spoke to Pastor Jacob while in custody and was updated on the situation. Further, the Founder spoke to the Superintendent of Police (SP) Pradeep Gupta, who spoke to the CO, to ensure they are all released.

Pastor Paul Sunderaj and Bro. Samuel Prasad, coworkers of Pastor Jacob at NPN, worked towards securing their release on the ground. By the grace and mercy of God, all men were released around 9.00 pm in the night.

After being released, speaking to Persecution Relief, Pastor Jacob said that he was joyful in the spirit.

“The 4 brothers along with me are joyful in the spirit. We praise God for the opportunity to be a witness and a testimony to Jesus Christ, and not at all disappointed by this incident.”

Persecution Relief has recorded more than 109 persecution incidents in Uttar Pradesh, this year, the most hostile among 29 states.

The Churches in Uttar Pradesh, are being forcefully closed down with the help of Police and administration. Police, who are meant to be ‘guardians of the law’ are derelict in their duties by taking a prejudiced and bigoted stand against the minority Christian community.

In Districts of Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Kanpur, etc. more than 20 worship services have been closed down. Police patrols are placed outside such Churches, guarding the entry, to prevent people from gathering to worship Jesus Christ.
Church vandalized in Tamil Nadu

In an act of anti-Christian hatred, a “Church of God” (IPC), in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, was extensively damaged by vandals.

The damage came to light when Pastor and his wife returned home after house visits and praying for the sick.

Pastor Jebaselvan has been ministering with Church of God (IPC) since 1979. He lives behind the Church, in a small house with his wife.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Pastor Jebaselvan and Bro. Xavier briefed about the attack on their Church.

On Sunday, 11th November, Worship Service went ahead as normal. On Monday, the 12th November, Pastor and his wife, left their home around 3 pm – Pastor on house visits and his wife Sis Ezhil, to pray for the sick people.

It is alleged that 4 young men, one of them drunk, broke open the main door to the Church, threw the Holy Bible on the floor with pages ripped out, overturned and broken chairs, all music instruments destroyed and the lights ripped out.

"THE DESTRUCTION IN THE CHURCH IS DISTRESSING THE HOLY BIBLE WAS THROWN ON THE FLOOR WITH PAGES RIPPED OUT, OVERTURNED AND BROKEN CHAIRS, ALL MUSIC INSTRUMENTS DESTROYED AND THE LIGHTS RIPPED OUT."

[Image of损坏的教堂]

[Image of牧师和工人]

www.persecutionrelief.org
out, destroyed the musical instruments, overturned and broke chairs, brokeglass panes of the windows, ripped out lights and electric wires from the wall, and tore up posters with Bible verses.

When Pastor returned at 5 pm, he was shocked and saddened to see the entire inside of the Church vandalized.

“The destruction in the Church is distressing – the Holy Bible was thrown on the floor with pages ripped out, overturned and broken chairs, all music instruments destroyed and the lights ripped out”.

“This damage is not just a criminal act but an act motivated by anti-Christian sentiment that is prevalent in India today”, he added.

In a difficult and threatening time like this, Pastor has appealed to the Church and to Persecution Relief family, to offer prayerful solidarity and extend support.

Pastor estimates that it would cost upwards of Rs. 1 Lakh/- to repair the damage at the Church and replace the instruments.

The Church has over 30 regular believers attending. Besides Sunday worship service, it also hosts evening prayer meetings.

A complaint has been lodged at the Eraniel Police Station, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu

Several house churches have been prevented from holding prayer gatherings, which is part of an ever-widening nationwide operation targeting unofficial “house churches” across India.

Christians worshipers across India have been facing a rising wave of violence in the past few years. Many attacks are believed to be politically motivated, in an effort to polarize the community, especially in the run up to the elections in April 2019.

“PERSECUTION RELIEF WAS VERY PROACTIVE REACHING OUT TO ME. THEY SUPPORTED ME FINANCIALLY FOR THE LOSS WE HAD INCURRED. THANK YOU BRO. SHIBU THOMAS”.

-PASTOR JEBASELVAN
ADOPT A MARTYRED FAMILY

Call +91 9993200020

Email: persecutionrelief@gmail.com
PRAY FOR PEACE AND UNITY IN UTTAR PRADESH

SUMMARY:

- Uttar Pradesh continues to be the hotbed of religiously-motivated violence against Christians – and has recorded 111 verified persecution incidents this year, up to end-November 2018.
- A growing sense of insecurity is perceivable and felt by the Christians community and minorities alike.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who founded the Hindu Yuva Vahini (HYV), a militant Hindu youth outfit, is allegedly responsible for stoking majority communal (sectarian) riots.
- A Senior Police Officer was killed by a mob in Uttar Pradesh, as he was trying to control the wild mob, after cow carcasses were found scattered in a forest in Uttar Pradesh’s Bulandshahr.
- Several Churches and Christian individuals have allegedly faced extortion at the hands of the local police.
- Vigilantism, sectarian clashes, spiking crime rates and moral policing, continues to flourish unabated, in many states ruled by the BJP Government.
Anti-Christian violence continues to sweep through the southern state of Tamil Nadu which continues to witness a worsening law and order situation and a spike in persecution attacks.

On Monday, 13th January, around 5 pm, Pastor Selvakumar and 6 other believers, members of Full Gospel Pentecostal Church, from Sadayal Puthoor Vembanoor, Kanyakumari District, were distributing Bible tracts at Perumselvavilai which comes under Aloor post office, Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.

A mob of unidentified religious fundamentalists, noticing them distributing tracts, surrounded them and confiscated all the Bible material. Gospel tracts are small booklets in easy-to-read format that present the Gospel.

Pastor Selvakumar and team were questioned for hours as the mob falsely accused of entering the villager’s homes and forcing them to convert to Christianity. They were threatened, verbally abused and insulted for their faith in Jesus Christ. Behaving like they are “law unto themselves”, they beat up Pastor Selvakumar and his church leaders. Eventually, they forcibly applied the hindu sacred ash and vermillion powder on their foreheads. They tore up and destroyed all the tracts.

Learning of the incident which was widely circulated on Social Media, Police rushed to the spot and rescued the Christians. Seeing the

Condemning the violence by these vigilante groups in the name of religion, Police insisted that the Christians file a complaint against the perpetrators so that the offenders could be punished. A Complaint was lodged at Pattai Police Station.

This horrendous act of mobocracy, which is destroying the pluralistic social fabric and rule of law, was widely circulated on Social Media.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Sis Annette Joy, wife of Pastor Selvakumar requested prayer for the protection of the Church and the salvation of the persecutors that they may come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Persecution Relief has recorded 67 incidents of religious persecution against christians in Tamil Nadu in 2018 – the 2nd hostile state following Uttar Pradesh.
- Thank you, Persecution Relief -
Innovative ways of Persecution

This month, we received a strange complaint from a member of the Persecution Relief Family.

Persecution Relief mails out over 1000’s of “Voice of the Christians Magazine” every month to our subscribers.

Sister Nirmala Ebenezer from Hyderabad, had subscribed to our monthly magazine which was mailed to her verified address. Sister contacted our Office to inform that the package was tampered with and she did not receive our magazine.

It appears that religious fanatics have tampered with the package, removed the Christian magazine and replaced it with a religious magazine about Ayodhya.

Persecution against Christians have exponentially increased. Christ haters are inventing new ways and fraudulent ways to persecute us.

We must tell these stories and pray for our persecutors. Let us pray that whoever was involved in this illegal activity – the Post Man or Sister’s Neighbour or fanatics in the Post Office - be touched, changed and transformed, in Jesus name, as he reads the stories in the magazine.

While we apologize for the tampered mail, we are doing all we can to keep your deliveries safe and secure. Our spend for each magazine is Rs. 60/- for printing and Rs. 10/- for postage.

A fresh copy has been mailed to Sis. Nirmala.

A complaint has been lodged with the Post Office General of Hyderabad.

Translation:

Pathey Kan Akhil Bhartiya Sant Samiti

By the Collective Announcement by All the saints of every religious groups who were born in India.

Ram Mandir to be built in Ayodhya at the earliest
"BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

"WHEN JESUS WAS SEEMINGLY TRAPPED BY THE JEWS AND QUESTIONED ABOUT PAYING TAX TO CAESAR OR WHEN HE WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT THE WOMAN WHO WAS CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF ADULTERY, HE RESPONDED WITH WISDOM."

This picture illustrated, depicts the message that was shared on that day. The message — we are to be the light in this dark world.

Bro. Shibu started the message with a song - ‘Mein jagat ki jyoti hu...namak bhi hu...’

Only if you are filled with the Holy Spirit, can you overcome any persecution. Speaking in tongues in only one sign of Holy Spirit. We need to have the Spirit of Wisdom when we face the Police, Judges, Political Leaders or anyone in authority.

When Jesus was seemingly trapped by the Jews and questioned about paying tax to Caesar or when he was questioned about the woman who was caught in the act of adultery, he responded with Wisdom.

Only when Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke on the day of Pentecost, 5000 people were added to the Church.

We need not worry that we are in minority; Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego also were also in the minority, but they did not bow down to Babylonian gods.

A brief timeline of Shibu’s life was shared and how God prompted him to help the missionaries who are being persecuted.

Bro. Shibu added that the Spiritual warfare is intense when you are in the battlefield and sufferings and persecutions increase exponentially. We need to love our enemies, remove fear from our hearts. We should not be praying against any Political party or any groups. Our enemies are fasting to persecute us, if we hate them, we would not be able overcome all their plans. We need to convert many Saul’s into Paul, then we can see a revival in this nation.
The common perception in the world and even among many Christians is that the Bible places too many restrictions on women. However, as someone who came to faith in Christ a few years ago, I can testify that knowing Jesus as my Lord and Saviour has been the most liberating experience of my life.

Growing up in a Hindu home with a rather benign attitude towards faith, I was not particularly devout or religious. I studied in a convent school and a Christian college, but had never read the Bible at any time during my formative years.

At a particularly challenging phase in my life years later, a friend gifted me a Bible. I began to read it out of curiosity, not knowing how deeply it would impact me.

I was amazed at the importance that God gives to women in Scripture. From the very first chapter of the Bible (Genesis 1:27), we are taught that women, like men, are made in God’s own image. So, women are not relegated to playing only a secondary role to their husbands, but are seen as valued partners and companions to them. God gives them so much importance in the Bible that in Exodus 20:12, he commands the children to honour both father and mother. This is unlike so many cultures around the world where traditionally, women have had very little standing. Even the so-called enlightened civilizations of old, including the Greek and the Roman, considered women to be inferior creatures. Contrast this with the Bible where entire chapters in the Old Testament are about women like Ruth and Esther.

As gender roles and even gender distinctions change rapidly in a world gone crazy, there is a greater need to understand the biblical view of women. The Bible teaches role distinctions between men and women, based on their unique abilities. For example, women have an irreplaceable role in childbearing and the care of little ones because of our inbuilt maternal instinct. This is probably just a biological fact, but it does have a bearing. As a mother, I can vouch for the fact that raising godly children in this day and age is one of the most...
challenging jobs. Today, many advocates of pseudo feminism dismiss the role of a mother as unimportant compared to career success, but the Bible gives due credit to the role of motherhood. Acknowledging a woman’s importance in child-rearing does not accord her an inferior status; in fact, it uplifts women by recognizing their unique capability in accomplishing one of the most difficult jobs in the world.

This is not to disparage women who choose a career for fulfilment. In fact, Scripture has always acknowledged and encouraged the female intellect. Many of Jesus’ early disciples were women who played a prominent role in ministry. Some were known for their sound grasp of doctrine, others for their wisdom in counselling, prophecy, or other gifts of the Spirit. Proverbs 31 also talks about women who were prudent in managing their households, women who ran small businesses that brought in profit and wealth into the house. So clearly there is no place in the Bible where women are considered inferior to men in managing things outside the purview of home and hearth. Scripture accords equal status to the woman who, of her own volition, chooses to take care of her home and children, as the one who chooses to work outside the home. It does not exalt one over the other.

In 1 Peter 3:7, when Scripture refers to women as the “weaker vessels”, there is nothing to suggest that women are subservient in any way; this is just to emphasise upon men the need to protect them and love them. In the same way, women are exhorted to support their husbands in any way they can to fulfil their God-given vision and mission. Proverbs 31 talks at length about the ways in which a godly woman can be an asset to her husband and her home. Where society places undue importance on a woman’s beauty or achievements, the Bible stresses more on her character. How is that not liberating?

Nowhere does the Bible suggest that the role of men is superior to that of women; rather, it differentiates between responsibilities only to ensure that both fulfil their potential. Women are not a crutch to lean on but a pillar of support. Both are equally important to the building of the Lord’s Church. Proverbs 12:4(NKJV) says, “An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.” The Lord is not looking to us for grand gestures to impress Him. Even maintaining harmony in the home goes a long way towards fulfilling His purpose. As a Church, we are called to build each other up and not tear each other down as we respond to the call of God in our lives.
The enemy in your hand

When we think of persecution, we think of violence, anger, pain, fear and other negative things. Yes, Persecution is often violent and angry. But there is a different type of danger which has crept into Christian homes, which is far more common and unrecognized by many. I believe the Lord would call it persecution in your hands. The enemy is literally in your hands and many do not even recognize it as persecution.

We all suspect that something is wrong when we see kids (and even adults) spending endless hours on gaming consoles, screens or mobile phones.

I read this shocking news in the New Indian Express: A Video game addicted teenager of 14 years old, ended his life after his mother takes away his mobile phone, in Nagpur. Well, there is something terribly wrong. And the medical community has just realized the deadly problem.

For the first time in 10 years, the World Health Organization has released a new edition of its International Classification of Diseases in July 2018. ICD-11 is the first to be fully electronic, and it has 55,000 codes compared with the 14,400 in ICD-10. There’s a new chapter on traditional medicine as well as a new chapter on sexual health. The diagnosis known as “gender incongruence” was moved from the mental health category into the new sexual health chapter as a way of destigmatizing this diagnosis.

Another change is the new diagnosis “gaming disorder.” It comes under the umbrella of addictive disorders. It’s defined as impaired control over digital or video gaming for at least a year, leading to adverse effects on personal health and overall function, [where] gaming takes priority over usual activities, like sleeping, eating, working, or socializing.

The WHO includes the following criteria for gaming disorder in the ICD-11:

- impaired control over gaming
- gaming taking precedence over other interests and daily activities
Therefore, Weinstein turned to the criteria for the diagnosis of behavioral addiction set out by Mark B. Griffiths, Ph.D., and colleagues, which focus on the following:

- Salience,
- Mood modification,
- Tolerance,
- Withdrawal,
- Adverse consequences, and
- Repeated attempts to quit, followed by relapse.

He said that salience means that the activity becomes the most important activity in their life and dominates their thinking, feelings, and behavior.

Similarly, mood modification, which is the subjective experience that people report as a result of engaging in the activity, is seen with both disorders. Problem Internet users say that they feel aroused or enter into a “flow” whereby they lose a sense of time and place. Tolerance, in which greater exposure is required to achieve the same effect, is also found in both conditions, as is withdrawal. In Internet gaming disorder, withdrawal includes anger, tension, and/or depression; Weinstein said that, on the basis of brain imaging studies, the neural mechanisms that underlie Internet gaming disorder appear similar to those seen in drug addiction. These include structural changes related to gray matter volume in regions linked to attention, motor coordination, executive function, and perception.

On this last point, there is “flexibility, given clinical data that suggest that this may occur more rapidly in some individuals.

Potenza argued that problematic gaming has a biological basis. He referred to brain imaging data indicating that problematic gaming is associated with decreases in resting state functional connectivity in executive control networks and is linked to negative cognitive control performance on the Stroop Task.

Other studies have shown that a craving behavioral intervention not only decreased Internet addiction scores and gaming times but also increased cue-induced insula activation and decreased connectivity between the insula and some brain regions, such as the precuneus, that have been implicated in cravings.

Potenza and colleagues consequently proposed a theoretical model of Internet gaming disorder in which specific targets share similarities with those for substance use disorders and behavioral addictions, such as pathologic gambling.
Internet gaming disorder is associated with lower white matter density in brain regions linked to decision making, behavioral inhibition, and emotional regulation, as well as alterations in the ventral striatum. Video game playing is associated with dopamine release at levels similar to those seen in drug abuse.

Internet gaming disorder is associated with depression, anxiety, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and alcohol use, as well as personality disorders in adolescents.

Science, Medical science does not have any answers, any solutions. The best that they can come up with are some medicines. What we feared has come true. Our kids are hopelessly addicted.

A recent study (November 2018) of over 40,000 kids showed the effects of mobile use. Children’s psychological well-being starts to deteriorate after an average 1 hour of screen viewing per day, according to a study of more than 40,000 children aged 2 to 17 years. More hours of screen time are associated with lower well-being in ages 2 to 17. High users show less curiosity, self-control, and emotional stability more distractibility, more difficulty making friends, and being more difficult to care for.


The word of God calls this addiction by another name, idolatry. When we turn to a created thing to give us something that only the living triune God can give us, it invariably destroys us. Yes, we want our idols to be removed, but we need to replace them with the real thing!

Whatever we seek for in these games at our on the screen, seem to deliver it for some time but the price we end up paying is beyond imagination.

The answer I believe is accepting the unconditional love of God, who in Christ the sinless man, died for the sin and shame of our sin. with the power of the Holy Spirit.

When God is in the throne of our hearts, all other things take their rightful place. The mobile and the internet become powerful tools for achieving our God given potential and purpose. All these inventions and things are great tools and slaves for us, but the moment they become our master, they will destroy us.

God bless,

Dr. S. P. Mathew
MD - General Medicine, MBBS
Internal Medicine, Consultant Physician 22 years’ experience
He runs a private nursing home in Mumbai and is a committed Christain.
UK PARLIAMENTARY GROUP CALLS OUT 27 COUNTRIES FOR ‘SIGNIFICANT’ RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS

World Watch Monitor International

A “Commentary on the Current State of Freedom of Religion or Belief” presented by a group of British parliamentarians today, 10 December, highlights 27 countries where people’s religious freedom has been denied and abused in the past year.

The report, presented by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), is “a key step in raising awareness about violations of Article 18 [of the UDHR]”, the APPG said in a press release.

“The scale and intensity of violations worldwide has meant that FoRB has emerged as a critical issue of our time,” said Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, United Nations Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion or Belief, in a foreword to the report, adding: “There is growing recognition that FoRB is significant for achieving the UK’s policy and strategic goals of building sustainable peace and a bulwark against injustice.”

The 27 countries with “significant FoRB violations” mentioned in the APPG report are:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Yemen.

POLICE IN CHINA GIVEN QUOTAS FOR HOW MANY CHRISTIANS TO ARREST

World Watch Monitor International

Police stations in a city in northeast China are having their performance evaluated according to the number of Christians they arrest, says religious-liberty magazine Bitter Winter.

A police officer from Dalian, a port city in Liaoning Province, near the North Korean border, told the magazine that his station had received a notice from the National Security Bureau which, as part of a performance-assessment plan, set out how many Christians they would have to arrest. The officer said that all stations in the city had received a similar plan, assessing the station’s performance with a 100-point evaluation system.

In order to reach their quotas, stations are trading with each other, “buying” names of arrested Christians for approximately 500 RMB (around US$70) from other stations that have already achieved their targets, according to the officer.
NEPAL ‘ANYTHING BUT PROGRESSIVE’ ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The situation for Christians in Nepal has “worsened” since a new criminal code came into effect earlier this year, writes human rights activist Prakash Khadka for the Catholic news site UCAN.

Nepal only became a secular country in 2007. Until that time it had been a Hindu monarchy for centuries and “respect for the Hindu monarchy still runs deep in the country”, Khadka says, referring to how institutions in the public sector still organise Hindu ceremonies and celebrate Hindu festivals as part of their daily responsibilities.

It is “the duty of all Hindus regardless of class or caste to protect their religion and culture from generation to generation amid growing secularism”, he says, adding that “there has been a backlash against Christians, with over a dozen recorded cases of persecution against their communities this year”.

“This trend worsened after the new criminal code took effect in August 2018. Even though it includes more provisions against discrimination, it’s anything but progressive in terms of respecting people’s freedom of religion,” Khadka says.

The new law includes an “anti-conversion” measure – “no person shall convert anyone from one religion to another or make attempt to or abet such conversion” – and provides for punishment of up to five years imprisonment and a fine of up to 50,000 rupees (US$430).

Just last week an Australian woman was deported after she was accused of trying to convert people to Christianity.

TWO PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN BROTHERS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR BLASPHEMY

A Pakistani court last week sentenced two Christian brothers to death for blasphemy.

Since their arrest in 2014, Qaisar and Amoon Ayub had been held in District Jail Jhelum, in Punjab province, 200 km north of Lahore, for allegedly posting “disrespectful material” on their website, according to AsiaNews.
For security reasons the two were kept in prison for the 13 December announcement of their sentence by Judge Javed Iqbal Bosal of Talagang District Jhelum.

Their story dates back to 2011 when Qaisar, following a quarrel at his office, started to receive death threats and the brothers had to flee the country. They were arrested on charges of blasphemy upon return four years later, as AsiaNews reported at the time.

Qaisar has said he closed his account in 2009 but that a Muslim friend somehow had been able to take the website back online while keeping it in Qaisar’s name, according to AsiaNews.

The Centre for Legal Aid, Assistance and Settlement (CLAAS-UK) that has represented the brothers, said they planned to appeal the sentence, taking it to the Lahore High Court.

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**IS ‘WON’T ESCAPE JUSTICE’ AFTER TRUMP SIGNS GENOCIDE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT WORLD WATCH MONITOR INTERNATIONAL**

President Donald Trump signs the “Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018” in the presence of, among others, Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil, Iraq (left).

US President Donald Trump has signed into law a bill that will help to ensure aid is provided to Islamic State’s victims in Iraq and Syria and to hold the perpetrators accountable, reports Associated Press (AP).

“In recent years, IS has committed horrifying atrocities against religious and ethnic minorities in Syria and Iraq, including Christians, Yazidis, Shia and other groups,” Trump said when signing the bill on Tuesday, 11 December.

Under the new “Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018”, the US will increase financial assistance to those communities who have been victims of crimes committed by Islamic State, which the act defines as “genocide”.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), an independent, bipartisan advisory body, welcomed the signing of the bill. “In this bill we recognize the message that those responsible for these crimes, including genocide, will not escape justice,” said USCIRF’s vice president, Kristina Arriaga.
THE TRANSFORMATION

This is the personal story of a fanatic Bengali Hindu who hated Christians - a Saul who was transformed, much against his wishes, to a Paul.

Born in a staunch Hindu family hailing from Bengal but residing in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Brother Bikash Chandra Edbar had all the makings of a religious fanatic leader until he had an encounter with the Living God - Jesus.

The roots of Bikash’s salvation, however, were being sown in his upbringing and early days of his youth. As part of his upbringing, Bikash was taught by his parents and grandparents on the supremacy of Hindu religion and culture and how Christians and Muslims were foreigners polluting his motherland and were his arch enemies.

Armed with this teaching, when Bikash joined in the Indian Army as a young inductee, Bikash would always look for places of Hindu worship, at times cycling several kilometers. During one of such posting in Jaipur, Bikash used to commute 17 kms to attend religious meetings of Radha Soami Satsang, a religious sect “based on spiritual teachings of all religions”.

In his eight years of serving in the Indian Army, Bikash would look to attending such meetings where ever he would be posted, in an attempt to fill the vacuum within his soul.

Later, being born and raised in staunch Hindu traditions, Bikash found himself in association with local leaders of the fanatic group Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) after he left the Indian Army in 1996. As a hot-blooded youth, Bikash was taught and trained to hate Christians and Muslims. To such an extent that he was willing to make Christians and Muslims stand line and shoot them. “Having been in the armed forces, I only knew of killing or getting killed,” he would say.

With this passion and zeal to preserve the Hindu culture and fight against its “enemies”, Bikash worked with the religious conversion group within VHP for the next 6-7 years. Gradually, Bikash rose through the ranks to be appointed as the city chief of Bhopal’s east zone where he was actively conducting weekly meetings to mobilize youth leaders to “bring back” those who had strayed away from Hinduism. But God had different plans for him.

Right in the thick of his anti-conversion activities against the Christians, Bikash was also getting disoriented with the idol worship around him. The vacuum that he had been trying to fill through religious activities and attending spiritual
meetings still remained, leading to a growing sense of lack of purpose. This is sense of lack of purpose led him to start his own business of dealing in properties and running hostels but was unsuccessful. God had been working in the backdrop to bring him to a place of desperation.

This happened in 2010, when amidst a severe business and financial crisis, Bikash went to meet Bro Sunil for some property related work. Unbeknownst to him, Sunil was a born-again believer who had just gotten up from a personal prayer time. That day, after discussing work, Sunil offered to pray for Bikash. Such was his financial crisis that Bikash was forced to lay aside his fanaticism and request Sunil to pray for the issue to whoever God he believed. For Bikash, getting out of the crisis was more important than religion at that time.

The other turning point that day was the verse ‘Then you shall know the truth, the truth that shall set you free.” (John 8:32) that Bikash saw hanging at Sunil’s home and asked of its meaning. In turn, Sunil asked him what did he think truth was, to which Bikash replied that even a lie spoken for someone’s benefit was truth. Gently correcting him, Sunil handed him a Gideon’s Bible and told him that God did not think that way. “For God, truth is exclusive and pure, not being mixed with lies,” he said. Though Bikash didn’t take his words seriously, the continual crisis forced him to contact Sunil again for prayer. Sunil then not only began praying for him but also meeting him frequently to share the good news of Jesus Christ’s death on the Cross on behalf of Bikash and teaching him about the True Living God.

As he began to learn about Jesus, Bikash started having questions about his new-found faith but didn’t ask anyone. One day, Sunil took Bikash to meet another senior believer called Mr. Dwivedi who began talking to and the Holy Spirit led him to respond to Bikash’s questions without the latter even asking them. God began speaking to Bikash’s heart and with the help of Sunil, he began his journey in faith with renewed vigor. In all this, his mother Jayshree, wife Rup, daughter Harsha and son Joy were unaware of his new-found faith. However, Bikash soon began taking his wife and kids for meetings on the pretext of going for a satsang (devotional meeting). Apart from attending meetings, the family would hear messages of Evangelist Ram Babu where God began working in their hearts as well.
“ON THE OTHER HAND, INTRIGUED BY CHANGES IN HIS BEHAVIOUR, HIS WIFE AND KIDS ASKED HIM IF HE HAD TAKEN WATER BAPTISM TO WHICH HE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD TAKEN IT BUT DIDN’T TELL THEM FOR FEAR OF BEING PREVENTED FROM IT.”

Soon, sensing a strong conviction from the Lord, Bikash also decided to destroy the idols in his home and honour God. But he also became restless finding that not much was changing in him, seeing that his family members were also not growing in the Lord. When he approached Sunil with a predicament, he was told that he needed to get baptized. Unaware of his family’s faith condition, Bikash eagerly took baptism but didn’t tell at home.

But the change that God brought in him could not be hidden. His family began seeing changes in his behaviour, habits and lifestyle and became suspicious that he had taken baptism. On one hand, his mother, being an active member of the VHP herself, turned hostile against him and instigated his former VHP colleagues to threaten him and force him to deny Jesus. Bikash began facing severe persecution and even death threats from the very people in VHP with whom he used to work as the city chief against Christians and Muslims. However, Bikash held on to his faith and trusted the Lord and saw His protection and divine provision.

On the other hand, intrigued by changes in his behaviour, his wife and kids asked him if he had taken water baptism to which he admitted that he had taken it but didn’t tell them for fear of being prevented from it.

While Bikash continued to pray for his family, one day in his absence, his children fell ill. Fearing for their health, Rup began praying to God for healing. During the prayer, Rup was convicted of hiding one of the idols in the house. Repenting of it, she discarded the idol and asked the Lord to heal her children. Within one hour, his children were healed and her faith grew strong in the Lord. The healing prompted his wife and kids also to seek baptism and turn wholeheartedly towards Jesus.

Having seen Jesus turn his persecuting heart like Saul the persecutor of the Church into Paul the champion, Bikash now intercedes for and works towards helping many like him turn from the hatred against Christians and Muslims to love them. According to Bikash, God has not only prepared him as a prayer warrior to stand in the gap for His people but is also going to turn many persecutors in the country towards Jesus in the coming days. To God alone be the glory.

- As narrated to VoTC Correspondent
Pastor Pawan Kumar, Pastor Sekhar Babu and myself, had planned to meet with Bro. Prince and Sis. Renuka on September 26th at Koraput, Odisha, some 135 kms away from where we had our 2-Day workshop. As we prepared for the journey, we were forewarned by our associates to avoid traveling by car through the region as there was political unrest. Two MLA’s (Member of Legislative Assembly) – one sitting and a previous one, had been shot dead by radicals.

Though the news was unsettling, we prayed and decided to proceed as planned. We left by car as arranged for Koraput. We encountered a check post just 20 kms away from the town. By the grace of God, we reached our destination safely. Rev. Leslie Nagarajan, CEO of ICGM had informed Bro. Rajkumar, who had organized the meeting with Bro. Prince in the prison.

At the Prison meeting area, a distance of 3-4 feet separated the prisoners from the visitors, by 2-layer multi-grilled iron window. Around 30 plus relatives of prisoners, some of them with their little babies, stood in the 20 x 20 sq. ft room, in front of this meeting area.

Prince’s father and brother had joined with us by this time. At 10:30 am, Bro. Prince appeared with a broad smile. When he saw us, his face expressed surprise, joy and gratitude at seeing us.

Prince then greeted us: “Praise the LORD, Uncle. Thank you, Pastors, for visiting me.”

“God is fulfilling His will in my life perfectly and I am celebrating God’s faithfulness”

“I do not have a bit of regret or remorse. When the police first arrested me with a pre-planned agenda, they levelled many false accusations. I was calm and sometimes smiled. The Policemen were curious and asked me the reason for my joy!

I told them, “Not one of your accusations is true. You know all are false allegations. My God Jesus Christ has already prepared us - and I quoted them from Matthew 5:11-12 to them”.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, ……………….. for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

He smiled at me saying: “Uncle, you taught us Paul’s model of Church planting. As I seriously meditated and dedicated myself for it, God helped and enabled me to walk in his footsteps too. Paul and Silas had a great ministry opportunity in the prison, that resulted in the salvation of both the prisoners and jailers. It is started here now.”

Bro. Prince has been a great witness in the prison.

One person from another faith, has been in
prison for 2 years as the case is in court. He was arrested on suspicion of murdering his wife, but claims he is innocent. When Bro. Prince started Bible Study, he is a regular and claims that he believes in the LORD Jesus.

Another person, also from another faith, is in solitary confinement awaiting death penalty. He has not been allowed to meet either his relatives or the inmates. On seeing Bro. Prince, he acknowledged him with a smile. Bro. also got an opportunity to share the gospel with him during his initial stay in prison, he was detained in a room crowded with many prisoners. God has put favour in the hearts of the Jailors and has been allotted a better place with no hinderance to read his Bible and pray. Bro. Prince conducts daily Bible Study and Prayer Meeting for the prisoners from 8:00 to 9:00 am. He says the attendance is increasing. On Sundays, a pastor comes in to lead worship, where he helps him.

He was grateful to the LORD for the boldness and confidence his wife, Renuka is now blessed with. Previously, she would be afraid of being alone even for a single night; she did not dare to take any decisions at home or in the ministry.

Sis. Renuka, lives with her in her in laws and a brother. She is a picture of comfort and confidence that God has blessed her with. At first, she could not come to terms with what had happened but now understands that God is in it. It was Prince’s mother who played important role in leading him toward ministry through ICGM.

He explained that the evil schemes of 4 anti-Christian elements with the cooperation of Government officers and school teachers.

“My persecutors kept on warning me. Now, they perhaps think that they have managed to stop the ministry. But God had other plans. They meant it for evil but God meant it for good. God has given me a free hand to minister to the prisoners. God has turned the table and changed their evil plans to blessing for me and others”, he remarked, laughing heartily.

“My Bible and books are my companions now. I read a lot.”

I promised to send him a set of First Principle Booklets.

On our drive back home, though we were worn out by this risky trip in a hilly area, we thanked the LORD for this day - a fruitful day spent meaningfully in our lives.

Rather than us encouraging Bro. Prince and Sis. Renuka, they ministered to us, through the reality of their lives. I recalled how we started our life - humbly in remote mission fields of Gujarat. Only a missionary can understand the life and hardship another missionary encounters and endures.

Please take a few moments to pray for our missionaries and to thank God for the hard work that they do.

Bro. Ragland Remo Paul
A co-labourer with God serving with “Reaching Hand Society” in Malkangiri, Odisha

www.persecutionrelief.org
**EVENTS ATTENDED BY OUR FOUNDER TO HIGHLIGHT PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS AND ENCOURAGE THE CHURCH IN INDIA**

“All India United Christian Voice 20th Anniversary”, Held At Bangalore, Karnataka, on 24th November.

Ministered to the youths of Marthoma Church, encouraging them in Bangalore, Karnataka, on 25th November.

Living Hope Church, Bangalore, Karnataka, on 25th November.

Ministered at Pastors & Leaders Conference of India Mission, Patna, Bihar on 27th November.

Founder meeting benefactors of “Persecution Relief” in Patna on 27th November.

All India United Christian Voice 20th Anniversary”, held at Bangalore, Karnataka, on 24th November.

Addressing the Senior Leaders of GEMS, Bihar 28th November.

Bro. D. Augustine Jebakumar, Founder, GEMS Bihar, on 28th November.

Meeting with Senior Leaders of Patna, Bihar on 29th November.

Meeting with Pastor Subash and family who were arrested on conversion charges at Patna, Bihar on 29th November.
Spoke at Goa Pastors Association meeting in Verna, Goa on 06th December

Founder met Mr Abraham Mathai the Ex Vice Chairman of Minority Commission in Mumbai, Maharashtra, on 21st December

Meeting with Leader of Opposition, Congress State Head Kuldeep Rai Sharma along with the Leaders of Andaman & Nicobar island on 18th December

Ministering at City Changers Church, Cochin, Kerala on 16th December

Meeting with Church Leaders of Andaman & Nicobar Islands – and formation of new chapter of Persecution Relief on 18th December

Founder Persecution Relief was invited to speak at the Andamans & Nicobar Pastors Association meeting, Port Blair, on 17th December

Ministered at IPC District Convention, Thodupuzha, Kerala on 23rd December.
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