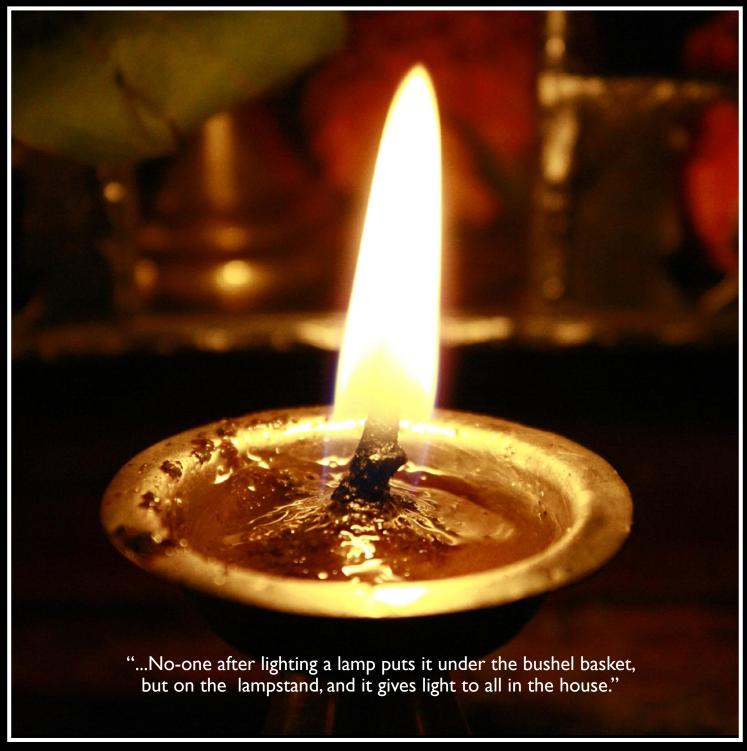


CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION







FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL WHO ARE DESTITUTE.

Speak up and judge FAIRLY; DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY."

MIDDLE-EASTERN PROVERB

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We at the Centre for International Justice and Reconciliation aim to promote and encourage the blending of spiritual values and community involvement across the nations of the world, as we courteously seek to influence governments and those in authority at every level. As an initiative of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) England, we have close connections with young people from all across the globe, serving in countries all over the world, as they reach out with faith and hope and love to address in practical ways the various problems of the different societies to which they feel called. We consider ourselves debtors to people of every sort and every faith and background to offer them, to the best of our ability, the spiritual and practical riches with which we have been blessed. We believe in the power of Jesus Christ to transform us and the power of prayer to transform nations. Young, dynamic, committed, caring, global: that's CIJR in a nutshell!

Peto Other Les

REV. PETER IRWIN-CLARK

Rev. Peter Irwin-Clark

6: Fighting for Life

11: Letter to the

Persecuted Church

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





## Abortion Matters

the book edited by Anthony Mc-Carthy, which we recommend for a better understanding regarding this issue.

Below, I've summarised some of the most important principles:

Is a gestating human an actual human being?

When conception occurs a new human being comes into existence oriented to his or her own further development. Conception marks a change from cells produced by the father and the mother, to a cell with a complete human genome.

very small, this embryo is no less human than we are now, because being a human is not a question of hood, puberty and adulthood. degrees or variations.

Those who defend "abortion" focus very much on the woman's right to control her body and to end her pregnancy, whether or not the foetus within her is a human being with human rights.

The embryo is not like a skin cell or liver cell, which contains human genomes, but lacks the constitution to develop as a whole human being. The embryo, as a matter of fact, does have this constitution.

By Rosana Escobar Liste

"Abortion, Matters" is the title of Despite being very young and The terms to describe the early stages of human life are: zygote, embryo, foetus, infancy, child-

> In biological terms, the baby is unambiguously a living creature distinct from its mother from the time of conception onwards.

In Britain, it is legal to have an abortion up to 24 weeks. During this period, the organs of the foetus -- its body parts -- are all present and are already generally functioning. In addition, the bones are fully developed by this time of the pregnancy. Scientific progress has dramatically changed the abortion debate.



express the reality of abortion in company earned \$77.5 million in a very soft way, saying for instance 2015-2016 with total assets now "removing the pregnancy" or at \$1.8 billion. "termination." The reality is that when the pregnancy is terminat- In addition to all of these, there ed, a young human being must die is the implementation of the in the process.

million.

As abortion has become legal the process of doing so. in many countries around the world, there has been a corresponding increase in the perception that it is morally justified.

How did this develop within the killed. In other countries like consciousness of the age?

tion was one of the consequences started the debate with a great of the "sexual liberation" that mobilisation of people doing happened in the West during the Twentieth Century, from the representing the two different 1960s onwards.

The manipulation of statistics in green scarf and the ones who regard of the numbers of women dying from illegal abortions was the key to getting the legalisation, especially in the United States.

Furthermore, there are organisations like International Planned Parenthood that use abortion as a of defending both lives... huge profit industry.

Anyway, euphemisms are used to It has been reported that the

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) projects for population The World Health Organisation control favouring radical feminism (WHO) published in 2017 that -- women are asking for rights the annual number of abortions over their own bodies. The result in the world is roughly around 56 of the UNFPA's funding of projects has been that other nations have legalised abortion or are in

In 2018, it has been 50 years since the Abortion Law was put into effect in England with the result that 9 million babies have been Ireland, the ban on abortion lifted via referendum on May 2018. At The moral justification of abor- this very moment, Argentina has demonstrations and marching groups. The pro-abortion one, identifying themselves with a defend 'both lives' using a light

> The last result of this debate in Argentina could be a tremendous inspiration for other nations which would also consider the possibility

#### **UPDATE ON** Argentina

As of the publication of this issue, Argentina has voted no to decriminalisation of abortion. With a vote coming to 38-31 majority, it is considered a success for the mass mobilisation in the streets, which was the combined efforts of Youth with a Mission, the Catholic and Evangelical Churches, and other Pro-life supporting organ-

Photo Credit: Julieta Galarza



# FIGHTING FOR



Photo Credit: beta.parliament.uk

#### Tea Time with Lord David Alton, MP in the House of Lords, A Conversation

On the 18 July 2018, Rosana Escobar Liste, CIJR Chief Administrative Officier, sat down and had tea with Lord David Alton, MP in the Tea Room at Westminster Palace to discuss several pressing issues found in this edition of the CIJR magazine - On Abortion and the Persecuted Church.

**Rosana Escobar Liste:** Our current project for the Centre for International Justice and Reconciliation is advocating for the Persecuted Church; what do you recommend to raise awareness on the International situa-

Lord Alton: There are lobby organizations and campaign groups; for instance I serve on the board of an organization called Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) which is a Catholic organization that campaigns for persecuted Christians.

I suggested to the Aid to the Church in Need that we should have a day on which specifically we try to raise the profile of persecuted Christians to make it something people will take more interest in. I find it horrifying that there is so little interest in the plight of people that are being executed, imprisoned, tortured and treated in despicable ways. In the face of all of this, there is but a murmur of protest from people who have the freedom to be able to do it.

So three years ago, I suggested we create a special day and call it "Red Wednesday," and we persuaded the parliamentary authorities to light the whole of the Parliamentary building in red, along with Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral. A Synagogue and the Coptic Cathedral were also lit up in red along with small churches and schools around the country.

The following year, I suggested that we (ACN) should ask Christian Solidarity Worldwide if they would do this in conjunction with ACN to give "Red Wednesday" more reach and promote it further, and they immediately agreed. So this year and the previous, under the auspices of both organizations this has become an annual event and I think that is a very positive thing to do. These are small things but they are ways of trying to raise the profile. I also occasionally get a debate in the house; I had one just two weeks ago: a full hour on Nigeria.



I got the BBC to go inside undercover to film a full half hour documentary about it. We have been pressing the British government about our aid program and why it's not used to exert more leverage. The British Aid to Pakistan is bigger than to any other country. In the last ten years we have given 2.5 billion pounds in aid to Pakistan and we have recently been able to persuade the government that they must do more to influence education and their textbooks that are given to children (some paint very negative pictures of Christians and various other minorities) so as to create a more tolerant climate in the country.

In the Coptic Community, I am President of the U.K. Copts. I went to Washington D.C. last month to a Coptic conference to speak generally about religious freedom. So, I put posts up on my website, and I try to speak where I can. All of this has got to do with the little things that we can do, and hope it makes some kind of difference.

Rosana: Yes, I was reading quite a lot about what you do and I identified very much with everything

In my home country, Argentina, I was advocating for different issues. Now, the Government has been debating whether or not to legalize abortion.

Something interesting is that many years ago, I was praying during the big economic crisis in Argentina and God spoke to me about a sign to represent those who were pro life, pro - justice and pro - compassion: it was a light blue scarf.

At that time, we were just a small group of women wearing our light blue scarf to visibly share our ideas and belief about life in public places. Interestingly enough, just some months ago, the Congress in Argentina asked me if they could use that scarf as a symbol to represent the Pro - Life Movement in the country. Since then, the whole nation started wearing this light blue scarf and started going to the

90% OF ALL BABIES WITH DOWN SYNDROME ARE aborted in the U.K..

THE SHOCKING REALITY IS THAT BABIES WITH THINGS LIKE CLEFT PALATE OR CLUBFOOT, HARELIP ARE ABORTED UNDER THE DISABILITY CLAUSE

**Lord Alton:** At the moment, the fiercest front is in Northern Ireland. In the 1967 Abortion Act, the abortion law was extended to all of Britain except difficult because there is a lot of Northern Ireland.

It was almost the perfect control study in a grotesque laboratory experiment. In Great Britain, there have been nearly 9 million abortions since the law changed. In other words, that's I abortion every 3 minutes, 20 every hour. 600 every day and I in 5 pregnancies.

100.000 people alive today that is not even only abortion, but would have died if the law of abortion had been applied there.

Now the politically correct and ideologically committed (for whom abortion is literally an ideological issue) are determined to impose this abortion law in Northern Ireland. In response to their strong campaigns, we have been mobilizing Pro-Life people. Today, we are bringing to the Houses of Parliament, at I o'clock, seven women from Northern Ireland from various backgrounds and organizations to defend why it would be wrong to impose British style Laws throughout Northern Ireland.

However, it has been more challenging to really mobilize people in the aftermath of the Irish referendum. The battle is much more wind in the sails of those who want to bring about a change.

Meanwhile, we are constantly trying to highlight the nature and the consequences of the laws that are passed here. At the moment, my colleague Baroness (Nuala Patricia) O'Loan and I are running a Bill to support two midwives in Scotland who have lost their jobs after refusing to take part in an In Northern Ireland, there are abortion. In this case, the matter about free speech and conscience.

> A Bill was introduced to Parliament about about Sex-Elected Abortions. People say "It's my right to choose." What? To take the life of a little girl? Just because she is a girl?

> Sadly, last year, [Parliament] introduced a Bill about Disability. In the case of a disabled child, you can abort that baby right up to and even during its birth. 90% of all babies with Down Syndrome are aborted in the U.K. The shocking reality is that babies with cleft palate, clubfoot and harelip are aborted under the Disability Clause.

This has paved the way for exper- Lord Alton: Well, I am not an iments on human embryos. 3 - 4 admirer of Mr. Trump. I think that million human embryos are now he demeans politics by the way being destroyed in experiments for the sake of what is Fake Science, because there is no evi- stands for, for instance his treatdence whatsoever that experiment of refugees, unaccompanied menting on a human embryo is children and so on. going to solve any problem of any member of the human race. I do agree with him however

I mean life either begins at fer- and I think that his nominations tilization, or it doesn't. Science to the Supreme Court will fundateaches us that it indeed does mentally shift the Jurisprudence begin at fertilization, and from that moment that new human Roe vs Wade overturned. being is entitled to all the protection the law can afford. No 1 one is more vulnerable than that Roe, (Norma Mc Covey was child in its early developmental stages; so for me it ought to be self-evident that is the most to Parliament. Of course she is driven of issues.

Abortion is a multimillion pound lion abortions after Roe vs Wade, industry. The director of Marie she said she had been sold lies Stopes International earns four times what the British Prime Minister earns. There are 4 employees who earn nearly £90.000 each, and they do nothing else the overturning of the sentence but abort babies. Yet the Quality Care Commission have inspected some of their clinics, and they have exposed how aborted babies are thrown into trash cans. willing to do that. The conditions were disgusting. Some women themselves raised cases about hemorrhaging while and, there is a difference between there.

there is a long way to go in order to reverse any of these tracks. I think there has been a lot of of goodwill in this country, a lot silence and complicity.

what is happening with President Trump in America in regards to this topic, because he seems to want to impose some restrictions to the current abortion law [in the USA]?

that he uses tweets, and I don't like some of the things that he

about the Sanctity of Human Life in America. So, I think we will see

was privileged to meet lane her real name) and I brought her to England for her to speak now dead, but back then she had already changed her mind. 43 milwhen she was originally encouraged to let herself be used to try to change the law. SSo the best memorial to Jane Roe would be of the court case that made her famous. The only way that will happen will be when there is a majority in the Supreme Court

We live in a deeply secular society us and the United States. Therefore, the 5% of this country that This is an appalling business, but goes to Church are not enough to change the laws. On the other hand, there are a lot of people more than 5% who still believe in God - well over 50% actually. Rosana: What do you think about But, how do you mobilize this sleeping giant?

#### **ABORTION** IN ENGLAND **AND WALES**

2017 DATA BY WWW.GOV.UK

**Total number** of Abortions

Of women aged 15-44 had an abortion

**Abortions** funded by the NHS

Of abortions were on women who had already aborted before

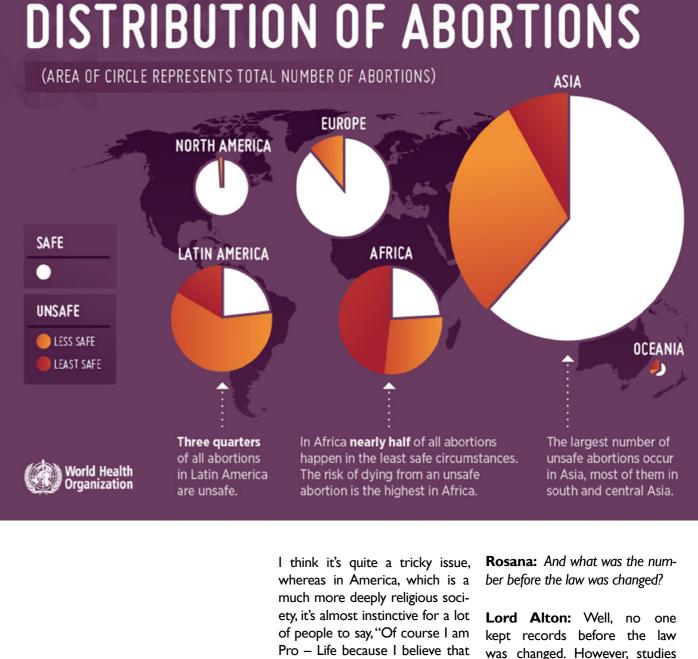
**Abortions for** 

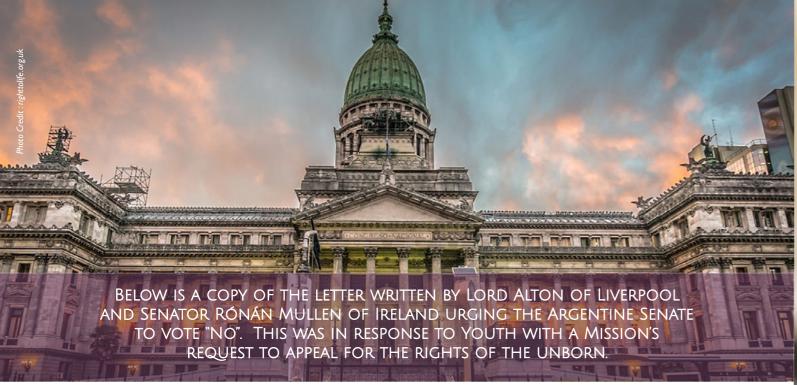
every human being is made in the image of God, and is therefore of infinite worth."

Rosana: A woman came to talk to the Senate in Argentina during this debate [for the decriminalization of abortion] who said that in her 30 years of experience here in England she has witnessed that since the law of abortion was abproved in 1967 the number of abortion is declining in the U.K., is this true?

Lord Alton: No, in Britain it is certainly not true. We still have around 200.000 abortions almost every year.

showed much lower levels of illegal abortions when you make it legal. It is true that some women died in backstreet abortions, but women also died in front street abortions in the abortion clinics, so this is not the fundamental argument. One has to love both the woman and the child. It's not a question of taking one side against the other. This is not about forcing people into backstreet abortions or front street abortions. It is about finding radical alternatives to the defeatism and the violence that an abortion represents. It's as simple as that.





Dear Senadoras y Senadores,

We write to you as you consider the legislation currently before the Argentine Senate which proposes to allow abortion on demand up to 14 weeks of pregnancy.

This legislation would, by design, remove the right to life from the unborn child at the earliest stages of development. The right to life is a core fundamental right in international human rights law. There is no right to abortion in human rights law; in Europe, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights has reiterated this fact on numerous occasions. Furthermore, Argentina ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990; the preamble of the Convention declares as follows:

"[T]he child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, **before as well as after** birth" [Emphasis added].

The unborn child is a living human being and is entitled to all of the same rights as other members of the human family. The consistent pressure to introduce abortion in Argentina from foreign organisations lacks a basis in international law and should be ignored.

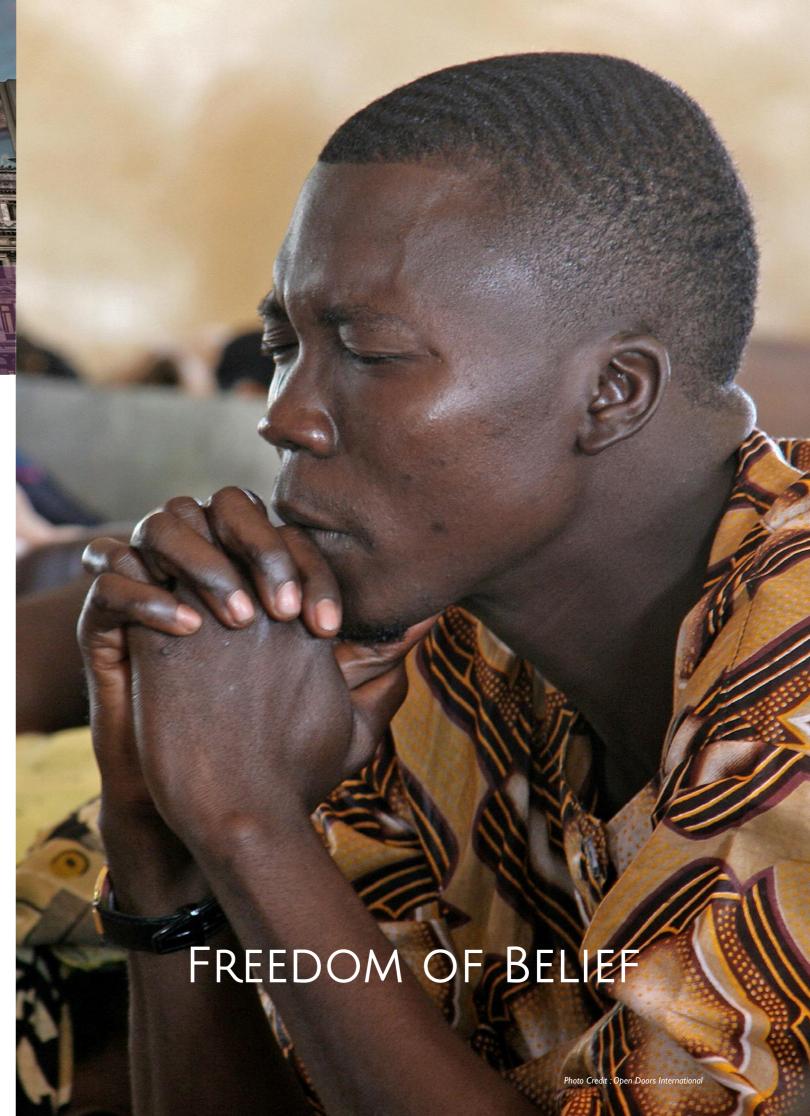
The destruction of an unborn child up to 14 weeks of pregnancy ignores the scientific realities that the unborn baby has arms, legs, toes, fingers, ears and a face at the 10 - 12 weeks stage of pregnancy. The ending of pregnancy by taking the life of the unborn child for no medical reason whatsoever is not healthcare.

We would urge Argentina not to make the mistakes of other countries by accepting this legislation. A truly compassionate solution to an unwanted pregnancy is to offer all the necessary support to a woman to use the adoption process to place her baby with a loving family if she does not wish to raise the child. This offers the baby an opportunity to grow up in an environment where they are cherished.

Abortion is not compassionate for either the woman or the child. Real compassion is based on protecting life, not ending it.

A line is crossed when we take away the right to life. We respectfully urge you to uphold true human rights and compassion by rejecting legislation that would remove the right to life from the unborn child. By rejecting the proposed legislation, you would be acting to protect the most vulnerable member of the human family—the unborn child.

Yours sincerely, Lord Alton of Liverpool & Senator Ronan Mullen





#### TRENDS IN PERSECUTION WORLDWIDE

As the Centre for Internation- According to World Watch List al Justice and Reconciliation, we have undertaken several trips around the globe to experience and report from firsthand experience on the plight of persecuted Christians everywhere.

#### WHAT IS CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION?

"Christian Persecution is 'any hostility experienced as a result of one's identification with Christ'."

> The hostility can take many forms, from insults to abuse, from discrimination in education or workplace, to outright violence. The persecution does not just happen when a Christian is murdered or tortured. Heinous acts also include rape, kidnapping, and church burnings.

of Open Doors for the period of November 2016 to October 2017. North Korea is still number one in the list of the 50 countries of the ranking of the most extreme persecutions worldwide. For the 17th consecutive year, it is still the worst country to be a Christian.

In Hindu and Buddhist countries, Nationalism and Nationalistic ideology tied with religion is growing. The rise of Hindu Nationalism in India has spilled over into Nepal, which is 25th in the ranking list. The same could be said where Buddhist nationalism is intensifying, examples are Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Myanmar.

The radicalization of Islam continues to attack Christians in places such as Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria. A great majority of the countries legitimized more radical models of Islam. Unfortunately, the reality results that Christians in such countries as Sudan, Somalia and Tunisia have less space to express their faith.

#### Persecution in



In October 2017, CIJR repre- He only speaks and associates with other Christians because of the pressure.

> rity and the government wants to protect them from attacks." Despite the revolutionary Arab Spring, Christians feel resignation about their current situation. Our source said, "Christians prayed for a year, then we came normal). 70 churches were burned all over Egypt, especially in Upper Egypt."

> Christians have less opportunithem as bad people."

secution of Egyptian Christians. He said, "Churches need secu-A country with a long historical record, Egypt embraced Islam in the 7th Century A.D. Currently with its population of 95 million people, 9.5 million are Chris-Recently, there has been a rise got used to the situation (it beof violent attacks that killed 128 Christians last year with even

sentatives went to Egypt to

conduct interviews and field re-

search on the ground about per-

more reported injured. Church

burnings and bombings are not unique either. In 2013, 42

churches were burned or dam-

aged under the auspices of the

Christians in Egypt face daily

challenges and even fear expo-

sure. Our main source chose to

remain anonymous for fear for

about Jesus is a criminal offence

punishable by imprisonment."

Muslim Brotherhood.

tians.

ties than their Muslim colleagues in comparison. He declares, "Yes, it's harder to grow in the career. Muslims will get promotions, much more then Christians. In schools, some Muslim children are guided by their parents to not even play or become friends his own life. He said, "To speak with Christian children because Christians are considered by



China

Early 2018, a small team from CIJR investigated the current situation of Christians in China. With the implementation of the Religious Affairs Regulation, Order No. 686, in 26 September 2017, Christians need to comply with Chinese governmental control or face prosecution.

Article 4 of the Religious Affairs Regulation states the following:

> The State, in accordance with the law. brotects normal religious activities, actively guides religion to fit in with socialist society, and safeguards the lawful rights and interests of religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites and religious citizens.

Religious groups, religious schools, religious activity sites, and religious citizens shall abide by the Constitution, laws, regulations and rules; practice the core socialist values; and preserve the unification of the country, ethnic unity, religious harmony and social stability.

According to our sources, many of whom choose to remain anonymous due to repercussions for violating the national mandate, pastors or religious workers are subject to government review for their church appointments and even preaching to their congregations.

Our investigation team was told that the government plants undercover agents in churches, monitors people's online communication, and, more recently, forbade big gatherings and even Sunday School.

In spite of all of these stringent laws, the Christians are flourishing with multiplication of several house churches, which originally was a method to avoid detection. Our sources say, that instead of one main pastor, several people have risen in leadership and give more fluidity and flexibility within the churches. Amazingly, what was meant for evil and destruction, God has turned into a driving force for church expansion.

Church: Rehoboth AGM - Prarthanalaya City: Bangalore State: Karnadaka - India

Left: Before Right: After

Photo Credit: YWAM CIJR

# Migeria

Our team conducted a field research in the Northern Regions of Nigeria on July 2016 concerning the plight of the persecuted Christians there. Through our research, we discovered that much of the attacks against churches and Christians were at the hands of Boko Haram, the militant Islamist Group, and Fulani Herdsmen. We interviewed and compiled several testimonies and media reports with the support of the Regional Government who hopes that these atrocities would end.

Since the beginning of this year 2018, over 6000 Christians have already been murdered in heinous ways. Many of the victims were women, children and the elderly. Women are often sexually assaulted first, prior to being killed. With the violence often unchecked, the death toll is rising at an unabated rate.

While Nigeria considers both Christianity and Islam as religions accepted within the country, there is a stark difference in the North and the South of the country. Much of the southern part of Nigeria is Christian while the north faces radical Islamist groups who desire Sharia law to be put in place throughout the nation at the expense and death of Nigerian Christians.

people, with 89 million Chris-2016 appeal of the Governors of People need to know that the intimidation, loss of life, and property in Nigeria is not only because of economic disparity in Nigeria between those who have (often Christian) and those who do not (mostly Muslim), but mostly because of religious persecution.

Because of the recent escalation of reported incidents against Christians in India, CIJR sent a field team to Mumbai to investigate in January 2018.

In 2016, attacks targeting Indian in a more profound way of the Christians have increased. From that year, it was reported that says 'The loy of the Lord is 361 attacks against Christians in India were reported, as against 177 attacks in 2015 (ICC, Persecution, April 2017). With the surge of Hindu nationalism in India starting in 2014, many of the things! It was encouraging to see minority faith groups including Christianity are facing pressure with faith in spite of the adversity to return back to or convert to surrounding them.

With a population of 192 million Hinduism. According to All India Christian Council, a church tians, it is indicative that the is under attack every 40 hours within the nation (All India the Plateau State must be heard. Christian Council, Atrocities on Christians in India, April 2017).

> A number of Christians are from the Dalit caste, who are considered the "Untouchables" in Hindu society. Already discriminated against for their low status, these people are also being attacked because they have chosen to follow Jesus. They make up the membership for some of the locations that our team visited.

> Despite this reality, there is a common thread among these Indian churches. They had a deep joy that went beyond any circumstance. In that moment, an understanding came to us verse in Nehemiah 8:10 where it your strength'. When the people there came face to face with the fierceness of darkness, they saw how powerful our God is and that his love will prevail above all that Christians choose to look



# Reflections

As long as there have been hu- known. With knowledge, comes man beings in a fallen world, pressure to change. We can there have been hierarchies of spread knowledge. power. Every society has power structures but those that en- The woman who has an unable the most fulfilling way of wanted child in her womb cerlife have found ways to keep tainly won't feel like she is powthat power in check. No one erful. She is not the only person wants to live under the tyranny in the drama, though; there are of rampant power. That is one others who make large amounts of the reasons why the issues of money by providing aborsurrounding immigration are so tions. But even the distressed important today. As information prospective mother is immeasspreads, more and more people urably more powerful than the realise that there are parts of person in her womb. Surely that the earth where power is kept person in the womb is the least somewhat in check and those powerful of all people and so are the places where people deserves our protection. Again, want to live. Countless millions knowledge is the best tool we would like to relocate and some have. We know so much more millions have set out on the than we used to about the earjourney to another part of the liest stages of life and it is clear world. What can be done?

with YWAM and the CIJR don't lead to more protection for the feel powerful but we have at most vulnerable -- whether they least some capacity to promote be babies in the womb or relichange. The powerful can congious minorities. Help us spread tinue to act as tyrants as long the knowledge! as their tyranny is not widely

that each person begins at conception. We can also pray that Those of us who are associated the spread of knowledge will





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