**Dear Friends and Supporters.**

The **January 2025** issue of the **Caucus Newsletter for the Persecuted Church** is now available from c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com. Itbegins with this year’s Open Doors World Watch List which, predictably, shows a continuing *increase* in the numbers of Christians who are persecuted globally.

This is followed by a review of incidents in December that failed to get into the mainstream press and including several that were not covered in the Caucus Newsletter that month.

Pakistan continues to feature both at home and abroad. 20 Christians currently remain in prison on trumped up blasphemy charges. A report reveals how Islamists collude with Pakistani Officials in making false blasphemy charges for monetary gain. Two MEPs write to the EU Human Rights Envoy on behalf of the continuing and severe persecution of religious minorities in Pakistan.

In Nigeria 14 Christians, including a 1-year-old girl, were killed after Christmas carol service. Kidnapped pastors regained their freedom in Northeastern Nigeria but it is not clear how this was achieved.

In Uganda a Muslim extremist murders a Christian and in Sudan 14 Christians are injured in an attack on a Church prayer service.

The situation for Christians in Syria under the new Islamist regime is, as was feared, deteriorating.

A Pentecostal Church office is targeted in an arson attack in Germany.

In the UK a new generation of Labour MPs are seeking to abolish Parliamentary prayers.

An important and wide ranging report identifies that 50% of the world’s population now holds antisemitic views.

There then follows three appeals – by International Christian Concern,  Release International and Transform Iran.

The newsletter ends with the usual list of NGOs who provide vitally important aid advocacy plus spiritual and practical support for persecuted Christians and other minorities; clicking on their websites reveals the tremendous things they do, and which is a welcome antidote to the catalogue of discrimination and violence in the main report.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support. Do use this information to bring these matters to the attention of your MP, friends and families, churches mosques temples and synagogues.

**Dr Russell Blacker / Caucus for the Persecuted Church - TR17**