



"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them." Heb 13:3

August 2026

A BETTER, ABIDING POSSESSION

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Oppressive and Violent Goal of *Bharat Hindu Rashtra*

Hindu radicals, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and often referred to as "Hindu nationalists," have held power in India for more than a decade (since May 2014), yet many people do not understand their intentions. Tens of millions of our Christian brothers and sisters in India face the question of what their nation will look like if the radical government's goals are achieved. As we are working among Christians who are persecuted by radical Hindus inside India for almost 30 years, we have found that it is important to understand the radicals in their own words, which we will quote here from their movement's current leaders and foremost organizations.

Most of us lack clarity about the aims of Hindu nationalists in India because these groups sometimes deceptively describe their ideology as the pursuit of "Hindu unity," which sounds uncontroversial and even positive to outsiders. They also claim their oppressive actions are part of a "struggle for Hindu existence," a description that is both deceptive and ironic, since a super-majority of Indians (nearly 9 out of 10) are Hindu. The most honest way they describe their goal is that they seek "to make Bharat Hindu Rashtra within this lifetime," which means making India (Bharat - the Hindu homeland) a truly Hindu nation in the coming decades.

Their concept of a true Hindu nation is chilling: It requires the "purification" of India through the removal of other faiths, whose presence offends the gods they seek to appease. And the timing is equally chilling, as the only way to "purify" India of its approximately 30 million Christians and 200 million Muslims in our lifetime would be through severe oppression and violence.

The overwhelmingly high-caste Hindus who have left India blend into other cultures, but Hinduism dominates India, where Christians are outcasts. They are believed to be below all the other citizens in status. Unable to join even the lowest, they are regarded as filthy, defiling and untouchable. This is why many of our Christian family members in India — such as Pastor Philip, along with his family and many congregants — have been repeatedly driven from their homes for their faith. They are suffering because their nation considers them an impurity that must be removed in the pursuit of a unified Hindu Indian homeland.

I pray we will, in love, rush to their aid to show India's Hindus that there is a Source of unity that can bring together all of India's people and bless their land: the unity and blessing we have, and they can have, in Christ Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth, true Lord of India.

Ashley

But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after
ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;
Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches
and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of
them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my
bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing
in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring
substance.

—Hebrews 10:32–34 (KJV)

Struck Down but Not Destroyed

“Church People Village” is the rough translation of the name of a little collection of buildings in a remote jungle clearing in central India. The village consists of a few families and their livestock.

Outside the neatly swept, one-room, mud-and-thatch church building, Pastor Philip sat surrounded by a dozen adult members of the community. Curious children peeked over the low half-walls that made three sides of the building. Philip talked with joy about the Lord’s faithfulness and how persecution has given him and his fellow Christians a powerful witness to the community that drove them away.

Philip already knew the cost of following Christ. In 2013, he had been driven from his previous home in another state because of his faith.

Many states in India have passed strict anti-conversion laws in hopes of silencing Christians through legal and administrative means. And in rural and jungle areas, Hindu radicals physically attack Christians and destroy their property to pressure them into adopting Hinduism. One of Philip’s fellow pastors reported that in 2025, five Christian workers had been killed in separate incidents within 161 kilometres of his village. One of those attacks had occurred only four days before he shared his story with Front-Line Workers.

Such threats, Philip said, are the price many Christians in India willingly pay to bear witness to Christ.

Aliens and Strangers

In 2013, Philip wanted to settle his family in a place where there were no Christians so that he could share the Gospel. In the community he chose, the first person to come to faith was a prominent leader of the local Naxalites, or Marxist insurgents. Soon others followed, and a church was planted. But receiving the Good News about Jesus Christ made these new Christians the target of Hindu radicals.

Church members were beaten, chastised and boycotted. Community leaders withheld tribal benefits like food support, tools and seeds. In 2023, their opponents destroyed the church building and gave the Christians a choice: They could renounce Christ, return to Hinduism and retain their place in the village, or they would be forced to leave.

Some people turned away from their Christian faith. But nine families, choosing Christ, departed for the jungle to make a new life.

Worship in the Jungle

Philip led the nine families out of their village to an area of the jungle that one of the Christian brothers had begun to clear for crops. There, the first thought was not to build for themselves, but to build for God.

“The main reason to come out from that village was because they destroyed the church, so we did not have a place to worship,” Philip said. “We wanted a place to worship, so the first thing we did was to build the church.”

Suffering and hard living have not stopped residents of Church People Village from what they came to the jungle to do: worship God. They meet daily for prayer and Bible study, and the worship in their little church is a joy-filled experience.

“All of us are very happy and don’t want to leave this place,” Philip said. Nods and laughter among the assembled villagers demonstrated general agreement. “We are very happy and praising God more and more.”

Preparation and Provision

“The first three months was a lot of suffering because there was nothing here, just trees,” Philip said.

While they struggled to make a life in this new place, the 39 Christians saw the Lord’s provision from the very beginning. The warm, dry weather gave them time to clear land and build houses. The global body of Christ helped supply other needs, including tarps to protect them in the coming rainy season.

To get water, they had to trek almost 1,6 kilometres into the hills to a polluted well, where they faced taunts and intimidation from the villagers who had expelled them. But members of the body of Christ helped them drill a well at the edge of their community that provides clean, fresh water.

“He shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

—Revelation 7:17 (KJV)

A Life of Trust and Hope

Without homes, household goods, hygiene facilities or electricity, Church People Village faced many dangers and deprivations.

The head of their previous village raised repeated objections to their use of land, roads and water. The children were refused admission to the local school and had to go to school almost 16 kilometres away.

No electricity meant thick darkness covered the village every night, leaving many dangers unseen. One night a snake that was hidden in the darkness bit a 7-year-old child. Pastor Philip came immediately to pray for the boy, who suffered no ill effects from the venom. The incident confirmed for the members of the little village that they were in the hands of a loving God.

“To have to live in this place is challenging, but God is great,” Philip said.

“To have to live in this place is challenging, but God is great.”

An Abiding Witness

The Church People Village members still interact with the nearby community. Some family members and former neighbours come at night, hungry for hope and curious about the peace these Christians have found. Others come to receive prayer. Philip said there is a steady stream of such visitors.

“Already three have quietly come to faith,” he said. “In a good way, we speak the Gospel. If anybody seeks, we will pray.”

Others are bolder. Jyothi (pictured bottom left), who is part of a family that had renounced Christ to avoid persecution, decided that she would rejoin her spiritual family. She visits Church People Village regularly and openly, and she wants to bring others, too.

“Jesus is the true God, I believe,” she said. “That is why I come to worship Jesus in the village.”

The joy and peace of the Lord that permeates this village of Christian exiles has been a powerful testimony. They share their clean water with those who ask for it, and they share the Word of God and pray with any who come. They know they may face persecution again in the future. Hindu-nationalist informants live in nearly every village in India and report on the activities of Christians, resulting in attacks and arrests. Still, like many Christians in India, the Christians of Church People Village, joyfully persevere in faith, knowing that life with Christ is a better, abiding possession.

“Already three have quietly come to faith. We speak the Gospel. If anybody seeks, we will pray.”

Prayer Diary

August 2026

S	1.	Comoros	Pray that Christian immigrants living in Comoros will faithfully share the Gospel.
S	2.	Iran	Khodayar was transformed by the gift of a Bible. Pray that more Bibles will be smuggled to those hungry for the truth.
M	3.	Tajikistan	Pray for unregistered churches that are harassed by the government.
T	4.	Benin	Pray for Christian converts like Edosa and Maelle, who faced persecution from their Muslim community.
W	5.	Guinea	Pray that faithful Christians will proclaim the Gospel in areas torn by tribal division.
T	6.	Nigeria	Pray for Christian widows like Lydia and Asabe whose husbands have been killed by Islamic militants.
F	7.	Colombia	Pastors in Colombia's "red zones" take great risks to share the Gospel. Pray for their protection and encouragement.
S	8.	Egypt	Pray for Christian converts from Islam who are severely persecuted by their families.
S	9.	Indonesia	Pray for Muslims who are becoming more open to the Gospel after witnessing violent Islamist attacks.
M	10.	Madagascar	Pray that Islamists will place their faith in Christ when they hear the Gospel from local Christians.
T	11.	Syria	Pray that churches and Believers in Syria will be beacons of hope and sources of peace in their country.
W	12.	Cuba	Christians are often denied jobs and other opportunities. Pray for their peace and perseverance.
T	13.	North Korea	Pray for the efforts of Front-Line Workers who broadcast the Gospel into North Korea using shortwave radio.
F	14.	Malaysia	Pray for creative ways to share the Gospel with the Malay people, who are legally prohibited from becoming Christians.
S	15.	Mexico	Pray for evangelists like Gabriela who endure persecution in villages that practice paganism and oppose the Gospel.
S	16.	Turkiye	Pray that the thousands of refugees in Turkiye will hear the Gospel.
M	17.	Mali	Pray for the strength and boldness of our Christian brothers and sisters who are persecuted by Islamists.
T	18.	Djibouti	Praise God that Bibles are available in Djibouti. Pray that every Christian will have access to one.
W	19.	Bahrain	Pray for the faithful witness of indigenous Christians and immigrant Christian workers in Bahrain.
T	20.	Indonesia	Pray that Joyo, Setiabani and Wira will remain vibrant witnesses for Christ among the Sundanese people in Indonesia.
F	21.	Western Sahara	Pray that government officials will be more open to the Gospel.
S	22.	Sri Lanka	Pray that our brothers and sisters in Christ will sense God's peace, even when they are opposed by their communities.
S	23.	Djibouti	Pray that through evangelism and discipleship, many Djiboutians will obtain a vibrant faith in Christ.
M	24.	UAE*	Turning from Islam to Christianity is considered a crime. Pray for the courage of new converts.
T	25.	Cameroon	Pray for pastors and evangelists who persevere in areas targeted by Boko Haram.
W	26.	Burkina Faso	Pray that Sadou, a Fulani and former Muslim, will grow in faith and share the Gospel with other Fulani people.
T	27.	Mozambique	Pray for Christians who have lost loved ones and been displaced in an Islamist insurgency in the Cabo Delgado region.
F	28.	Saudi Arabia	Pray for the protection of new Christians who are threatened by family members.
S	29.	Malawi	Pray for those who have lost jobs, homes and even physical health because of the activity of their faith.
S	30.	Bangladesh	Pray for the protection and peace of Christians threatened by the Islamist group Hefazat-e-Islam.
M	31.	Israel	Pray that members of violent anti-missionary groups will come to faith in Christ.

*United Arab Emirates

Stand with Christians in India

OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN INDIA face intense opposition from Hindu extremist groups and local governments. We invite you to stand with them as they faithfully follow Christ — at any cost.

PLEASE PRAY AND ASK GOD WHAT YOU CAN GIVE TO HELP THESE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST?

www.persecutionsa.org/donate

Stand with Persecuted Christians

Serve persecuted Christians in hostile areas and restricted nations and be a voice for them. Your gift addresses all ministry needs, including the immediate needs of our persecuted brothers and sisters, while calling Christians around the world into closer fellowship with the persecuted and to a deeper commitment to Christ.

Please consider a donation into any one of the following bank accounts:

Banking details: Christian Mission International

Nedbank

Account no.: 1925-024946 (Cheque)
Branch Code: 192505 (Bedfordview)
Ref: Your Name/Cell Number

Standard Bank

Account no.: 02-249-5592 (Cheque)
Branch Code: 018305 (Bedford Gardens)
Ref: Your Name/Cell Number

ABSA Bank

Account no.: 909-861-7711 (Savings)
Branch Code: 632005 (Bedford Centre)
Ref: Your Name/Cell Number

Helpful Prayer and Information Resource:

Download our FREE "VOM App" ON YOUR SMARTPHONE.

Type in "Voice of the Martyrs" when searching or click on the appropriate Google Play or App Store icon.

Daily reminders to pray for the persecuted; research Hostile or Restricted countries and the work VOM are doing there; connect to VOMRadio plus much, much more.



Christian Mission International - The Voice of the Martyrs, South Africa.

CMI | P. O. Box 7157, Primrose Hill, 1417 South Africa | **Tel: 010 777 0114** (8am-1pm) | **Cell: 076-022-3336** (8am-5pm)
Email: cmi@vomsa.org / bianca@vomsa.org | Website: www.persecutionsa.org |
[Facebook@cmivomsa](https://www.facebook.com/cmivomsa) | [Instagram@cmi - vomsa](https://www.instagram.com/cmi_vomsa)
Directors: Mr A.B. Illman (Executive); Pastor R. Marsh; Mr R. Keir; Mr D. Kirton

© Permission to reprint any portion of this special report must be obtained from Christian Mission International.

persecutionsa.org