

broke into the pastor's home in Chapar village, Sultanpur district, and began insulting worshippers before slapping them and hitting them with sticks. Bibles were also set on fire. Sajan K George, the president of the Global Council of Indian Christians (GCIC), who spoke out condemning the violence, said, "[the attack] is a shame on secular India" and added that the police, "did not allow Christians to file a complaint against the attackers nor let the injured get medical certificates for their injuries". Highlighting that the situation is likely to deteriorate in the run-up to the general elections expected in May he added, "Fanatics are whipping up hostility against Christians for political gain." Persecution of Christians and other minorities has been on the rise in India since Narendra Modi, whose home constituency is in Uttar Pradesh, became prime minister in 2014.



Welcome

...to Scartho Celebration Church!

March Calendar

Sunday 3 rd March:	Sunday service 10:30am, John Lavric Celebration Care food donations
Monday 4 th :	Israeli Dance at the Library, 2.15pm Prayer meeting at Andy & Karen's, 7pm
Wednesday 6 th :	Bible study at Glen & Debbie's, 7.30pm Bible study at Andy & Karen's, 7.30pm
Thursday 7 th :	Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am

Sunday 10 th :	Sunday service, 10.30am, Andy King
Monday 11 th :	Prayer meeting at John & Hilary's, 7pm
Wed. 13 th :	Bible Study at Glen & Debbie's, 7.30pm
Thursday 14 th :	Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am PFI prayer meeting at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm

Sunday 17 th :	Sunday service, 10.30am, Andy King
Monday 18 th :	Israeli Dance at the Library, 2.15pm Prayer meeting at Ann's, 7pm
Tuesday 19 th :	Ashgrove Nursing Home service, 2.30pm
Wednesday 20 th :	Bible study at Glen & Debbie's, 7.30pm Bible study at Andy & Karen's, 7.30pm
Thursday 21 st :	Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am

Sunday 24 th :	Sunday service, 10.30am, Andy King
Monday 25 th :	Prayer meeting at Andy & Karen's, 7pm
Wednesday 27 th :	Bible study at Glen & Debbie's, 7.30pm
Thursday 28 th :	Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am PFI prayer meeting at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm
Sunday 31 st :	Sunday service, 10.30am, Ivan Daniel-Sam

For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone
who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.
For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a
righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:
'The righteous will live by faith.'

Romans 1:16-17

March 2019

Newsletter & Calendar

Scartho Celebration Church
meeting at Scartho Community Library, St Giles Ave, Scartho,
Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire, DN33 2HB.
Pastor: Andy King 07866 265155; email: ajking70@ymail.com
Website: Scarthocelebrationchurch.org

Prayer for Israel

*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces."
For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say,
"Peace be within you." Psalm 122:6-8*

As gentile believers in the Jewish Messiah Jesus, ('Yeshua' in Hebrew meaning Salvation), it's clear from Scripture (in particular, Romans 9-11) we have a responsibility to pray for those who are the 'natural branches', the Jewish people. We, as gentiles, have been grafted in through faith in Jesus. We, the 'wild branches', need to pray for God to restore to His olive tree those who through unbelief were broken off. He promises one day 'all Israel will be saved'! Roms.11:26. And that, as Paul explains in that chapter, will result in in a genuine revival for the whole world!

Prayer for Britain

At the time of writing, on 29th March we are due to officially leave the European Union. It seems to me, the very fact that the implementation of the referendum result to leave is so contested is an indication of the spiritual warfare involved with coming out from under this evolving 'empire'. The EU is evidencing many aspects of aiming to become a revived Roman Empire. Whether this eventually becomes the kingdom described in Daniel (the ten toes of iron and clay) remains to be seen. In the opinion of many Christian observers and leaders it is a distinct possibility.

Regardless, it's our responsibility to pray for our leaders and Queen, and to intercede for God's will to be done in the coming days. I believe Daniel's intercession in Daniel 10, and the insight given by the angel into the spiritual battle involved is instructive. We will perhaps look into this during the month.

Praying for the nations

This month sees the start of our focusing on the nations to pray in a little more depth than our previous practice. I felt it was appropriate we begin this by featuring India in our prayers. Going forward, perhaps we can include time in many of our prayer meetings praying for the particular nation of focus? So, let's look at India:

Prayer for India *(summary from prayercast.com)*

India captivates and overwhelms the senses of all who visit with its vibrant colours, immense crowds, and overpowering smells. One of the largest and most diverse countries in the world, India is filled with more than 2,500 distinct people groups who speak over 456 languages. A staggering one billion people are dispersed over one million square miles. Tremendous recent economic growth has led to an increasingly important role in global affairs. Yet the permeating and ever-present reality of India's extensive poverty remains.

There is more human need in India than in any other country. Approximately 191 million people, 15% of the population, are malnourished. Roughly 50,000 children in India are orphans, and about 22% of the population lives in poverty. The caste system, a once rigid cultural institution that assigned people to a social stratum based on birth, led to many horrific human rights abuses. Though officially abolished, it continues to hold great influence over the culture and remains a major bar to social mobility. To this day, it is difficult for people of lower castes to find jobs, no matter what their education or background. India's infrastructure is unreliable, and political corruption is rampant. Overpopulation also makes pollution and sanitation unmanageable. These contribute to deadly realities such as contaminated water and widespread diseases such as cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, and more.

One of the least reached countries on earth, 95% of Indians have never heard of Jesus! While Hinduism is practiced by about 74%, only about 5% identify as Christians. But because of the sheer size of the population, even minorities (Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs) number in the millions each. The Muslim minority is so large that within decades it is predicted that India will be the world's largest Muslim nation. The legacies of Christian workers like William Carey and Mother Teresa have left a mark on this nation, revealing the massive positive contribution Christianity has made on education, health, social issues, and society. Yet it is still often seen as a threat to the traditional Hindu way of life. Anti-conversion laws make it difficult to share the Gospel. Those who choose to follow Jesus are often threatened with losing their status, jobs, homes, and even lives. Many Christian organizations have been forced out, leaving many bereft of physical and spiritual aid. However, despite the intense persecution, Christianity is the fastest growing religion in India.

Quick facts: Capital City: New Delhi; Government: Federal Republic
Population: 1,281,935,911; Major People Groups: South Asian Peoples 97.7%,
Tibetan/Himalayan Peoples 1.1%, Iranian-Median 0.9%, others 0.3%
Religion: Hindu 79%, Muslim 14%, Christian 2%, Sikh 1.7%, other 2%;

General prayer points:

- Pray for cultural barriers to be overcome by the Gospel.
- Pray for the Good News of Jesus Christ to reach every village and town.
- Pray for justice and hope in a nation plagued by oppression, poverty, and disease.

Recent specific issues: *(from Barnabas Fund)*

• A Christian father of five was beheaded on 11 February in Odisha (formerly Orissa) state, eastern India, because of his Christian faith. Anant Ram Gand, 40, became a Christian nine months ago. His recent baptism had angered locals in Raigarh Tehsil village, Nabarangapur district, according to local Christian leader Shibu Thomas. Reportedly, the execution-style murder was carried out by Maoist Naxalites at the behest of local extremists. Naxalites are communist guerrilla groups in India.

• Three Christians suffered serious injuries when a mob of [25 extremists attacked a prayer meeting](#) in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh on 7 February. The mob