

# Pragna Bharati Andhra Pradesh

## PRESS NOTE

### **(i) Hindu-Christian [Karnataka] and (ii) (Tribal) Hindu- Dalit Christian riots (Orissa)- Avoidance in Andhra Pradesh**

For the past few days newspapers are full of reports about attacks on Christians in Orissa and later in Karnataka and some parts of Kerala even. It is being given out that Christians and Christian missionaries and churches are being attacked by Hindu fundamentalists, alleged to be associated with Sangh Pariwar. Newspapers, especially those in English and TV channels' staffed by many known as 'secularists' and leftists, are writing and presenting all sorts of distorted stories aimed at demonizing Hindus. (Many have little knowledge of the Christian missionaries' work in our country for the last several hundred years and their worldwide movement to reap a harvest of Hindu and Buddhist souls for Jesus Christ in the third millennium). Here are the true facts:

#### **2 Orissa:**

2.1 Kandhamal District is named after the people of Kandha Tribe. They are Hindus. They own the land. They are traditional Lords of the area. Because they are the large majority of the people living in the District, the District itself is named after them, Kandhamal. Despite Christian missionaries work for over eight decades and in spite of many allurements, few Kandhas have converted to Christianity. Since they are Scheduled Tribes they are entitled to constitutionally provided reservations for them.

2.2 In the same District are Hindu Harijans or Scheduled Castes people. Their caste is known as **Pana**. A large number of the Panas have recently converted to Christianity. The percentage of Christians was **2** in 1961; **6** as recently as in 1991; and 27% in 2007. The steep increase in the last ten years shows that in the recent past Christian conversions undertaken by 360 missionaries of different sects like the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists, Lutherans, Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, etc. The Panas who have converted to Christianity cannot get reservations in the Scheduled Caste category. Therefore they have been agitating that since they speak the same language Kui as the Kandhas, they too should be passed as Scheduled Tribes. The Kandhas naturally resist this claim of the Panas as that would reduce their chances in the ST reserved quota. (This is just like the Gujjars of Rajasthan, who are now in the BC category wanting to be classified as scheduled tribes. Meenas who are Scheduled Tribes are resisting Gujjars). **The clashes in Orissa are not essentially between Hindus and Christians!** They are between the Kandha Tribes people and Pana Harijans, who had converted to Christianity and are wanting to be classed as Scheduled Tribes.

2.3 A few ST Kandhas had also converted to Christianity and some such Christian Kandhas had become Maoists. Conversion to Christianity and embrace of Maoism together make them anti-Hindu.

2.4 There were deadly riots between the Kandhas and Pana Christian converts in 1992. They lasted for over three months and about twenty people died. There were hardly any VHP/Bhajang Dal activists in Kandhamal then. The present riots, triggered by the gunning down of Swamy Lakshmananda by persons in Maoist dress using AK47s, is continuation of the decades long strife between Kandhas (ST) and Pana (SC) converts to Christianity because the latter are fraudulently claiming ST status, depriving the former of what in fall is their due.

2.5 It is perverse to say that the Christian missionaries from all quarters of the world sumptuously funded can have the right to preach, promote, evangelise and convert Hindus through various means like monetary and other gifts, schools and hospitals, but that Hindus should not have the same right. Alarmed at the frauds and onslaught and slanders on Hinduism, just as Christians obeying their God to reach the unreached are indulging in missionary activities, Hindus in their own land should also have the same freedom to preach, promote and defend Hinduism and Hindus from being ensnared and inveigled out of their faith into a foreign faith. Also every patriotic citizen must realize that whichever part of India is converted away from Hinduism into an alien faith, is home to secessionist movements, eg. North-East and North-West of India, and whichever part of a city or a district is predominantly non-Hindu is also engaged in activities that are disruptive of integrity of the country and harmony among its peoples.

2.6 It is noteworthy that though many young Hindus had passed through Christian schools, they could not be converted to Christianity because these are educated people, who can distinguish between falsehood and truth. In contrast, missionaries are more successful among illiterate, the poor and isolated people like Tribals and Harijans. The Hindu society has got as much right as Christians to defend their people from being converted into religions which are no more valid than Hinduism. Mahatma Gandhi was

emphatic that even the poor in India are not lacking in spirituality and that they don't need anybody from anywhere else to impart it to them. To the pointed question from missionaries, 'whether in free India you would want missionary activity', Gandhiji gave emphatic answer to the press. Gandhiji replied, ***"If instead of confining themselves to purely humanitarian work such as education, medical services to the poor and the like, they use these activities of theirs for the purpose of proselytizing. I would certainly like them to withdraw. Every nation considers its own faith to be as good as that of any other. Certainly the great faiths held by the people of India are adequate for her people. India stands in no need of conversion from one faith to another....."*** [Source: History of Hindu-Christian Encounters (AD 304 to 1996) by Sita Ram Goel, published by Voice of India].

**2.7 Dr B R Ambedkar rejected both Christianity and Islam as a religion which the dalits born into Hinduism should change** to; on the other hand; he advised them that they should embrace Buddhism, a native religion, which is far superior to Islam and Christianity. As the business of conversion is outrageous and is leading strife and division within families, in Villages and in cities organised missionaries' conversion activities as disruptive of the Indian society. The unrest and inter-communal strife, whether it be Orissa, Karnataka or Kerala, is entirely due to the aggressive, militant conversion activities of Christian organizations.

### 1. Karnataka (and other States)

Heeding to the call of the Pope when he landed in India at the turn of the century, hundreds of Christian missions from several countries have begun pumping billions of dollars through legal and illegal channels into the country for proselytisation and conversion. Thousands of Indians converted to Christianity are given full time jobs as evangelists, pastors, propagandists and retainers in villages to market Christianity. They are working just like any multinational companies (MNC). They have mapped out the country district- wise and collected information as to how many people are there in each state and according to state. They have segmented the market for conversion. They have got targets, they put out advertisements and messages through radio and various TV channels. ***The enterprise is a business to get number to their faith and not a movement for increasing spirituality in human beings.*** Associated with the missionaries are their NGOs . In fact in the country 70% - 80% of the NGOs are missionary- associated front organisations. Empowerment of Women, Reaching Out, Share an Opportunity, World Vision etc., are names of some NGOs. They are exploiting the poverty, ignorance, illiteracy and isolation of people. Through false propaganda and tricks and staged miracle cures (swastya kutamis etc) they have launched a marketing and propaganda blitz in villages and poor quarters in cities. Bands of foreigners from Europe, America and even Africa are being brought on tourist visas but are co-opted into meetings with the poor where they harangue about the virtue of Christianity and how conversion would make them rich and advance them socially. The Indian mercenaries of the missionaries tell people that the scourge and terror of caste does not exist in Christianity and so conversion will give them dignity and castelessness and move up in the scale of social hierarchy. But they say that there are Dalit Christians for whom they demand reservations.

2. There are several sects like Methodists, Baptists, 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, etc. They get funds from several countries. They are competitively engaged in gaining converts. Just as several multi national corporations (MNC) sell the same product under different brand names and advertise over TV channels, radio and news papers, these Christian missionaries are competitively doing the same thing for Christianity to get a harvest of converts.

3. There is a world wide project Joshua I & II to evangelise and convert. Whether there are converts or not, churches will be planted in villages and they will become the centers of activity. This is the reason why thousands of Christian churches had been coming up for the last few years in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and elsewhere.

4. Christian missionaries and their churches and religious leaders are indulging in one of the greatest frauds in the history of this country. They are converting Harijans to Christianity but they are not entering the fact in government records in order to continue to avail of the benefit of reservation for SCs. Even those who have got Christian names are also registering their caste as SCs . For eg: Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Schedule Caste Finance Corporation is one Mr. Williams. This man is obviously a Christian but in the government record he is a SC Hindu. Another person is Mr. Danam, Retd. IAS Officer

who after retirement is very active for Christian causes. He holds several offices in his community. He got into the IAS as an SC candidate. The fact is he had all along been a Christian. One Sri Bhagwan Das, a Christian, rose to the rank of a Post Master General on the false claim as an SC candidate while he was born to practising Christian parents! Such men and women are numerous.

5. Because of this fraudulent practice of not declaring themselves even after conversion, the Christian population according to the census in Andhra Pradesh has become very curious. Here is their percentage for the last few decades:

#### Christian Population in Andhra Pradesh

	Year			
	1971	1981	1991	2001
<b>Total population mln</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>76.2</b>
<b>Christians mln</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>% of Christian population</b>	<b>4.19</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>1.83</b>	<b>1.44</b>

According to the Census, the Christian population is going down. Can we believe this? Can furiously growing number of churches be reconciled with diminishing Christian population? In the run-up to the Y2004 general elections, church leaders, Christian societies and leaders held press conferences and public meetings demanding that reflecting their 10% population in Andhra Pradesh, every party must put Christians to the extent of 10% for positions of MLAs and MPs. Who are lying-government's census or Christian leaders' organizations and churches

6. When the population in Andhra Pradesh of Christians is 1.44% according to 2001 census, how is it that they have tens of thousands of churches? According to figures taken from the Endowment Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh the place of worship of Hindus,

Muslims and Christians in our state are as below.  
(Revenue and Endowment Board of Andhra Pradesh)

Existing No. of Temples, Mosques and Churches in as on 31st March 2005.

<b>District</b>	<b>Temples</b>	<b>Churches</b>	<b>Mosques</b>
Adilabad	12,346	3,347	18,482
Ananthpur	14,008	4,892	9,328
Chittoor	26,120	9,098	12,320
Cuddpah	22,982	7,241	14,223
East Godavari	8,220	12,123	9,230
Guntur	9,302	16,388	5,429
Hyderabad (Rangareddy)	13,144	3,204	15,203
Kakinada	7,203	8,585	5,274
Karimnagar	4,129	1,648	9,714
Khammam	5,210	7,203	5,922
Krishna	8,929	8,462	3,769
Kurnool	6,549	5,203	9,293
Machlipatnam	5,000 (Aprx)	8,320	6,493
Mahboobnagar	3,299	3,128	7,235
Medak	6,302	3,203	3,234
Nellore	7,993	6,782	7,323
Nalgonda	6,882	2,412	5,239
Nizamabad	4,638	3,203	9,366

Prakasham	4,255	5,583	4,932
Srikakulam	7,339	9,879	2,140
Warangal	1,393	6,320	1,342
West Godavari	3,293	5,464	2,765
Vishakapatnam	6,430	3,203	4,203
Vizianagaram	3,891	3,100	3,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198,857</b>	<b>147,991</b>	<b>175,959</b>

7. The Hindu-Christian conflict is due to the fraudulent, business –like, aggressive Christianity marketing activity of missionaries and their NGOs, growing in intensity, militancy and expansiveness . Naturally, Hindus are alarmed. In the same Hindu family if some are converted to other faiths, there is conflict in the family between brothers and sisters and children and parents. In fact, this strife appears to be in fulfillment of what Jesus Christ is reported to have said in the Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 12, Paras-51, 52 & 52.

According to the Apostle Luke Jesus Christ said,

**51 “Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.**

**52 “For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two New Testament of Bible:**

**53: “Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother.**

**-Ch 12: Gospel According to Luke**

#### **Hindu-Christian riots**

8. The Christian missionaries in their present intensified activities are no different from multi national companies marketing the same product or service under different brands. As a strategy **they are first planting churches in villages**. They are for different denominations from the same Christian faith. **Their number is totally unrelated to the number of converts in the Village**. The person in-charge of the church, often a Pastor is paid handsomely. In the Villages around, there are is at least one convert paid about Rs.500 a month for reconnaissance, preparation and crowd collection activities for gatherings like Mary Mata Mahostav, Swastya Kutamis, Suwarta Kutamis etc. These are just like sales men of pharmaceutical and other companies roaming about the villages. The Pastors are becoming wealthy with nice house built out of funds received from different quarters, mostly from aboard. His example of quitting poverty and leading a new life style because of conversion is acting as inducement for unemployed educated poor to convert to Christianity.

9. As this marketing of spurious foreign faith is traumatizing Hindus, they are spurred to defend their own religion, the Santana Dharma and some of them are taking to as much militant propagation and defence of their religion as Christians themselves. More over they are taking defensive actions against the offensive of Christian proselytizers and conversion gangs. This is leading to strife. Christian publications like those (Riju Darsini in Telugu, Satyadarshini in Kannada) vilify and slander Hindu Gods and goddesses. This book in Telugu is widely distributed in villages. A Kannada translation is being distributed in Karnataka (\*Excerpts at Annexure #1). **The contents of this have triggered the Hindu Christian strife in Karnataka.**

10 We are afraid that in Andhra Pradesh also matters will come to such a pass especially when the government which is expected to be true to the secular constitution of this country has boldly advertised asking for applications from Christians intending to make pilgrimage to Jerusalem for government subsidy of Rs. 20,000 per pilgrim. Already, the Government of India is subsidizing to the extent of Rs. 350 crores for Rs.1,58,000 Muslims for their Haj pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. And now the Government of Andhra Pradesh is subsidizing the Christian pilgrimages. No such subsidies are available for Hindus who are 85% of the population of the state and from whom the largest part of government 's revenues are collected indeed Hindus are having to pay to have a darshan of their Gods in their own temples while taxes collected from them are being used to subsidise the pilgrimages of Muslims and Christians. This is

seriously hurting Hindus. It is subversion of the secular constitution. At one meeting in Ravindra Bharati some weeks ago, while distributing scholarships etc for Muslims the Chief Minister of this state announced that his is a government of minorities (that is, of Christians and Muslims).

11 **What we request:** The furious proliferation of churches, the numerous bands of evangelists, proselytizers and reapers of harvests of Hindus for Christianity are alarming Hindus. They are coming to feel that what had not been attempted even by foreign British and Muslim rulers is being undertaken by some secular governments creating conditions conducive to eruption of strife as in states like Orissa, Karnataka and elsewhere. This is not good for this state; nor for people nor for secularism in this country. We therefore request the following immediate steps to be taken by government(s) and patriotic associations, societies & NGOs..

1. A census of all denominations of churches in every village/town/city of the state should be conducted. The cost of each one of these churches including the building and the land and the facilities must be estimated and the total value computed. Where has the money come from must be investigated; whether these churches, prayer halls had been constructed with all the necessary permissions from location authorities as per law or not must be ascertained. The income tax and other authorities must proceed to enforce the law in regard to the income for these churches.
2. Figures as to how many were converted, and how many churches/places of worship are there per 1000 people and whether that figure is high or low must be assessed.
3. As evangelization and conversion are organised business, they should not be held to be in exercise of the constitutional right to profess and propagate a religion. The Supreme Court had already ruled that the right to propagate does not involve the right to convert. This organized conversion activity cannot be held to be in pursuit of any spiritual goals but only to gain numbers for different faiths. As this is disruptive of the peace and harmony in the village and in society, organised missionary/conversion activity should be banned (Mahatma Gandhi desired this), just as SIMI is banned, just as Naxalites are banned.
4. We request that the discrimination against Hindus in regard to subsidizing pilgrimages should end. A secular state has no business to promote any particular religion by subsidizing its followers' pilgrimages. ***If the pilgrimages of Muslims & Christians are subsidized then the pilgrimages of Hindus must also be subsidized and the amount should be in proportion to the number of Hindus.***
5. Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to perform free marriages of 470 Christian couples collectively on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008 by spending Rs.15,000/-per couple in the First Phase. Spending Government tax moneys on the religious ceremonies of people of only some religions and not all, is also non-secular and adversely discriminative for Hindus. This must stop. *[It is known that the TTD which is the management body of a Hindu temple for Balaji in Tirumala is carrying out a program, Kalayanamastu; that is mass scale marriages for the Hindu poor for Hindus and by moneys. That money is not from the tax revenues of the 'secular' government of Andhra Pradesh. The TTD is spending money but purely from the donations by Hindu devotees given to Lord Balaji in Tirumala].*

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## ANNEXURE A

**Christian publications like Riju Darsini in Telugu, Satyadarshini in Kannada, vilify and slander Hindu Gods and goddesses. This book in Telugu is widely distributed in villages. A Kannada translation is being distributed in Karnataka**

<http://greathindu.com/2008/09/denigration-of-hindu-gods-reason-for-christian-attack/>

The Indian media has presented a distorted version of Hindu-Christian clashes in Mangalore. Here are the facts

1. The Following are the list of abuses from one such book – Satya Darshini – distributed by the missionaries of New Life. This book is in Kannada and the translation of the abusive passage is as follows.

- Urvashi – the daughter of Lord Vishnu – is a prostitute. Vashitha is the son of this prostitute. He in turn married his own Mother. Such a degraded person is the Guru of the Hindu God Rama. (page 48)
- When Krishna himself is wallowing in darkness of hell, how can he enlighten others? Since Krishna himself is a shady character, there is a need for us to liberate his misled followers. (page 50)
- It was Brahma himself who kidnapped Sita. Since Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva were themselves the victims of lust, it is a sin to consider them as Gods. (page 39)
- When the Trinity of Hinduism (Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva) are consumed by lust and anger, how can they liberate others. Their projection as Gods is nothing but a joke. (page 39).
- When Vishnu asked Brahma to commit a sin, he immediately did so. How can such a "evil brahma" be a Creator of this Universe? How is it possible for both the sinner and the entity which provoked the sin to be gods? (page 39)
- God, please liberate the sinful people of India who are worshipping False Gods that believe in the pleasures of illicit 'Vyabichari' relationships. (Page 39).

1. All the 16 incidents that took place were not attack on Churches. In fact, unauthorized prayer halls were attacked where the blasphemous pamphlets were distributed and aggressive proselytisation was taking place. These 16 incidents were not localized but took place across three districts of Mangalore, Udipi and Chikmagalur.
2. The only place where attacks took place apart from New Life Prayer Halls was at a small prayer hall in the premises of Milagres Church in Mangalore, where some miscreants had damaged a Jesus idol. The VHP and the Bajrang Dal have condemned the attack at this place. Following this incident, a Christian mob gathered and the situation went out of control as the mob started pelting stones and disrupting traffic. The police was forced to intervene and this resulted in unsavoury violence.
3. Since the past two days, it is not Hindu-Christian clashes that are taking place. In fact, it is more appropriate to call it "Christian-Police" clashes since the Christians holed up in Churches have engaged themselves in pelting of stones and disruption of traffic. The Police were forced to enter the Church to clear the mob and they found arms inside the Church.
4. Incidents of Stabbing were reported in around four or five places across Mangalore district. In fact, an activist belonging to Shri Ram Sena was stabbed which led to a bandh call by Shri Ram Sena – a Hindu outfit that is not connected to Sangh Parivar.
5. The VHP and the Bajrang Dal have condemned the desecration of Jesus idol at the prayer hall adjacent to the Milagres Church in Mangalore. They have also clarified that they are not against the Catholic faith and the Churches. However, they have clarified that the public outcry would continue as long as illicit conversion activities and blasphemy of Hindu gods take place.
6. Even the Kandhmahal murder — which involved the killing of Hindu monk Swami Lakshmananda by missionaries – seems to have cast a shadow on this incident since the general public seems to have seen through Christian aggression.
7. It may be recalled that there was a public outcry against illegal prayer halls in Davanagere district last week. In that case, the administration had closed the unauthorized prayer halls that were mushrooming in the region.

END

# The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda/Volume 5/Interviews/On The Bounds Of Hinduism

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## On The Bounds Of Hinduism (Prabuddha Bharata, April, 1899)

".....I want to see you, Swami", I began, "on this matter of receiving back into Hinduism those who have been perverted from it. Is it your opinion that they should be received?"

"Certainly," said the Swami, "they can and ought to be taken."

He sat gravely for a moment, thinking, and then resumed. "Besides," he said, "we shall otherwise decrease in numbers. When the Mohammedans first came, we are said — I think on the authority of Ferishta, the oldest Mohammedan historian — to have been six hundred millions of Hindus. Now we are about two hundred millions. And then every man going out of the Hindu pale is not only a man less, but an enemy the more.

"Again, the vast majority of Hindu perverts to Islam and Christianity are perverts by the sword, or the descendants of these....."

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## **THE OUTCOME OF HINDU-CHRISTIAN NEGOTIATION IN MANGALORE**

Christian leaders and Hindu leaders held a meeting to thrash out the differences at The Circuit House in Mangalore.

The Hindu delegation consisted of Prof M B Puranik, Vibhag Sanghachallak and VHP district President, Dr. Prabhakar Bhat, Prant Karyavaya, Dr. Madhav Bhandary, Vibhaga Karyakarini Sadasya, Monappa Bhandary, district BJP President, Shrikar Prabhu, Jagadish Shenava, Rajagopala Rai. The Christian delegation was led by Fr. J B Crasta, Louis Pinto, Felix Alberque, M P Noronha, William D'Souza, Stany Alvares.

The negotiation was held under the supervision of district in-charge Minister Shri Krishna Palemar. The persons who mediated towards bringing both sides together were Dharmaraj, Mangalore-based-builder and S Ramesh, Social worker.

The Hindu delegation put forth its view stating that

1. Hindu society was never aggressive and in fact encouraged and promoted plurality in society.
2. Christianity grew because of Hindu patronage
3. Christians were denigrating Hindu faith through distribution of pamphlets denigrating Hindu God. (Satya Darshini pamphlet distributed by New Life says that Hindu gods were promiscuous and wallowing in darkness of hell).
4. Christians were objecting to Hindu articles of faith like Rakhi, bindi, flowers et al
5. Christians used the children of Hindu parents when the institutions were protesting against Kandmal violence
6. The Christians in Mangalore had even protested when Jayalalitha Government had banned conversion in Tamil Nadu
7. They had even pelted stones and had injured policemen who were trying to protect law and order.
8. Though the Christian delegation was distancing itself from New Life, they were in fact supporting it by protesting in a big way as if to condone the New Life activities.
9. The Schools run by Christians were psychologically dominating Hindu school children as if to give a bad impression about the Hindu faith.
10. Harmony can be established only when the Christians observe their religion in private without encroaching on the domain of Hindu faith.
11. Conversions were affecting the family life as several families had broken up due to conversion activities.
12. Conversions due to inducement and allurements are not in the interest of the society. There is nothing wrong in voluntary conversions.
13. The Resurgent Hindu society would not tolerate such proselytisation activities which aim at division rather than integration.

14. The Service activities of the Church were more directed towards the ulterior motives of proselytisation.
15. The Hindus won't harm the Christian faith in any way if they do it without forcing it on others. And there would not be any cause for conflict.
16. There is no question of social boycott against Christians. In fact, the Hindus are for cordial relations with Christians.
17. In case of any further problems, the problems would be solved through bilateral talks involving leaders of both sides.
18. The Hindu leaders made it clear that they did not support the attack on the building that housed the Cloistered Nuns. They said that it was inadvertent and it would not be repeated.

The Church leaders put forth its view in the following manner

1. Christians are feeling insecure due to the recent spate of violence in New Life prayer halls
2. Is it wrong on our part to serve the society?
3. We don't have anything to do with New Life activities except that both of us respect Jesus and Bible.
4. Hindu leaders may stop the Hindus from attending New Life congregational meetings.
5. Educate the Hindus in such a manner that they refrain from New Life activities.
6. In the case of Kandmal incidents, the Hindus had provoked the Christians through banners depicting the Christians in poor light
7. Any case of provocation from any side is improper.
8. It should not happen. Steps should be taken to improve relations.
9. Christians will not resort to conversions in South Kanara and Udupi district.
10. The Christian institutions will not prevent the school children from wearing Rakhi, Bindi, flowers et al that depict the Hindu faith.
11. The Christian educational institutions will not take the Hindu children to Church
12. Since the Catholic Christians do not have any connection with New Life missionaries, it would not object to any action against New Life in connection with proselytisation activities.
13. Since Bible and Cross are very holy in Christianity, the Hindus should not damage it any way.
14. The Christians would rein in their youths from violent activities henceforth.
15. The Christians are distressed with the attack on the cloistered Nuns inside the premises.

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### **Opinions expressed by Mahatma Gandhi**

**Source: Hindu-Christian Encounters by Sita Ram Goel**

**Press Note released on 23.9.2008 at Basheerbagh Press Club, Hyderabad**

- ⇒ “During my travels I find a general belief that to turn a Christian is to turn European; to become self willed and give up self restraint....dress oneself in European style and start taking meat and brandy. But I think the fact is if a person discards his country his customs and his old connections and manners when he changes his religion, he becomes all the more unfit to gain the knowledge of God. For, a change of religion is really a conversion of the heart. When there is a real conversion, a man's heart grows. But in this country one finds that conversion brings about deep disdain for one's old religion and its followers. .... All that does great harm to the country. [Pages 143-144 Hindu- Christian Encounters by Sita Ram Goel]
- ⇒ **...He drew Mr George Joseph's attention to the untouchability practice, by the Syrian Christians.** [Mr Joseph offered to join the Hindus' Satyagraha against untouchability in Kerala. Christian missions right to jump into the fray... that is why Gandhiji talked about untouchability practice by Syrian Christians..... and today numerous Christian organisations are militantly talking on behalf of Dalit Christians acknowledging that conversion to Christianity has not delivered them from the Dalit status. (Page 133)]
- ⇒ “The intolerance of Christian missionaries does not, I am glad to say, take the ugly shape it used to take some years ago. Think of the caricature of Hinduism which one finds in so many publications of the Christian Literature Society. [page 150]
- ⇒ ....” It is not possible to consider the teaching of a religious teacher apart from the lives of his followers.
- ⇒ One Mr Mott a great missionary friend of Gandhiji asked the Christian can help in the removal of untouchability. Gandhiji informed him that the removal of untouchability is purely a question of purification of Hinduism and can only be effected from within.
- ⇒ .Then Mr Mott Referred to Rev White Head Bishop of Church of England in Madras Presidency Gandhiji said ‘I distrust mass movements of this nature. They have as their object not the upliftment of untouchables but their ultimate conversion. This motive of mass proselytization vitiates missionary efforts’.
- ⇒ On February 23 1931 Gandhiji in a way of silence he wrote a note to Dr Thornton, a Christian missionary, “if the missionaries friends forget their mission viz. of proselytizing Indians and of bringing Christ to them they would do wonderfully good work. Your duty is done with the ulterior motive of proselytizing. (Page 156)
- ⇒ Is not medical relieve its not relief and satisfaction. ....while I am in a missionary educational Institution why are Christian teachings thrust upon me. [page 158].
- ⇒ Gandhiji wanted the missionary, one Mr Peacock to work for the removal of untouchability prevalent among Christians and leave Hindu untouchables to the Hindus.
- ⇒ .... Christianity has become synonyms with western culture which in turn fittingly described as Christian culture because the religion of western people is predominantly Christianity. On the other hand Indian culture will certainly be described as Hindu culture. [page 167]
- ⇒ The Harijan, dated May 11 1935, published an interview given by Gandhiji to a missionary Nurse before that date. The Nurse asked him, ‘would you prevent missionaries coming to India in order to baptize?’ Gandhiji replied, ‘if I have power and could legislate I should certainly stop all proselytizing. It is the cause of much avoidable conflict between classes and unnecessary heart burning among the missionaries. [Page 171].

**English translation of a report on the Chief Minister's declaration  
that his government is a government of minorities**

(Eenadu Hyderabad edition 21.2.08)

**"This is a completely and totally a government of minorities.** The government has allocated sufficient funds to give free ships, (stipends] for all minority students,' declared the state's Chief Minister Dr Y Rajashekar Reddy in a ceremony to distribute the stipends) held in Ravindra Bharati, under the auspices of the State Minority Welfare Department and Minority Corporation. Speaking at this ceremony, the Chief Minister said, **"at the time of our coming into power the allocation for stipends for minorities was only Rs.4 cr. We have increased it to Rs.10 cr and then to Rs. 93 cr and in the budget for this year 2008-09 is Rs123 cr.** We are going to refund all the fee that the minority students have already paid. Since the minorities are educationally backward, we have decided to give free-ships for minority students just like for students of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

**A job mela soon:** Speaking at the ceremony, the Minister for Minority Welfare, Mr Shabbir Ali said that under the auspices of Urdu Academy, a job-mela for minority engineering students would be organised through out the state, in order to get jobs for minorities in companies like Infosys. Speaking at the same Mela another minister Fariduddin said that within 56 days of coming to power, **Dr Reddy introduced the Bill for reservations to Muslims.** MPs Asaduddin Owaisi, Anjan Kumar Yadav, MLA, Malreddy Ranga Reddy Christians Urdu academy, Chairman Rahimuddin Ansari, Andhra Pradesh Haj Committee Chairman Nasbandi, Former Minister Bashiruddin Babu Khan and Chairman of Hyderabad Zakat and Charitable Committee Giasuddin Babu Khan participated. ...."

