**Dear Friends and Supporters.**

The **December 2021 Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church** and other religious minorities is now available from c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com.

As we mourn the passing of Desmond Tutu it is a relief to be able to report *fewer* Christmas-related attacks on believers this year although one did occur in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This edition opens with a Christmas address by Lord David Alton who provides a masterly summary of where the world is at as regards the persecution of religious minorities. He appeals for more people to get involved since there are many things that all peoples of conscience and good will can do to help, even those who live far away or are elderly or housebound.  At the foot of the newsletter are the contact details for a wide range of charities who are doing heroic work; they have many *positive* stories to report as well as the immense *gratitude* expressed by those who are rescued, supported, fed, clothed, treated, housed, given legal representation and supported spiritually and emotionally as a result of your generosity.

In the UK the Uyghur Tribunal reaches its important verdict – Genocide! There then follows discussion about what happens next – plus reports of the brutal persecution of *other* religious groups by the Chinese Communist Party. Leaked documents reveal that President Xi is personally responsible for instigating this persecution. Meanwhile, the extent to which western academics and universities have been compromised by their financial indebtedness to China is revealed in a landmark book by Scott Shay.

But there is some good news from the Freedom United Campaign to stop Western Companies from using Uyghur slave labour.

There is a review of what life is like for Christians in Pakistan this Christmas followed by a summary of the findings of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Pakistani Minorities Inquiry concerning the numerous abductions, forced conversions, and forced marriages of religious minority Women and Girls. Of particular importance are the many recommendations made by the APPG and which, if implemented bilaterally, could soon turn this problem around. Few realise that the UK pays just shy of £800,000 daily in ‘aid’ to the Govt of Pakistan. This doesn’t appear to be being spent in the directions intended.

Meanwhile, the Indian Government under PM Modi has been for some time, for purely ideological reasons, been blocking funds from reaching much-needed charities who operate within India providing what is frequently the only relief for the poorest of the poor; the latest casualty is Mother Teresa’s charity. If the Indian Govt were supporting its poor that would perhaps be justifiable but all too often it’s a case of the rich getting richer whilst the poor are pushed to the wall. So many people literally survive because of the generosity of these charities.

This is followed by a balanced and wide-ranging Barnabas Fund review of the predicament facing Christians across Africa followed by sad reports of twelve Christians murdered in Nigeria and a kidnapped pastor murdered despite his ransom being paid.

There is positive news from ICC concerning their work rescuing Christian refugees entering Greece and who repeatedly face violence from other groups within the camps.

And there are joyful reports of churches in Iraq re-opening to celebrate Christmas for the first time since the depredations of ISIS back in 2014. It is seldom appreciated that the hundreds of thousands of religious minorities who were displaced, made homeless, or sold into slavery are still displaced homeless or missing.

Finally, a continuing story - the Wiesenthal Center has identified the BBC as one of worst promulgators of antisemitism in the West. It is time this was addressed since the BBC has so far spent £500,000 of license-payers money in various legal battles to prevent the findings of the Balen Enquiry from being made public. Since the BBC complaints system is lengthy to complete and is programme-specific it is easier to write directly to Director General Tim Davie - tim.davie@bbc.co.uk

Do feel free to pass on this newsletter to friends and colleagues, and to use the material for presentations, fund-raising, prayer groups, and writing to your MP. *This* is how we can make a difference.

If a friend or colleague would like to receive this newsletter please invite them to contact me for inclusion in the confidential (GDPR compliant) mailing list.

Kind regards

**Dr Russell Blacker / The Caucus for the Persecuted Church** TR17 0AF