

Dear friends

Season greetings !

The celebration of Christmas is ahead of us and New Year is about to join us. Let me remind you that it was on the Christmas Eve of last year the persecution in Orissa took a deeper look from people. It is now almost a year that church in Orissa is going through sever persecution. The year of 2008 I would call it a Year of Suffering for Christ of the Orissa Church.

Persecution has always been a very integral part of the church from the first century. Jesus said that if they persecuted him, they will surely persecute his followers too. From the beginning many have given their lives for the cause of Christ. A person is dead the moment he truly accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior; cause he no longer lives, but Christ lives in him. All that is happening around us signifies one major thing, that the harvest is ready. When one seed falls to the ground and dies, it produces many fruits. As persecution increases, churches grow. The more the persecution, the faster we grow; we multiply. India is going through the most exciting part of history. Great revival is sweeping across the land. God is calling out people from every land, tribe, culture and language to be his witness.

We have a choice: we can either be in the audience or be in the action. Either we can stand and watch what God is doing or we can be part of what God is doing. The choice is completely ours.

Glory be to God always
In Him

Pastor . Somesh Rao Ganayaka

For HOB Tribal Transformation Ministries , Orissa



➤ **Hindus in Orissa Mayhem Help Protect Christians¹**

Asserting that most area Hindus are tolerant and peaceable, victims of ongoing anti-Christian violence in the eastern state of Orissa blamed the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council or VHP) and other extremist groups for the terror of the past two weeks.

“The mobs that attacked our parishes and institutions were largely composed of extremists from the VHP and its youth wing, Bajrang Dal,” said Bishop Sarat Chandra Nayak of the Behrampore Catholic diocese. At least four parishes, a presbytery and a youth hostel were destroyed in Munniguda town in Rayagada district under the Behrampore diocese in the spate of violence that began following the killing of a VHP leader, Laxmanananda Saraswati, and four of his associates in Kandhamal district on August 23. Christian leaders say more than 100 lives have been lost and thousands of houses, churches and institutions damaged or destroyed in the violence.

➤ **Hindus Protected Christians**

Father Mathew Puthyadam, a Catholic priest in Phulbani town in Kandhamal district, told Compass that local Hindu families gave him shelter. As mob of around 4,000 people was carrying the body of Saraswati in a procession outside his church on the night of August 24, he said, he first sought shelter with Christians.

➤ **Police Afraid of VHP**

Father Mathew Puthyadam of Christ the King Catholic Church in Phulbani town in Kandhamal also blames police for inaction.

At around 8:30 p.m. on August 24, he heard a mob shouting anti-Christian slogans, he said.

“I knew the church was going to be attacked,” Fr. Puthyadam said, his voice still trembling with fear. “I escaped to a nearby house when I saw a crowd of around 4,000 people carrying the body of Saraswati coming towards the church. The district collector [administrative head], the Deputy Inspector General [DIG] of Police, and several police personnel were also there.”

The Saraswati funeral procession stopped outside the church building, with the Hindu extremists carrying the body of Saraswati before its gate. The mob then broke the boundary wall and damaged statues and a cross.

➤ **Another Inflammatory Procession**

¹ www.persecution.org



The Orissa government today put a ban on another rally planned by the VHP to take the ashes of Saraswati in public procession from one village to another in Orissa beginning on Sunday (September 7), reported the Press Trust of India news agency.

Saraswati allegedly incited the attacks on Christians and their property in Kandhamal during last Christmas season. The violence lasted for more than a week beginning December 24, and killed at least four Christians and burned 730 houses and 95 churches.

The 2007 attacks were allegedly carried out mainly by VHP extremists under the pretext of avenging an alleged attack on Saraswati by local Christians. Hundreds of Christians were displaced by the violence in Kandhamal, and many are still in various relief camps set up by the state government. Christians make up 2.4 percent of Orissa's population, or 897,861 of the total 3.7 million people.

558 houses, 17 places of worship torched during riot.

Claiming that the situation in Kandhamal and elsewhere in Orissa was well under control, the state government on Monday said at least 558 houses and 17 places of worship were burnt in communal riots after VHP leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati's killing on August 23.

While 543 houses were burnt in the worst hit Kandhamal district, 15 houses had been set ablaze in Gajapati district, said Chief Secretary Ajit Kumar Tripathy after a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. All the torching of places of worship were reported from Kandhamal district where over 185 people were arrested on charge of rioting, arson and other offences. A total of 35 people were injured in the riot in Kandhamal, he said. Though Tripathy did not mention how many were killed during the riot, official sources on Monday put the figure at 16, with the recovery of two bodies in Kandhamal district. Besides Kandhamal, Tripathy said, people were provided with food in free kitchens in Rayagada and Gajapati districts. While 12,539 people were fed in 10 relief camps, 783 people got the facilities in two relief camps in Rayagada district. He said relief camps were located at Chakapada, Raikia, Baliguda, K Nuagaon, Tikabali, Phiringia, Phlbani, Tumudibandha and Daringbadi blocks in Kandhamal district.



Director General of Police Gopal Nanda said besides 12 companies of para-military forces, 24 platoons of Orissa State Armed Police, two sections of Armed Police Reserve forces and two teams of Special Operation Group (SOG) were deployed in Kandhamal.

"Indianized" Bible

The following article was submitted for the WRF website by Dr. Matthew Ebenezer, a member of the WRF Board of Directors.

Question for WRF members: Is this an example of "contextualization run amuck," or is it a wise and appropriate attempt, as some Hindus apparently fear, "to spread Christianity"? [Question posed by Sam Logan, not by Matthew Ebenezer.]

The Roman Catholic Church in India will soon publish an "Indianised" version of the Bible. It includes verses from various ancient Hindu religious texts and the writings of well-known Indians such as Gandhi and others to "illustrate" biblical themes. Visual aids are provided in the form of indigenous Indian artwork. The purpose of this version is "to encourage a contextual reading and understanding of the Bible," says a church spokesman. It was produced by a team of 30 Biblical scholars who, with the approval of the Catholic Bishops Council of India, began their work in 1990. The version, called 'New Community Bible,' has evoked a cautious response from Hindus who wonder whether it is another Christian ploy to "spread Christianity."²

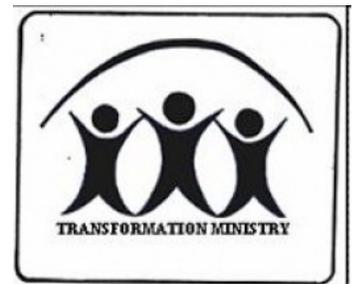
Gift a Bicycle as Christmas

We have 12 evangelists who are desperately need of bicycle to use in the ministries. There is no bus and other transportation facilities to go to neighbor villages and minister unto them. Our evangelists not only share the gospel but also take tuitions and evening classes for the children as well as for adult. A bicycle will help them to do more in less time. A bicycle cost at present is Rs.2000.00/-. If God speaking to you please contact us at the below address:

HOB Ministries,

Pastor. Mr. Somesh Rao Ganayak, Lingaraj Nagar, Jeypore, Koraput District, Orissa, India.

Ph. 06854-251507, 09437784418, 09986491557, hoborissa33@yahoo.com



HOB family...

Wich you a Blessed Christmas and Prosperous New Year of 2009



² Indianised Version of Bible to Have Verses from Vedas, Upanishads," The Times of India (New Delhi), August 7, 2008, p. 9.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:12

© www.hobindia.weebly.com