

PERSECUTION

A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE PRESENT WORLDWIDE PERSECUTION

BURKINA FASO (central North Africa – in between Mali and Ghana)

Fourteen church members, including five boys, were shot to death on Dec. 1st. The attack happened in a small town of Burkina Faso. The church had gathered together for worship when gunmen entered, ordering all the men and boys out of the building. They were forced to the ground, had their heads covered, and then killed one at a time.

ETHIOPIA: EVANGELICAL CHURCH NOT ALLOWED

Authorities in the town of Debarq (also spelled Debark) have told an evangelical fellowship group that they are no longer permitted to meet. The town, which consists of 25,000 citizens, is considered holy by members of the dominant Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and religious leaders have put on pressure to prevent any other religious group from being established. Another church was burned in 2008 and, over time, most evangelical believers have moved to the city of Gondar, located about 80 kilometres to the south.

In November, police broke up a gathering of the Ethiopian Fellowship of Evangelical Students. A number of the students were arrested and then pressured to sign an agreement that they will never gather together again in Debarq. Seven of the group's leaders were detained for three days before they were finally released, but only after signing similar statements.

While Ethiopia's constitution guarantees freedom of religion, ethnic and religious divisions can place heavy influence in areas dominated by either Islam or the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

Despite pressures from the town's opposing Orthodox and civil leaders, may the Gospel message continue to be made known among the community of Debarq, especially to those who are longing for a more meaningful relationship with the Lord. Ask Him to grant wisdom and direction to the evangelical leaders of the banned student group, so they can meet for worship without any further hindrance or opposition. Also prayerfully remember Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, a born-again Christian, as he seeks to peacefully unite a country that's been fragmented by many divisions.

INDIA : CHRISTIANS RELEASED ON BAIL AFTER LANGUISHING IN PRISON, FOR OVER A DECADE, ON FALSE CHARGES

DEC. 1, 2019. A group of Indian Christians who suffered in prison for 11 years under false charges were **finally released on bail**, as advocates claimed they had been scapegoated by Hindu nationalists.

The five Christians were charged with criminal conspiracy and murder in 2008 in the death of Hindu nationalist leader, even though Maoist revolutionaries had already taken credit.

Following the death, another nationalist, marched with the body of his fallen comrade for 100 miles and claimed a Christian conspiracy had been behind the murder, leading to

a wave of **anti-Christian reprisals that killed 120 believers, destroyed 6,000 of their homes, and displaced 55,000 more.**

The Christians remain in prison and await acquittal from India's highest court, which process is still pending.

Praise God for the freedom that has finally been granted to these innocent men! As they reintegrate back into their communities after so many years of imprisonment, pray that the transition be smooth and that they will be well received. Also pray for the restoration and blessing of their families, asking the Lord to recompense them for all the years of separation. Despite the extensive time gap, may the Lord continue to guide the judicial authorities in the courts so that the truth will be upheld.

VILLAGE CHURCH BURNED IN E. INDIA. BIBLES SET ABLAZE

DEC 19, 2019 . by Jordan Hilger, Worthy News Correspondent

Christians in a tribal village in India had their bamboo hut church burned down by animists on December 1st, 5 days after their Bibles were confiscated and set to a bonfire.

Pastor Bibudan Pradhan was visiting Perigaon village in Odisha state to conduct a worship service, when he and his wife were dragged away by tribals and held hostage for 4 hours. "They abused us in vulgar language, words that I can't utter with my mouth, and threatened us that their gods and goddesses will swallow us alive for propagating Christianity," he told Morning Star News.

When local Christians attempted to report the incident, police instead forced them to sign an agreement that they would not worship in the village anymore.

"Tribals are dominant in Rayagada, and the tribal families' sentiments have been affected," Morning Star News was told by the local Police Superintendent when they contacted him for an explanation.

CHRISTIAN IN UGANDA POISONED AT FATHER'S FUNERAL SERVICE

A Christian man was poisoned in **UGANDA** by his Muslim brothers.

CHRISTIAN IN IRAN SENTENCED TO EXILE IN DESERT

A Christian evangelist in **IRAN** was sentenced to two years of exile in a far-flung region near the border with Pakistan.

LET'S PRAY DAILY ...

for the enormous number of believers being attacked daily, around the world. We do not know all their names, but **the LORD does!** And He cares! Don't think that your prayers are useless. Read about the magnificent promises He has given to us, in 2 Peter 1:2-4:

"May grace and peace be multiplied to you . . . for His divine power has given us everything needed for life and reverence, through the true, *personal* knowledge of Him who has called us by *and* to His own glory, virtue *and* excellence.

”For by these He has given us His precious and **magnificent promises** in order that through them you might become partakers of the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

By Jordan Hilger, Worthy News Correspondent

BOKO HARAM WREAKS HAVOC ON CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN CAMEROON (South- East of Nigeria, Africa)

DEC 19, 2019. by Jordan Hilger, Worthy News Correspondent

A spate of attacks on Christian villagers in Cameroon by Boko Haram has left a community grieving beloved pioneer church planter David Mokoni and 7 others, as well as a bevy of sleepless victims in deep psychological distress.

Beginning on December 1st, the militant Islamic group fired on a funeral in Moskota village in the far north and forced women to flee without their children, killing three more people the next night who afterwards possessed "only their eyes to cry," and kidnapping 21 young people on December 5.

"And when a pastor falls in Africa, doesn't that mean anything? Only emptiness," a song written by a young local Christian to commemorate the tragedies goes.

Boko Haram, the West African ISIS, tends to descend on villages in the middle of the night, meaning some people are not sleeping at all anymore, according to Barnabus Fund.

INCREASE OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS IN ARGENTINA

Here's some good news:. According to a new survey, the number of people who identified as **evangelical** Christians in **ARGENTINA** increased from 9% in 2008 to 15.3% in 2019. Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Church of the Latin American country has lost a large number of members.