

Extremist groups in Karnataka, India, have issued complaints against the use of the Bible in a prison and in a Christian school. A visitor to a prison in Gadag district, northern Karnataka, claims to have found a Bible in a non-Christian prisoner's cell. The alleged discovery has led to calls for a state-wide ban on Christian chaplains making prison visits. Extremists have also alleged that a Christian high school in Bengaluru (Bangalore) is forcing non-Christian pupils to read the Bible. Clarence High School, founded in 1914, is a Christian school at which parents agree that their children will receive instruction from the Bible. As a result of the allegations the school is now under investigation by the Karnataka Education Department. Clarence High School, however, denies that pupils are forced to study the Bible against their will. Consent for Bible study is gained from parents or guardians when children join the school. School Principal Jaideep George argued that this policy is entirely legal, adding, "It is our affirmation that we will not break the law of the land." This is a non-issue raked up this week when Bible studies has been a part of the school's activities for decades," explained Soham Pablo Banerjee, a former pupil. "Any student joining the school signs up with the undertaking.

They are not forced to sign." "This is a non-issue raked up this week when Bible studies has been a part of the school's activities for decades," explained Soham Pablo Banerjee, a former pupil. "Any student joining the school signs up with the undertaking. They are not forced to sign." After the discovery of the Bible at Gadag prison, extremists alerted local police and demanded the immediate suspension of all Christian chaplains in the state. The complainants allege that Christian prison visitors were attempting to convert prisoners. Seven Christians visited the prison on 12 March to pray with prisoners and distribute copies of the New Testament. The extremists' assertion that the Christian visitors should not be allowed to distribute religious texts has been rebuffed by Christian leaders on the grounds that other religious literature is often distributed in prisons.



Barnabas contacts confirm that all Christian activity in Karnataka is being monitored closely.

Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday May 15th 2022

'...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power ; and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him...'



No 3 in our series on Acts

'The Gospel breaks out!'

Speaker: Jack Walker

Acts 10 v 23-48

Welcome!

Minister: Rev Jack Walker

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley.

What's on this week:-

Monday 16th 10.30am Ladies Meet
Wednesday 18th 8pm Mid week Study
Sunday 22nd No 4 in Acts 11 v 1-18
'Dealing with cultural issues then and now'

Updates on events:

Sun: 29th 'All Age Service' led by Jack & Jill.
Mon: 30th Churches Together Committee
Sun June 5th Queen's Platinum Celebration
Service hosted by All Hallows at the Millennium Meadow. 10.30am.
Followed by Picnic [tbc]
Wed June 8th Members Mtg 8pm,



MONDAY MAY 30TH 2022
12.30PM £3.50

A JUBILEE THEMED MENU
BOOKING ESSENTIAL
SEE JAYNE BURFORD

Breaking News!

Following the special Church Members Meeting last Wednesday the Church unanimously agreed to issue an invitation to Robert Saviou to become the next Minister of WBC beginning in September 2022.

Stories of how reading the Bible placed by 'The Gideons' changed lives

My name is Bryan.
I am in Peterborough City Hospital facing my judgment after a diagnosis of cancer.
Last week I received a Bible when at a low point in my faith.
The Bible has been an experience that I did not expect.
I have been reading it all the time. It has talked to me, lifted me up in my darkest hour and I feel the love pouring from its pages. My soul is rejuvenated in God's love and I am reading the Bible with a passion that before had eluded me.
I have not previously given my love to Jesus and have not worshipped as I should. I slipped in my life and I repent.
I give my love to the Lord God and to His son Jesus Christ. I have felt a love I only felt for family.
God is my Father. I love Him. I wish I knew Him sooner, but it is not too late.
In my darkest hour God has given me light and I go towards it happy that my path is laid out.
Only God knows what comes next. I will spread this love all the days of my life to others who are wallowing in the dark but crying for the light.

God bless you and Amen

For a few selected weeks we are highlighting ordinary people's testimonies of how reading the Bible has had a profound experience for them!
Stories listed in 'Good News for You' magazine [formerly The Gideons Magazine.]

My Bible—My Story

'The verse that is important to me is Romans 15.13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

'I worked for a global oil company. I had 50 staff, my own secretary and an office. I was 45 and was planning on working until I was 50 and then retiring on a fat pension. But I was made redundant. I had lots of support from my wife and daughter, but I didn't know what the future would look like. For six months I had no income. I was still expecting that I might get a full-time job, and wrote 700 letters. One of them landed, for Sketchley the cleaners.

'I went on a retreat for a couple of nights. It was so cold, so I sat in the library where it was warm and I counted my blessings. I realised that I had a wonderful wife, a beautiful daughter and the church.

'I realised that there are no hopeless situa-



tions, but hopeless people. This verse has given me perspective. It's definitely a verse that's carried on through my life.'

Stories from folk who have found a particular Bible passage to be very meaningful and helpful. [Source: Bible Society]

Updates to keep you praying for the persecuted Church.

Whilst we enjoy a fair degree of freedom here in the UK, across the world it's often a different story. News highlighted here is done so to stimulate and inform you to pray intelligently and informatively for our brothers and sisters!

Christians in Kenya's Muslim-dominated areas are often left out of Govt help during food distribution and are subsequently starving following a catastrophic drought and famine.

Chibok High School girls abducted by Boko Haram Muslim extremists in 2014, two of the girls completed Masters Degrees in the US. 276 were abducted and 160 have since escaped.

Barnabas Fund has sent over 350 tonnes of aid to needy Christians across the world.

Eight Christians were killed in a fresh attack by Islamist militants on a village in Borno State, Nigeria. An Iranian-Armenian Pastor has been sentenced to ten years imprisonment for running a 'house church' in Tehran.

Tatmadaw, the Govt backed group launches another attack on historic Christian village near Myanmar. They have repeatedly attacked Christian populations.