



# THE OPERATION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

Mt. 28:16-20


Mt. 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

19 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.



Starting this Wednesday is our Missions' Conference, a time to put into practice our theme...

RENEW. REBUILD. REKINDLE.

We need to...*Renew* our heart for missions...*Rebuild* our commitment to the missionaries, and ...*Rekindle* our passion for world evangelism.

Last week we looked at THE GREATNESS OF THE GREAT COMMISSION. This morning we will see...

## THE OPERATION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

We will begin by considering THE OBLIGATION OF INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD EVANGELISM.


### I. THE OBLIGATION FOR INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD EVANGELISM = FAITHFULNESS

A. The Authority – “...**All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...**”

- As we covered last week, the authority for involvement in missions is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Col. 1:18 And **he is the head of the body, the church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.**

- The Lord Jesus was sent by His Father, and He in turns He sends His disciples through the local church to the world.



B. The Authorization – “**Go ye therefore...**” =  
We are to be involved in world evangelism because He authorized the first church in Jerusalem to do so.

C. The Application – “**...teach all nations...**” =  
the scope of the commission is worldwide.

## II. THE OPPOSITION FOR INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD EVANGELISM = FEARFULNESS

### A. Spiritual Opposition

1 Thessalonians 2:17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.

18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; **but Satan hindered us.**

19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

20 For ye are our glory and joy.

## B. Selfish Opposition

Acts 15:37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and **went not with them to the work.**

39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;



2 Timothy 4:10 For **Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world**, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

3 John 1:9 I wrote unto the church: but **Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.**

10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth *them* out of the church.

## C. Social Opposition

More than 340 million Christians worldwide experienced high levels of persecution in 2020, with 4,761 killed for their faith, a new report has revealed.

<https://www.christian.org.uk/news/huge-rise-in-christian-persecution-worldwide-revealed-in-2021-world-watch-list/>

# WORLD WATCH LIST 2020



where it is most dangerous to follow Jesus:

The Persecution of Christians



- |               |                 |                             |               |                         |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1 North Korea | 11 Syria        | 21 Vietnam                  | 31 Tajikistan | 41 Colombia             |
| 2 Afghanistan | 12 Nigeria      | 22 Turkmenistan             | 32 Nepal      | 42 Oman                 |
| 3 Somalia     | 13 Saudi Arabia | 23 China                    | 33 Jordan     | 43 Kuwait               |
| 4 Libya       | 14 Maldives     | 24 Mauritania               | 34 Tunisia    | 44 Kenya                |
| 5 Pakistan    | 15 Iraq         | 25 Central African Republic | 35 Kazakhstan | 45 Bhutan               |
| 6 Eritrea     | 16 Egypt        | 26 Morocco                  | 36 Turkey     | 46 Russian Federation   |
| 7 Sudan       | 17 Algeria      | 27 Qatar                    | 37 Brunei     | 47 United Arab Emirates |
| 8 Yemen       | 18 Uzbekistan   | 28 Burkina Faso             | 38 Bangladesh | 48 Cameroon             |
| 9 Iran        | 19 Myanmar      | 29 Mali                     | 39 Ethiopia   | 49 Indonesia            |
| 10 India      | 20 Laos         | 30 Sri Lanka                | 40 Malaysia   | 50 Niger                |

## Deadlier Than North Korea

For decades the world's worst persecutor of Christians by a large margin, North Korea now has company. Today, 10 additional nations have "extreme" violations of religious freedom, according to Open Doors's annual World Watch List. Most persecution is not violence but a squeezing of personal, family, and church life. In 2019, for example, 13 nations were actually deadlier for Christians than North Korea, yet only 5 also rank among the list's most severe persecutors.

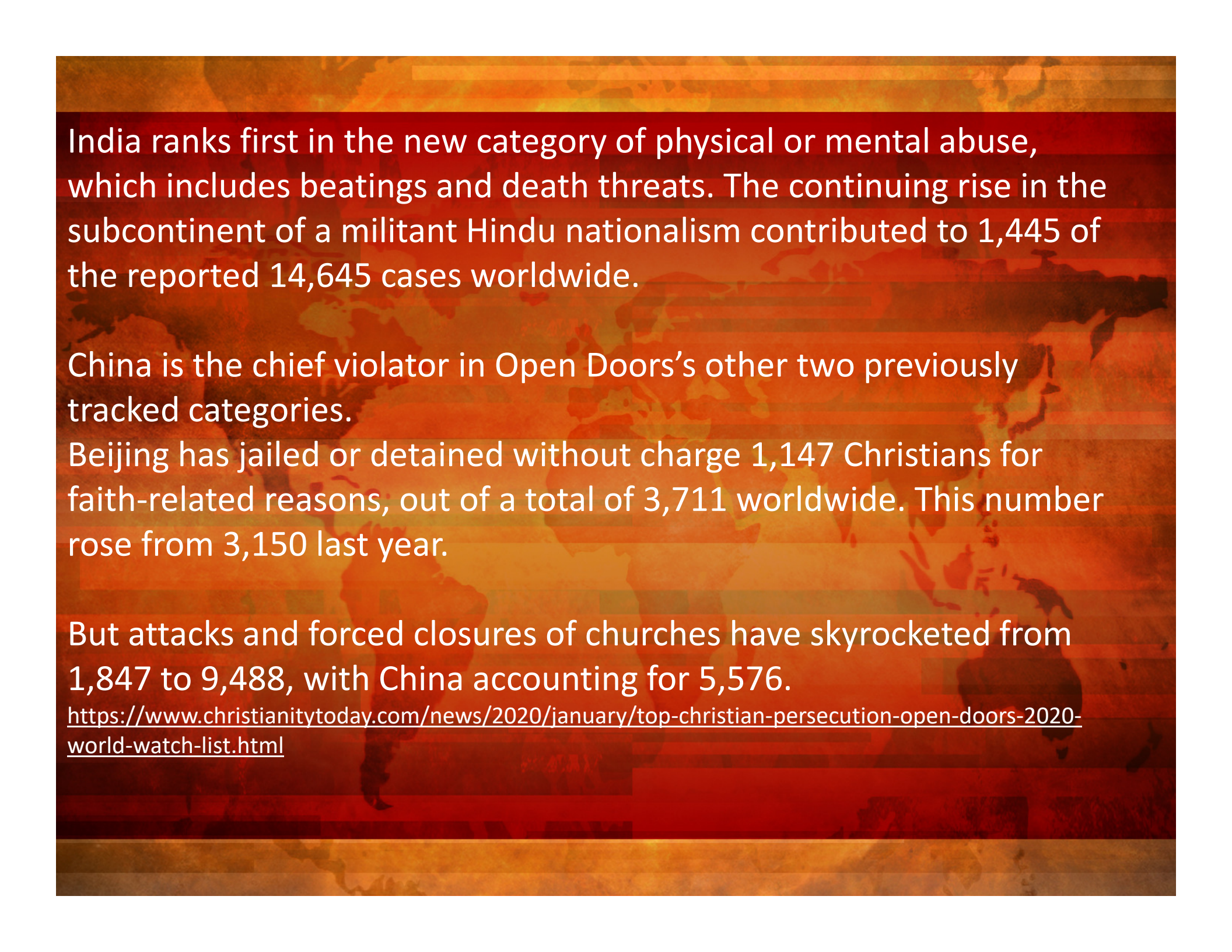


### **MOST VIOLENT PERSECUTION:**

- 1 Pakistan
- 2 Nigeria
- 3 Egypt
- 4 Central African Republic
- 5 Burkina Faso
- 6 Colombia
- 7 Cameroon
- 8 India
- 9 Mali
- 10 Sri Lanka
- 11 Syria
- 12 Ethiopia
- 13 Libya

### **MOST SEVERE PERSECUTION:**

- 1 North Korea
- 2 Afghanistan
- 3 Somalia
- 4 Libya
- 5 Pakistan
- 6 Eritrea
- 7 Sudan
- 8 Yemen
- 9 Iran
- 10 India
- 11 Syria
- 12 Nigeria
- 13 Saudi Arabia



India ranks first in the new category of physical or mental abuse, which includes beatings and death threats. The continuing rise in the subcontinent of a militant Hindu nationalism contributed to 1,445 of the reported 14,645 cases worldwide.

China is the chief violator in Open Doors's other two previously tracked categories.

Beijing has jailed or detained without charge 1,147 Christians for faith-related reasons, out of a total of 3,711 worldwide. This number rose from 3,150 last year.

But attacks and forced closures of churches have skyrocketed from 1,847 to 9,488, with China accounting for 5,576.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2020/january/top-christian-persecution-open-doors-2020-world-watch-list.html>

### III. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD EVANGELISM = FRUITFULNESS

#### A. The Power of Prayer

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, **The harvest truly is great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.**

Colossians 4:2 **Continue in prayer**, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

3 Withal **praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance**, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

1 Thessalonians 5:25 Brethren, **pray for us**.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 **Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free course***, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:

## B. The Purpose of Participation

2 Corinthians 8:10 And herein I give *my* advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also **to be forward a year ago.**

11 Now **therefore perform the doing of it; that as *there was* a readiness to will, so *there may be* a performance also out of that which ye have.**

12 For if there be first **a willing mind, *it is accepted according to that a man hath,*** *and* not according to that he hath not.

John 15:8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;** so shall ye be my disciples.



## C. The Provisions from the Provider

Philippians 4:13 **I can do all things through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, **no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.**

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 **Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**

18 But **I have all, and abound**: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, **wellpleasing to God**.

19 But **my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus**.

2 Corinthians 8:21 **Providing for honest things**, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

## Summary

- When considering “world evangelism,” believers fall into the following categories:
  1. Those who are awakened unto the great need of world evangelism, desiring to do SOMETHING.
  2. Those already awakened unto the great need of world evangelism and desire to do MORE;



3. Those who are nominally interested about the great need of world evangelism and are mildly curious about it, doing LITTLE.

4. Those who are apathetic about the great need of world evangelism and are indifferent to it, doing NOTHING.

- Into which group would the Lord categorize you?

## Conclusion

2 Corinthians 9:6 But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 Every man **according as he purposeth in his heart**, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you**; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, **may abound to every good work**: