John Chau's letter to his parents:

‘Please do not be angry at them'
You guys might think I'm crazy in all this but I think it's worth it to declare Jesus to these people.

Please do not be angry at them or at God if I get killed.

Rather please live your lives in obedience to whatever he has called you to and I'll see you again when you pass through the veil.

This is not a pointless thing - the eternal lives of this tribe is at hand and I can't wait to see them around the throne of God worshiping in their own language as Revelations 7:9-10 states.

I love you all and I pray none of you love anything in this world more than Jesus Christ.
Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

1 Corinthians 12:10
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Are we looking at the wrong Goliath?

As we go into the Election season, I want to impress a heavenly Kingdom perspective for us Christians

A verse, from the book of Daniel, got my attention.

“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate” - Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)

Very insightful and true. We are indeed to be most pitied if we put our confidence and vote based on the “promises” of anyone, be it a political candidate based on logic, or a candidate who backs issues that are close to home. It is indeed a privilege to be given the opportunity to vote. However, Christians must strive to maintain a clear conscience, before they decide to cast their electoral obligation.

What is Christendom teaching us?

Are they pointing us to look at the wrong Goliath – the one made of flesh and blood?

Is Christendom instructing us that the stone in my sling is my vote for the Prime Minister?

Is Christendom telling me what particular candidate will deliver Christians, basis what issues he has promised to address or what virtues he possesses etc.?

What does the Bible instruct me?

The Bible teaches that our fight is not against flesh and blood but against satan and his forces. The ultimate source of persecution is satan, who wants the truth suppressed and Christian voices silenced.

The only vote as a Christian, that I can make, is through prayer, both corporately with the local Church and individually in my personal prayer time.

The Bible records: “For exaltation comes neither from the east; nor from the west nor from the south, But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another “ Psalm 75:6-7, (NKJV)
It also states that:

“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God” - Rom 13:1

So, there is no ambiguity with God’s word. It is crystal clear.

The Goliath we fight, is the devil and his forces of sin. Prayer is the stone in our sling-shot.

And no matter who gets elected to form the next government, we have our orders from the Living Word.

“Therefore, submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king” - 1 Peter 2:13-17 (NKJV)

We are religious hypocrites when we claim that we want to do the will of God, but refuse to obey the clearly written will of God to honor those in authority in earthly kingdoms.

Church, I believe that the Holy Spirit is searching for a people who have a discerning spirit, to properly interpret the times.

Where is the Daniel’s and the Joseph’s of this generation?

Where is the Esther’s and Deborah’s who can intercede?

Why are we not able to demolish the enemy’s plans to kill, steal and destroy His people?

Why are God’s people not being consulted for battle strategies and tactics?

Instead, why are the sorcerers and magicians summoned by the rulers & leaders?

God is calling His people to the frontlines to combat the forces working to push Jesus out of our homes, schools, churches and public streets. Perhaps, some of you are reading this message. May God show you up as approved and as a workman for God. May you display faith and works and see life spring forth where the enemy planned to bring death and destruction.

Let’s remember who our God is.

Let us OFTEN remind ourselves who the Captain in our Kingdom army is.

Let us recommit to making the devil and the kingdom of darkness our only enemy.

Let us be encouraged to live as a soldier in the army of the all-powerful King Jesus.

May our weapons in this fight be prayer and fasting, and humble obedience to God’s Word.

Let us wholeheartedly cast our vote for Jesus Christ.

To God be all the glory.

Shibu Thomas
Alleging conversion charges, Pastor brutally beaten, Bihar

Pastor Bangali Das was brutally beaten up by religious fanatics, at Tetua village, located on the border of Gaya & Jehanabad District of Bihar State.

Pastor Das, affiliated with India Mission, had been conducting Worship Service at an open ground, in the land belonging to the Manji Tribe, after he was evicted from a rented property, 2 months ago.

More than 100 believers had congregated for the Sunday Worship service which started at 10.00 am. Just as the meeting was concluding, around 2.00 pm, hard-line religious fanatics, from a near-by village, barged into the House Church. The well-armed mob began to indiscriminately, beat the congregation, slapping and kicking the people.

Specifically, isolating Pastor Das, they brutally beat him up, critically injuring him, that he had to be rushed to Madan Medical Hospital in Gaya for medical attention.
The fanatics have warned Pastor not to conduct Prayer or Worship services in the future, alleging conversion charges, a common rhetoric used by religious fanatics, to strong arm, silence and attack Christians.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Pastor vehemently denied that he was converting anybody.

“I only present Jesus Christ. It is He who transforms people, transforms lives”.

Back home, after being discharged from the Hospital, Pastor Das has requested for the valuable prayers of the saints, as his body still hurts from the brutal beating and injuries.

Church, please pray that he will be totally healed in his body and his spirit, and remain steadfast in the Lord.

Pray for Pastor Das, his family and the congregation, to find an alternate accommodation to worship and pray.

Pray God will pave the way, for all Christians, to grow in the character of Christ, to guard our heart from bitterness.

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.

“I WAS TOLD ABOUT PERSECUTION RELIEF BY PASTOR VINOD AND PASTOR RENJITH OF INDIA MISSION. WHEN I SPOKE TO PERSECUTION RELIEF TEAM AND NARRATED THE INCIDENT, THEY WERE VERY SYMPATHETIC AND SUPPORTIVE. THEY IMMEDIATELY PROVIDED ME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND OTHER INCIDENTALS. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE TIMELY HELP. GOD BLESS PERSECUTION RELIEF TEAM”. – PASTOR BANGALI DAS, BIHAR
Punishing the innocent and shielding the guilty, Bihar

A Pentecostal Pastor was attacked and beaten by radicals for alleged “forced conversions” in the district of Aurangabad, Bihar. The incident occurred on Sunday, 04th November, just after the Sunday Worship service.

Around 1.00 pm, 2 unidentified persons unexpectedly, visited Pastor Stephen at his residence on some pretext. Soon a hard-line religious mob followed them and trespassed into his house and brutally beat him up. They kept shouting anti-Christian slogans and abusing Christ. They falsely accused him of forced conversions, a common excuse used to shut down churches and muzzle Christians. They continued mocking him, spitting out derogatory, hateful words against Christianity and Christ. Pastor who is suffering with a heart ailment, fell to the ground with the blows, slaps and kicks, that were rained on him. Unable to defend himself from the mob brutality, Pastor suffered an epileptic attack. In spite of the attack, the brutality did not stop.

The fanatics, had a letter with them which falsely claimed that the Pastor was involved in conversion activities, and that the Colony people had caught him in the act, owing to which he was vacating the place. They forced Pastor to sign the letter under duress.

Pastor Stephen has been ministering with the AG Church, in a rented premise, which was also his home, from a Mr. Vikas Singh.

Pastor Renjith from India Mission, Aurangabad, who lives near Pastor Stephen’s home, rushed to his home when he heard the news. As he was approaching the place, he could see the mob and the police misbehaving with Pastor. Immediately he alerted all pastors in the neighbourhood.
Someone informed the Police and around 5 Policemen arrived. However, the Police were derelict in performing their duties. Instead of punishing the guilty and protecting the innocent, injured Pastor from the mob, the Police, ruthlessly beat up the Pastor as well.

Afterwards, the Police hailed a mini truck and demanded that Pastor vacate the house immediately. Pastor was home alone as his wife was away at her home town in Tamil Nadu. They escorted him half the way to ensure that he left the city. Mid-way, to add insult to injury, they demanded money from him.

Pastor asked that he be dropped off at GEMS Hospital in Dehri, in Rohtas District of Bihar, Speaking to Persecution Relief, Pastor Bob Raj, AG Church Patna, mentioned that they had received a call from a Pastor Suresh, informing about the incident. Rushing to his aid, Pastor Bob tried to reach Pastor Stephen.
As Pastor answered the phone, someone apparently snatched Pastor’s phone and began abusing him. Immediately, Pastor Bob Raj, called the Aurangabad SP and informed him about the incident, while also informing Persecution Relief.

Pastor Renjith from India Mission, Aurangabad, who lives near Pastor Stephen’s home, rushed to his home when he heard the news. As he was approaching the place, he could see the mob and the Police misbehaving with Pastor. Immediately he alerted all Pastors in the neighbourhood.

Pastor Stephen was admitted to GEMS Hospital with critical injuries.

Church, please pray that he will recover from his terrible experience and come out stronger and steadfast in the Lord.

Pray that Pastor will find an alternate place to live and a Church for the faithful to meet.

---

**Andrew Bonar’s 3 Rules:**

1. Not to speak to any person before speaking to Jesus Christ.
2. Not to do anything with his hands until he had been on his knees.
3. Not to read the papers until he had read his Bible.
Sunday worship service was disrupted and congregation brutally beaten and dragged out of the Church. Their heads were tonsured / shaved as punishment for worshipping Jesus Christ, in Barha Village, Parsauni Panchayat, Benipatti, situated in Madhubani District of Bihar.

Pastor Upender Sahu, a local Pastor, is affiliated to GEMS (Gospel Echoing Missionary Society), Bihar. Around 5 Christian families gather every Sunday for worship service.

On Saturday 27th October, the local Panchayat (the village council of the community), took a unanimous decision of putting a complete stop to the worship of Jesus Christ in the village with immediate effect. However, these 5 families, stood strong and adamant, steadfast in their faith and openly told the Panchayat that they refuse to stop praying or worshipping or recant their faith in Jesus Christ

In spite of the Village Council’s decision, the Christians decided to gather and worship Jesus Christ. On Sunday, 28th October, while the worship service was in progress in the house of Bro. Subodh Choupal, the local villagers and religious fanatics, surrounded the house. They then beat up Bro. Subodh, his father Bro. Bahadur Choupal, and mother Malti Devi – both Senior Citizens, along with other believers

The frenzied mob mocked and attacked the Christians, falsely accusing them and others of forcible conversion. They hit them with the sticks and fists, verbally abusing them in the filthiest of languages. Eventually they tonsured the heads of Bro. Subodh his father Bro. Bahadur Choupal, mother Malti Devi, Sukesh & Geedhar Choupal.

Forcibly tonsuring the head is seen as a method of punishing, humiliating, shaming and insulting the accused.

Speaking to Persecution Relief, Bro. Manoj narrated the entire incident and was extremely concerned about his old parents, as he was away from home, working in New Delhi.

Bro. Manoj mentioned that he was the first person to come to faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ, a year ago. Today, his entire
When I called Persecution Relief Toll Free No 1800-1234-461 and informed about the incident, Persecution Relief team was quick to respond. They called Bro. Manoj, son of Bro. Bahadur Choupal, and counseled him as he was very worried about his parents.

–Pastor Manilal Das, GEMS, Bihar.

RELIEF PROVIDED

The frenzied mob mocked and attacked the Christians, falsely accusing them and others of forcible conversion. They hit them with the sticks and fists, verbally abusing them in the filthiest of languages. Eventually they tonsured the heads of Bro. Subodh, his father Bro. Bahadur Choupal, mother Malti Devi, Sukesh & Geedhar Choupal.

The family have committed to following Jesus Christ and will never forsake their faith, he added.

While India is preparing for Elections in April 2019, the Country is witnessing considerable activity, in an attempt to polarize communities, especially against Christians and Muslims.

Right wing religious fanatics, continue their blatant attempt to terrorize the Christian community, in the guise of protesting Christian conversion.

Church, please pray for the Christian community in Bihar, in Barha Village, who have been illegally and criminally attacked. Pray that the God of earth and heaven, will fill their hearts with peace and forgiveness.

Pray for Bihar which has witnessed a huge spike in Christian attacks in the last 2 months.
Suspected Religious fanatics set ‘under construction’ Church on fire, Punjab

In a mysterious, suspected arson attack, an ‘under-construction’ Church in Harchowal village, Batala Tehsil, Gurdaspur District, in Punjab, was set on fire.

Prompting allegations of foul play by the Christian community, the blaze reduced to ashes the church’s interior, including destroying Holy Bibles, 8-Pedestal Fans, Floor mats, Chairs and many other valuable items.

Pastor Satpal Masih has been ministering with IPC Bethesda Prarthana Bhawan since 2007, in Harchowal village, Batala Tehsil, Gurdaspur District, in Punjab.

He had started construction of the Church on his own personal land, with the necessary permissions. The construction was almost in its finishing stages. In spite of the incomplete construction, over 250 believers used to gather every Sunday for worship service.

On Wednesday, 07th November, 2018, at around 6.00 pm, he received information that the Church was on fire.

“I rushed to the Church to find the inside in flames”, he told Persecution Relief.

It appears that unidentified persons broke into the church, on the eve of Diwali festival and threw “inflammable fluid” which led to the
Persecution and Relief
fire. Several churchgoers stood outside the charred remains of the Church building, shocked by what they believed was a planned assault.

Police were intimated about the incident and have assured all support. However, no arrests have been made so far.

In response to a Persecution Relief tweet, the Director General (DG) of Police has assured all support and prompt action in nabbing the culprits at the earliest.

While India is preparing for the Elections in April 2019, the Country is witnessing considerable activity, in an attempt to polarize communities, especially against Christians and Muslims.

Right wing religious fanatics, continue their blatant attempt to terrorize the Christian community, in the guise of protesting Christian conversion.

Church, pray that God would be present with persecuted Christians in their hardship, protecting them according to His will.

Pray that all Christians facing hardship will draw from a source of power - Jesus Christ.

Pray that the witness of Christians would inspire those who seek to harm them.

“AS SOON AS THE INCIDENT HAPPENED, PERSECUTION RELIEF TEAM CALLED ME AND INQUIRED ABOUT EVERYTHING. THEY WERE READY TO HELP ME AND PROVIDE THE BASIC THINGS NEEDED. I AM VERY THANKFUL TO PERSECUTION RELIEF FOR THEIR TIMELY SUPPORT”  
– PASTOR SATPAL MASIH, IPC BETHESDA, PUNJAB

Relief Provided

“AS SOON AS THE INCIDENT HAPPENED, PERSECUTION RELIEF TEAM CALLED ME AND INQUIRED ABOUT EVERYTHING. THEY WERE READY TO HELP ME AND PROVIDE THE BASIC THINGS NEEDED. I AM VERY THANKFUL TO PERSECUTION RELIEF FOR THEIR TIMELY SUPPORT”

– PASTOR SATPAL MASIH, IPC BETHESDA, PUNJAB
Mother and Son brutally beaten for attending Church service, Chattisgarh

After Sunday Worship on 23 September, Sis. Pramila Bai Bhargav and her son Umesh Bhargav reached home. After a while, they were called out by some religious fanatics, who physically assaulted and brutally beat them, asking them to forsake Jesus Christ.

Around 10 Christian families live in the village Ghanapara in Takhatpur Tehsil of Bilaspur District, Chattisgarh. Most of these Christian families have been discriminated and boycotted from all social activities in the village. They have been under unimaginable pressure and duress from local religious fanatics, making daily life very difficult, coercing them to come back to their original faith of Hinduism.

These families gather together in a believer’s house for worship. On Wednesday, 12th September, the anti-Christian villagers, harassed and extensively troubled the believers and prevented them for gathering together for their usual prayer meeting. They gave them an ultimatum, warning them that if they did not stop praying to Jesus Christ
Sis. Pramila Bai Bhargav and her family were again the target of a violent physical attack by the same persons.

or worshipping or using musical instruments, they would burn their homes.

In an unusual turn of events, 25th September, a complaint was lodged against the persecuted believers by the same harassing religious fanatics – a case of the victim becoming the accused!

The Police were quick to respond by calling the Christians to the Police Station, and trying to negotiate a compromise between both parties.

SECOND ATTACK:
Sis. Pramila Bai Bhargav and her family were again the target of a violent physical attack by the same persons.

When Sis. Pramila and her son were beaten up, I informed Persecution Relief. When I spoke with the Founder and narrated Sis. Pramila’s financial position, he arranged for support required to move the family to another location and rent a place to stay.

Even when I was arrested, he was very empathetic and proactive. When everybody I knew forsook me, the only person who stood with me was Bro. Shibu. A big, big thank you, Persecution Relief.”

- Pastor Dinesh Maddad, Disciples of Christ Church, Chhattisgarh
Pastors, Christian Leaders and Sisters beaten up by fanatics; arrested by Police, Uttar Pradesh
Around 40 – 50 men armed with hockey sticks and lathis, gate-crashed into the Hotel Conference Room, where a meeting of Christian Leaders was being held and brutally beat the congregation, including women.

On 30th October, Pastor Sam P. Jacob from Kerala, who ministers in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, had organized a Leaders meeting at Hotel Samovar, Opp. ITC Mughal, Fatehabad Road, Tazganj, Agra. Christian Leaders and around 200 guests belonging to various Churches across India, were in attendance.

Persecution Relief (PR) was informed about the incident by a Dr. Laji Paul who was attending the program. The PR team spoke with SP Prashant Verma and with SSP Amit Pathak’s office, explaining the circumstances of this ambush attack which was totally against the Constitution of India. Later in the night, the group were released around 11:30 PM.

“Persecution Relief (PR) was informed about the incident by a Dr. Laji Paul who was attending the program. The PR team spoke with SP Prashant Verma and with SSP Amit Pathak’s office, explaining the circumstances of this ambush attack which was totally against the Constitution of India. Later in the night, the group were released around 11:30 PM.”
After the initial Prayer, while the meeting was in session, 2 unidentified persons entered the Conference Room and took a few photographs. Thinking nothing of this act, the meeting continued.

All of a sudden, a mob of around 40 – 50 religious fundamentalists, shouting slogans of “Jai Shri Ram”, gate-crashed into the meeting. Armed with hockey sticks, lathis and other weapons, they appeared well prepared to disrupt and physically assault the assembled Christians. They beat everyone indiscriminately, including women, whom they molested, tore their clothes and outraged their modesty, dragging them by their hair.

They also vandalized all the music instruments; Holy Bibles were torn and the attendees mercilessly beaten by the brutish religious mafia.

The most shocking aspect of this entire episode was that, the local Police who allegedly accompanied these fanatics, stood by as mute spectators, while the Pastors, Leaders and the women were being beaten up!!

Mobile phones and gold Chains were forcibly snatched off people’s necks and stolen.

Ironically, the attackers were let off and the victims were arrested by the Police. Pastors Sam P Jacob, Rahul Khare and 10 other Christians, including 3 Sisters, were taken to the Police Station. The emboldened fanatics followed the Christians to the Police Station with total impunity and insolence, forcing the Police to register a FIR against them.

The attack was allegedly led by a Pandit Govind Parashar and Sunny Bandar of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP - an Indian
right-wing Hindu nationalist organisation based on the ideology of Hindutva). It is alleged that members of the VHP and the BJP, besides men from “different right-wing groups” were responsible for the attack.

Persecution Relief (PR) was informed about the incident by a Dr. Laji Paul who was attending the program. The PR Team spoke with SP Prashant Verma and with SSP Amit Pathak’s office, explaining the circumstances of this ambush attack which was totally against the Constitution of India. Later in the night, the group were released around 11:30 PM.

Speaking to Persecution Relief Pr Rahul Khare mentioned that the criminals grabbed his new mobile phone - Samsung J7 Gold.

The injured pastors were treated at the Agra district hospital, for critical injuries.

Attacks against Christians, especially in Uttar Pradesh, have seen a steep rise. Persecution Relief has recorded around 60 incidents of persecution against Christians in Uttar Pradesh. These attacks are allegedly instigated by false propaganda of certain media houses, and the apparent immunity and conspiracy between the Police and the fundamentalists. The Police are widely blamed for allowing aggression against Christians to grow exponentially, in Uttar Pradesh, while the vigilante groups, uninhibitedly, keep hunting for Christians to carry out their next attack.

“Thank you for speaking to the SP and the SSP and giving us the assurance that no FIR would be filed against us. Thank you for the prayer support and for taking care of medical expenses. God bless you and the ministry. We are so thankful for your timely help & support”. – PASTOR SAM P JACOB

www.persecutionrelief.org
A mob of religious fanatics surrounded the Church premises, chasing away children and believers, in the state of Bihar. Pastor Jacob was officiating in his absence as Pastor Jacob was away ministering at another Church. Around 50 believers gather for the worship service every Sunday.

On Sunday, 14th October, a noisy and wild mob of fanatics, shouting slogans and abuses, stood outside the Church. They chased away the children who were heading to Church for Children’s Sunday School at 7.30 am, threatening to get back home.

Eventually, the fanatics trespassed into the Church, with total disregard for the sanctity of the place of worship. They placed the religious photos of their idols and gods & started singing bhajans, clapping their hands as they worshipped their images, with the intention of grabbing the property.

Terrified and shocked into silence by the blatant and provocative display of arrogance, the believers remained silent and withdrawn, as the fanatics demanded that they join in singing the Bhajans.

After almost an hour of tension, insults and intimidation, the fanatics left, threatening to return the following Sunday with a physical
idol, to install in the Church, if they did not stop worshipping Jesus Christ.

Speaking to Persecution Relief about the whole incident, Pastor Dr. Aby was deeply concerned that the situation in Bihar, was getting worse over the past few months, where several believers have been arbitrarily beaten and arrested.

Persecution Relief spoke to the SDPO Police, Mr. Rajneesh, appraising him of the situation at Mahanar Church. He assured that he would look into the matter, and ensure communal harmony and safety of the worshippers.

Church, please continue to pray for Pastor Jacob and the congregation of Mahanar Church, to continue to remain steadfast in Jesus Christ in spite of the intense persecution.
Those who are persecuted and suffer for their witness to Jesus Christ, including death, are pleasing in God’s sight.

Founder - Persecution Relief
“GOD, I DON’T WANT TO DIE. WHO WILL TAKE MY PLACE IF I DO”? 

R
eminiscnt of Jim Elliot’s martyrdom, 27-year-old John Allen Chau, was martyred while attempting to contact the indigenous Sentinelese Tribesmen, in Sentinel Island, of Andaman Islands of India. His killers were from the tribal group for whom he had prayed for several years.

In 1956, Philip James Elliot, an evangelical Christian, was one among five missionaries who was killed while attempting to evangelize the Huaorani people of Ecuador.

After Elliot’s death, these famous words were found scribbled in his journal:

“He is no fool, who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose” – Jim Elliot

The great paradoxes of the Kingdom of God are reflected in the words of Jesus Christ, from the Book of Luke.

“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself”? - Luke 9:24–25
John Chau had a burning passion to visit the indigenous Sentinelese tribe, in spite of knowing that they have been described as violent and dangerous to outsiders. Within minutes of landing on his Kayak at the North Sentinel Island, one of the world’s most isolated regions, John was shot dead with arrows by the tribesmen.

On his first attempt, on 15th November, he went ashore in his kayak and sent away the boat with the fishermen out to sea to avoid detection. Chau interacted with some of the tribespeople, offering gifts such as a football and fish. He thought this would be a perfect way to win the trust of the Sentinels, without putting anyone in danger. But they became angry and shot an arrow at him, hitting a Bible he was carrying. Chau was able to escape; his kayak was damaged and John had to swim back to the fishermen’s boat, which was waiting at a prearranged location. He spent the night writing about his experiences on journal pages that he then gave the fishermen.

On the following day, 16th of November, he made his way back to the island, to meet the tribespeople. John had allegedly paid the local fishermen to take him there before venturing alone in a kayak to the shore. As the fishermen watched from a distance, they saw the tribesmen attack John and later saw them dragging his body away.

John Chau’s journal entries - dated between November 14 to 16 - have shed some light on what occurred when he first arrived at the island.

Without a shadow of doubt, Chau was willing to go to any lengths to obey God because he knew that its reward was priceless, beyond value. He had no doubt God wanted him to tell the Sentinelese about Jesus.

Mankind limits God. But Chau was not prepared to limit God to just Christians. At 27 years, to his sceptics and to the world, it appears that a young life has been snuffed out in its prime. Is God not able to work through the life of an ordinary commonplace Christian?

**Conclusion:**

In India, with a population of estimated of 1.35 billion based on the most recent UN data, not a single Indian has expressed his passion or made an attempt to reach the unreached Sentinelese tribesmen, with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It took a 27-year-old ‘outsider’, to break the glass ceiling.

Jesus, breaking down the prejudicial barriers of the Jews, hearing one man’s cry, went into the pagan-region of Gadarenes, and delivered the man with the legion of demons, wanting to show people that one man is worth much more than 2,000 pigs!
Apostle Thomas travelled to India, under perilous conditions, with the burden to share the gospel and was martyred. Today, because of his great sacrifice, you and me can rejoice in the joy of our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Standing in the Sanhedrin, the Bible records that “none of them were able to stand against Stephen’s wisdom and spirit.” Stephen made those provoking statement, which infuriated the Jews, who stoned him to death. Why could he not have delivered the gospel in a more palatable manner and saved his own life?

Similarly, there may be some reading Chau’s journal notes – the dying speech of the departing man - ridiculing the life and ministry of a Christian.

How can a God who loves us, allow us to experience pain and suffering? It just doesn’t seem to add up. When bad things happen, we want answers.

God will not allow any “bad thing” happen that will not ultimately bring out His best. It is my prayer that many may be converted by such a spectacle as this!

Chau’s attempt to introduce the gospel may not have had the end he would have anticipated. Yet, let us not be discouraged, for Saul did become Paul and a Christian after all

On this side of heaven, we can never fathom or imagine the fullness of his sacrifice. Chau will never lose his reward. It is a treasure that he will enjoy for all eternity.

God’s purpose is not thwarted. God’s ways are not our ways. God gives us discernment to understand His way, where we can also discover how God can redeem a situation and bring unexpected benefits as a result of suffering.

John Allen Chau’s journal entries and letters have resonated throughout India and all over the world. They have definitely touched and inspired millions since his death. May his example lead countless lives to choose a similar life of sacrifice, following Christ into remote, unreached lands for the sake of the gospel.

“The blood of the martyr, is the seed of the Church.”

On the night before he was martyred, John Chau, penned these anguishing words - “God, I don’t want to die. Who will take my place if I do”?

The successor of any man whom God makes useful, will be found in due course. He may be at present among the haters of the gospel; he may be among those who are railing at the cross of Christ. God will raise him up in due time.

The Lord is never short of men to serve Him—

“Remember that Omnipotence has servants everywhere”.

Cover Story
To those who criticize missionary efforts and who believe that primitive tribes should be left as they are -

Why not allow them to hear the gospel and let them make their own choice?

Why would anyone want to deny them that?

These days, don’t we see such uproar and clamor to save the Tiger and other endangered species?

Shouldn’t endangered people be at least equally as important as endangered animals?

The Sentinelese Tribe of around 50 persons, could probably become extinct if someone does not tell them of a better way of life.

Even a non-Christian would not want to see a whole people group extinguished due to infighting or disease.

John Chau gave his life for the sake of the Gospel and for the salvation of the tribal people of Sentinel. The grace of God in his life motivated him to do more than what was required or commanded.

Should not that be true of each and every one of us who know the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior?

Let us pray that just as John Chau desired for the Sentinelese Tribesmen to be saved and to “see them around the throne of God, worshipping in their own language, as Revelations 7:9-10 states”, become a reality.

Shibu Thomas
A Note..........  

Dear Brother John Allen Chau,

It’s past midnight in Delhi, on our last night in India for this mission trip. My thoughts are filled with amazement that there are soldiers of the cross like you even today. What a man, what a legacy.

I remember desiring and praying that God would send me to this same Sentinelese tribes but never felt the call. But you did. You broke hundreds of earthly laws to reach these tribes and paid the price with your life. You were indeed marching to the beat of a different drum. Every Christian responds to the drum beats of heaven above before considering the requirements of the earthly laws below.

You wrote in your journal “God, I don’t want to die.” It’s not the fear of death that always motivates those feelings rather the immense sense of purpose and destiny. Ultimately for a Christian to live is Christ and to die is gain. It’s okay to be afraid of losing one’s life when faced with the possibility.

I absolutely broke down when I read your words, “Why does this beautiful place have to have so much death here? I hope this is not one of my last notes but if it is ‘to God be the glory’.

I join the millions of your brothers and sisters on earth, as we eagerly await the return of our Lord in saying, that through your life, God did get the glory.

Good night my brother.

See you on the other side.

Pastor Freddy Thomas, Philadelphia USA
On the second anniversary of the disappearance of the American Christian aid worker Jeff Woodke from his home in Abalak, northern Niger, community leaders have called on Niger’s president to secure his release.

Woodke, 57, who worked for Jeunesse en Mission Entraide et Developpement (JEMED), was abducted by unknown assailants late in the evening of Friday 14 October 2016. The kidnappers, believed to be from an extremist Islamic group called Mujao, killed two security guards. Since then there has been no news from him or his abductors.

Woodke had become known in Abalak for his devotion to Niger and its nomadic populations. He had lived in the region since 1992 and had been running several development projects among the Tuareg people group, focusing on farming, health, literacy, primary-school education and improving access to drinking water, amongst other things.

Rights groups have condemned a move by the Vietnamese government to put a well-known Catholic blogger and activist on trial for “affronting” the national flag, calling it a direct attack on her freedom to express her views.

Huynh Thuc Vy is due to stand trial on Nov. 22 for “insulting a national emblem under Article 276 of the penal code,” according to an announcement by the People’s Court of Buon Ho in Dak Lak province. If convicted, Vy faces “re-education” for six months to three years in jail.

The 33-year-old mother of one said she “sprayed paint on the flag to symbolize my freedom to express my views. This was part of a series of actions, highlighting my belief that all Vietnamese have the freedom to express their political views.”
‘NEXT TIME WE WILL NOT SURVIVE’ – MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIAN REFUGEE

By World Watch Monitor

As many as 80% of Syria’s Christians have left their country since the start of the civil war in 2011, while 50% of Iraq’s Christians have been uprooted since 2006, according to a report produced by Christian charities Open Doors International, Served and Middle East Concern last year, which said the arrival of IS was only the “tipping point” of a trend already gathering pace as Christians experienced an “overall loss of hope for a safe and secure future”.

It is not possible to know precisely how many people have been killed by IS but mass graves were found last week, some of which contained thousands of bodies.

SUDANESE CHRISTIANS BEATEN BEFORE RELEASE

October 23, 2018 By World Watch Monitor

A group of Darfuri Christians arrested last week have now been released but only after they faced severe pressure for their faith and were beaten while in detention, a local source has told World Watch Monitor.

The group of 13 Christians were taken by security officials from a home they shared in the city of Nyala, southwest Darfur, on 13 October. It is not clear on what charges they were arrested, though three of them were released shortly after and the rest released by Sunday, 21 October.

Several church leaders have been arrested, fined and taken to court on a variety of charges. In the case of two major church denominations – the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church and Sudanese Church of Christ – charges have often related to an ongoing property dispute between the churches and a government-appointed committee.
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It’s been 10 days since Asia Bibi, a Catholic woman, was acquitted on charges of blasphemy by Pakistan’s Supreme Court on the October 31.

Bibi, a mother of five from Punjab province was sentenced in 2010 after she was accused of defiling the name of the Prophet Muhammad during an argument a year earlier with Muslim women over drinking water. She was handed
a death sentence and was on death row for nearly eight years before her acquittal.

The country’s strict blasphemy laws are a topic of great sensitivity in Pakistan; accusations of blasphemy have seen a surge in mob violence and lynchings in pockets of the country.

The supreme court’s judgment was lauded by liberal activists and lawyers across the country with Amnesty International calling for a “clear message” to go out that “blasphemy laws will no longer be used to persecute Pakistan’s long-suffering religious minorities.”

Still, the acquittal saw thousands of protesters take to the streets in anger at the Supreme Court’s decision. Demonstrators called for Bibi to be hanged, and attacked the judges, the media, the army and any man or woman who dared defend her case.

An agreement has been reached between the government and the protesters following a lockdown of three days, but a bitter feeling of anxiety remains in the air.

Supporters of the Pakistani religious Islamist group Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) gather during a protest rally against the release of Asia Bibi in early November.

Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP), a right-wing Islamist group, also only agreed to call off the protests on the condition that it would not prevent the group from handing in a petition to the Supreme Court to place Bibi on the country’s exit control list.

If approved it would mean that Bibi would not be permitted to leave the country. Her whereabouts are currently unknown, as she has been moved from her jail to an undisclosed location.

While speculation is rife about the safety of Bibi and her family, there are larger conversations at stake regarding the protection of Pakistan’s tiny Christian minority.

“Just want the situation to go away”

At the Cathedral in Pakistan’s garrison town of Rawalpindi, CNN is asked to visit in the early hours of the day to avoid drawing unnecessary attention to the site. Mothers shuffling in to drop off their kids at the neighboring convent avoid our gaze, looking away when we ask them about Asia Bibi’s case.
“Please don’t name us,” one says. “But we are Christians and if Muslims aren’t safe from these conversations then we are nothing to these people, we respect the judgment of the Supreme Court and that is paramount, I just want this situation to go away and for this tension to be lifted from our shoulders.”

One of the elder Christian gatekeepers at St Joseph’s tells CNN that he is “grateful for the presence of the military close to the church.” However, he notes that the sense of fear has “begun to haunt him” since the capital went into lockdown after the acquittal.

CNN tried to speak to members of the Christian community within parts of Islamabad and Rawalpindi but everyone approached was unwilling to speak for fear of retribution citing the charged emotions in the air in the aftermath of Bibi’s acquittal.

The shadow of blasphemy laws
Romana Bashir, a Christian rights activist based in Islamabad tells CNN that while the country’s blasphemy laws have severely impacted Muslims, the difference is that “unfortunately when a Muslim is accused it’s just an accusation on one person.”

She added that when someone from the non-Muslim world is accused, “the entire community is branded and labeled with the crime.”

Pakistan’s Christians make up only 1.59% of its population of more than 200 million, but as Peter Jacob, the executive director for the Center for Social Justice in Lahore says the impact of blasphemy laws on minorities is hugely disproportionate, with 50% of those accused being non-Muslims. Bashir adds that the lives of these individuals are tossed into a whirlwind of uncertainty.

“When you are accused you cannot live in the same place, your family is under threat, your entire locality is under threat, you must run, you must leave everything you love behind. The impact is very severe,” she said.

Climate of fear
When Bibi’s acquittal was announced, havoc erupted on the streets of Pakistan; roads were blocked with massive containers, rioters attacked cars with rocks and burnt tires, and anarchy and rage spread throughout the population.

Jacob tells CNN that his organization registered cases in which rioters asked travelers to divulge their religion, and if the revealed they were Christian, “they were taken out of their cars and beaten up.”

While the state provided extra security to churches and schools, Jacob revealed that “the mental and psychological scars” inflicted on the Christian community will endure in the “current climate of fear.”
While major militant-backed attacks on Christians have decreased, activists tell CNN that the main issue facing the community is systematic bias within Pakistani society. According to Bashir, in 2014, in an attempt to fill quotas for minorities in government jobs, Christians were regularly offered low-skilled positions such as sweepers and office laborers, rather than higher-level roles.

School textbooks still rarely mention the achievements of minority Pakistanis, while in the province of Punjab members of the Christian community occupy most of the slums in the region.

Bashir also tells us that according to research by her organization, the Peace and Development Foundation in Rawalpindi, there has been no attempt to politically engage minorities in recent years, with the number of allocated seats in parliament for minorities remaining static. Yet the overall number of seats has increased in the past decade, “automatically decreasing the representation of minorities.”

**Bridges of harmony are burning**

Bashir has worked for numerous years promoting women’s and minority rights and religious tolerance. In 2012 she was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as an adviser for the Commission for Religious Relations with Muslims.

She has stated that there had been a lot of buildup in the trust between Muslim community leaders and members of the Christian and other minority communities in recent years. That trust, she says, has been jeopardized by the uneasy atmosphere in the aftermath of the recent protests in the country.

“People on both sides are now afraid to come forth, there is no middle ground for discussion, there is no air for reconciliation, it’s like the bridges of harmony have been burnt in the aftermath of acquittal,” she said.

The whereabouts of Asia Bibi are currently unknown, shrouded in secrecy for her safety and survival. Unable to be free in her homeland, she must now escape under cover to faraway lands offering her asylum and the promise of a more secure life. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, at least forty other people are reportedly on death row or serving life sentences for blasphemy.

In the shadow of this uncertainty, Asia’s fate is one which many Christians in Pakistan hope to avoid.

Source: edition.cnn.com
PRAY FOR PEACE AND UNITY IN KARNATAKA

SUMMARY:

- While Karnataka is governed by a coalition Party, it is not exempted from anti-Christian attacks by the saffron brigade.
- The presence and growth of several religious extremists’ groups in Bangalore, has galvanized the anti-Christian propaganda.
- Karnataka has seen a sharp spike in persecution incidents, where in October, it recorded 5 incidents and 12 incidents until month end.
- Amnesty International India, a global human rights movement, promoting and defending human rights and dignity, was raided by Enforcement Directorate at Bengaluru.
- Radical Hindu groups are increasingly enjoying impunity, as it appears that they are in collusion with the Administration, to harass Christians.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray that God will place watchmen on the walls of the State, to help to restore and rebuild the lives of many believers, whose hope in You seems to be weak and crumbling due to this wicked and evil generation in which we live.
- Pray that God will give us strength and grace to Christians, to face persecution each day.
- Pray that with God’s grace and Spirit, we would be able to bless those who persecute us – to turn the other cheek – to bless and not to curse.
- Pray that God would motivate the Chief Minister and all of his administration to strive for integrity and wisdom, acting in righteousness, impartiality and integrity as they work for the benefit of all people and to the honour of His Holy Name.
STANBUL — When 22 Christian refugees gathered in the basement of an apartment in Istanbul early on a recent Sunday afternoon, it was quickly clear that this was no ordinary prayer meeting. Several of them had Islamic names. There was an Abdelrahman and even a couple of Mohammads. Strangest of all, they jokingly referred to their host — one of the two Mohammads — as an irhabi. A terrorist.

If Bashir Mohammad took the joke well, it was because there was once some truth to it. Today, Mr. Mohammad, 25, has a cross on his wall and invites other recent converts to weekly Bible readings in his purple-walled living room. Less than four years ago, however, he says he fought on the front lines of the Syrian civil war for the Nusra Front, an offshoot of Al-Qaeda. He is, he says, a jihadi who turned to Jesus.

It is a transition that has surprised everyone, not least of all himself. Four years ago, Mr. Mohammad tells me, “Frankly I would have slaughtered anyone who suggested it.” Not only have his beliefs changed, but his temperament has, too. Today, his wife, Hevin Rashid, confirms, with a hint of understatement, that he is “much better to be around.”

The conversion of Muslim refugees to Christianity is not a new phenomenon, particularly in majority-Christian countries. Converts sometimes stand accused of trying to enhance their chances of asylum by making it dangerous to deport them back to places with a history of Islamist persecution.”

The conversion of Muslim refugees to Christianity is not a new phenomenon, particularly in majority-Christian countries. Converts sometimes stand accused of trying to enhance their chances of asylum by making it dangerous to deport them back to places with a history of Islamist persecution.

Mr. Mohammad’s particular experience, however, does not fit easily into this narrative. He lives in a majority-Muslim
country, has little interest in seeking asylum in the West and treads an unlikely path followed by few former jihadis.

His is a story that began in a Kurdish part of northern Syria, Afrin, where he grew up in a Muslim family. Mr. Mohammad flirted with extremism in his teens. His cousin took him to hear jihadist preachers as a 15-year-old, and he adhered to some of the most extreme interpretations of Islam, “even the ones you haven’t heard of.” But when war broke out in Syria, after the country’s 2011 uprising, Mr. Mohammad initially joined the secular Kurdish forces in their fight for autonomy.

Mr. Mohammad’s subsequent ideological journey rarely made complete sense. But by his account, he became traumatized by the deaths he witnessed on the front line, which in turn re-energized his interest in the extremist versions of Islam that he had learned about as a teenager.

“When I saw all these dead bodies,” he said, “it made me believe all these things they said in the lectures. It made me seek the greatness of religion.” Or, at least, his violent interpretations of that religion.

When a friend invited him to defect in summer 2012 to the Nusra Front, a group that seeks to establish an extremist state, Mr. Mohammad readily agreed. As a Nusra fighter, he continued to witness extreme brutality. His colleagues executed several captives by crushing them with a bulldozer. Another prisoner was forced to drink several liters of water after his genitals were tied shut with string.

This time, however, Nusra’s propaganda made the violence seem tolerable. “They used to tell us these people were the enemies of God,” Mr. Mohammad said, “and so I looked on these executions positively.”

When I first met Mr. Mohammad, in his basement, I guessed at none of this. In fact, I was there to observe one of his guests, a Yazidi who had converted two months earlier. Mr. Mohammad seemed to be the group’s glue and behaved as though he had been born and bred a Christian.

It was Mr. Mohammad who led the first prayers and chants. (“People who have fled their homes,” began one, “God bring them safety.”) And it was he who distributed the coffee afterward. His calm poise was jogged only when his guests jokingly referred to him as the irhabi, a sobriquet that sent a sheepish smile across his youthful face.
Mr. Mohammad wears a cross and has one on the wall of his living room, where other recent converts join him for weekly Bible readings. Credit Patrick Kingsley/The New York Times

In his previous life, however, Mr. Mohammad said he was an angry man whose temper frightened his relatives. When he briefly returned home for his family’s Kurdish New Year celebrations in March 2013, Mr. Mohammad was repulsed by what he saw as blasphemous celebrations, whose origins lay outside the Islamic tradition.

Indoctrinated by his months with Nusra, he spent his leave in isolation with Ms. Rashid, who was then his fiancée. Both she and his parents tried to persuade him not to return to the front line, but he ignored them.

But back at the front, Mr. Mohammad finally began to question Nusra’s motives. Scanning government territory through his binoculars, he says he saw Syrian government soldiers executing a line of prisoners with a bulldozer and concluded there was little difference between their behavior and that of his colleagues.

Disenchanted, he risked execution himself by deserting Nusra, and returning home to Afrin. “I went to Nusra in search of my God,” he said. “But after I saw Muslims killing Muslims, I realized there was something wrong.”

The next year, he and his wife fled the war entirely, leaving for Istanbul and joining around 2.5 million other Syrians in exile in Turkey. Still a zealous Muslim, Mr. Mohammad prayed so loudly that his upstairs neighbors complained. “They used to ask me, ‘When are you going to turn into a prophet?’” He still required Ms. Rashid to cover her hair and neck, and planned for her to wear a niqab, or full-face covering.

It was nevertheless Ms. Rashid herself who unwittingly prompted her husband’s rejection of Islam. In early 2015, she fell seriously ill. As her health worsened, Mr. Mohammad described her condition in a phone call with his cousin Ahmad — the same cousin who had taken him to jihadist
lectures as a teenager. Ahmad was now living in Canada and, in a move that shocked Mr. Mohammad, had converted to Christianity.

An enthusiastic convert, Ahmad asked Mr. Mohammad to place his telephone close to Ms. Rashid, so that his prayer group could sing and pray for her health. Horrified, Mr. Mohammad initially refused, since he had been taught to find Christianity repellent. But he was also desperate, and eventually he gave in.

When Ms. Rashid improved within a few days, Mr. Mohammad ascribed it to his cousin’s intervention. Intrigued, he then began to entertain a sacrilegious thought. He asked his cousin to recommend a Christian preacher in Istanbul who might introduce him to the religion. He was put in touch with Eimad Brim, a missionary from an evangelical group based in Jordan called the Good Shepherd, who agreed to meet with him.

Mr. Brim said Mr. Mohammad was quickly persuaded by the benefits of a conversion, despite the lethal danger in which it would place him. “It was Bashir who was looking for Eimad,” said Mr. Brim, who also confirmed other parts of Mr. Mohammad’s narrative. “It was easy.”

Exactly why he sought solace in Christianity, rather than a more mainstream version of Islam, no one can quite explain. Reading the Bible, Mr. Mohammad claimed, made him calmer than reading the Quran. The churches he attended, Mr. Mohammad said, made him feel more welcome than the neighborhood mosques. In his personal view, Christian prayers were more generous than Muslim ones. But these are subjective claims, and many would reject the characterization of Islam as a less benign religion, much as they would reject Nusra’s extremist interpretation of it.

For Mr. Mohammad and Ms. Rashid, perhaps it was their dreams that sealed their conversion. As the couple began to consider leaving Islam, Ms. Rashid said she dreamed of a biblical figure who used heavenly powers to divide the waters of the sea, which Mr. Mohammad interpreted as a sign of encouragement from Jesus. Then, Mr. Mohammad himself dreamed Jesus had given him some chickpeas. The pair felt loved. “There’s a big gap between the god I used to worship and the one I worship now,” Mr. Mohammad said. “We used to worship in fear. Now everything has changed.”

For Mr. Mohammad, all this has nevertheless come at a high price. His rejection of Islam makes him a target for his fundamentalist former allies and he fears they will one day catch up with him. If they do, however, he reckons he now has the greatest protection of all.

“I trust,” he says, “in God.”

Source: nytimes.com
Abolishment of Anti Conversion Law in India

Freedom of religion in India is a fundamental right guaranteed by Article 15 and Article 25 of the Constitution of India

Article 15(1) in The Constitution of India 1949
- The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them

Article 25(1) in The Constitution of India 1949
- Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion

Credit: //indiankanoon.org

So far, seven Indian states – Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand, have officially passed the Anti-Conversion law.

Church / Readers, your signature and support could make this a reality. Freedom of religion is our Constitutional right. By clicking on the link, you are asking the Prime Minister to abolish this draconian law across India. It is the responsibility of every Christian to sign this petition and make our voices count as it will adversely affect you and your children generation, either directly or indirectly.


Mr. Vishwas Sarang, Minister of Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation, Panchayat & Rural Development Minister, for Madhya Pradesh, called upon the Founder, Bro. Shibu Thomas, Persecution Relief. Founder and team of Pastors prayed for him.

BOC—‘Body of Christ’ National meeting was held at Mumbai on 30th October 2018, where more than 200 Christian Leaders attended from 36 districts of Maharashtra.
Persecution Relief team met Dr. Paul Dinakaran, Jesus Calls Ministries, in Bhopal, on 03rd November 2018, to spend time in prayer for the persecuted Church in India. A copy of the Half Yearly Report –2018 was handed to him.

Dr. Paul Dinakaran, Jesus Calls Ministries, visited Bhopal, to pray with the Church Leaders for Madhya Pradesh on 4th November 2018.

National Association of Asian Indian Christians in the USA (NAAIC), in partnership with Persecution Relief, observed a day of prayer for the persecuted Church in India.
Founder, Persecution Relief ministering at New Life Fellowship Church, on 28th October, 2018, with Senior Pastor Shekar Kallianpur, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founder Persecution Relief, addressed more than 500 Pastors of Filadelfia Church at the Navapur Convention, on 14th November, 2018, Rajasthan
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