



action by

Christians

against

torture

April 2011 / May 2011

All that is required for the triumph of evil
Is that good men do nothing
Burke

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JESUS SAID " I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. NO ONE WHO FOLLOWS ME STUMBLES AROUND IN THE DARKNESS. HE SHALL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE'

Chairman's Letter

You may have watched a recent TV programme about the so-called 'war on terror' following the tragic events of 9/11 in New York. It dealt particularly with treatment of terror suspects in Guantanamo Bay and Pakistan and the involvement, if any, of British MI5 and MI6.

The point that struck me as very significant was how often the questioning of detainees was preceded by putting a black bag over their heads, so they were in total darkness. This resulted, of course, in their being disorientated, not knowing, when made to walk, where they were, who was present and what was likely to happen to them. The procedure was a preliminary to possible torture, or was it, when it lasted several hours, torture in itself?

One high profile detainee had a wooden box made for him, just big enough to accommodate him, but severely restricting any movement. This box had no light coming into it, and to make it unbearably hot, had thick blankets draped round the outside surface. This, without producing any physical evidence, was obviously torture, total darkness playing a large part.

We all know the affect of suddenly being thrust into total darkness. This may be by electric lights failing or our merely turning off a switch at home on the way to bed! We lose our bearings for a moment, perhaps bump into furniture and feel lost until we find another switch and turn on another light.

In those domestic moments and in others more potent and perhaps frightening, darkness can be seen as the enemy of light. It is with relief that we find the other switch and turn on the light. Our world of consciousness becomes normal again.

Jesus taught that to follow Him and see Him as the constant Light would give not only direction but also purpose to life. We can see where we are going, and also know something of what lies at the end of the journey: the purpose of it all. That requires faith in the Light of Christ to lead and letting go of our determination to find our way by our own mental map.

My wife gave me a SatNav device for Christmas. I haven't yet fixed it to the car, but I recently travelled with two drivers who use this wonder of modern technology. One of them was ecstatic about the services provided by his new 'toy': direction, mileage, estimated time of arrival as well as a coloured picture of the road ahead and a lady giving verbal directions! "It's absolutely indispensable" he said. For finding your route to out-of-the-way places I'm sure it is. As a guide to life day by day it certainly is not. It was not designed for that.

Jesus' words " I am the Light of the world", if believed and followed, not only help with day to day living but also give meaning to the big picture of 'life'. Encasing detainees in darkness before interrogation is not only depriving them of a sense of direction, but also, symbolically, saying "we are dehumanising you and taking away your very purpose in life". A necessary preliminary to active questioning perhaps, but not something we, as fellow human beings, should be proud of.

May you continue to find the Light of Christ meaningful and essential each day.

Sincerely, *Richard Dent, Chairman.*

NEW PATRON

I am very pleased to be able to tell members that ACAT (UK) has a new Patron. Bishop Declan Lang, the Catholic bishop of Clifton, has kindly agreed to accept the offer of the post.

He has been very interested in all aspects of human rights for some time and will be a great addition to our list of patrons.

Richard Dent.

Indeed he is Risen! Alleluia!

*With Simon of Cyrene, witness to Roman oppression
,we recognise the unjust structures of our world;
the tyranny of the powerful over the weak,
the exploitation of the poor by the affluent,
the domination of greed and the destruction of the earth.
And we recognise you, Lord Jesus, as a victim among victims, but also
more; as the one who chose the fate of the victimised.
In the brutality of your death we see the love that will heal the world.
Help us to see the world from your place among the victims. Enable us,
with Simon, to take our share in carrying your cross, which is also their
cross.*

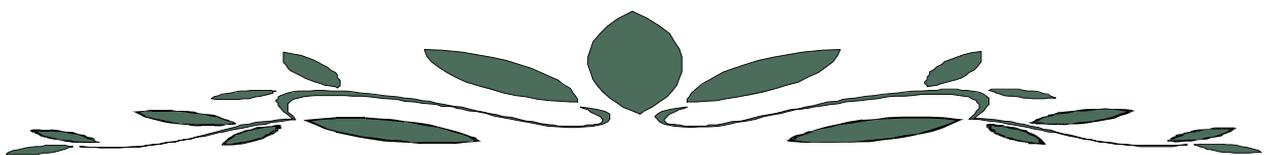
From At the Cross by Richard Bauckham & Trevor Hart

From the Treasurer

On or about 14th of each the first 3 months of this year, we have had a payment into our account of £10 with the reference starting with a BACS number and then 'Leslie Peter Gi'. Presumably the full name was on the original reference but has been truncated in transmission. I am afraid that I have not been able to identify the donor and our bank has no further information so I would be very grateful if the donor would contact me.

Many thanks

Ray Dunnett



SHAHBAZ BHATTI - PAKISTAN - A CHRISTIAN MARTYR

“ I am following the Cross and am ready to die”

The Pakistani minorities minister Shahbaz Bhatti, 42, was assassinated by gunmen outside his mother's home in Islamabad on 2 March for his unrelenting opposition to the country's Blasphemy Laws . He was the only Christian minister in a country where extremism and violence are everyday occurrences. He founded the Christian Liberation Front in 1985 while studying for his master's in political science and public administration at the University of Punjab in Lahore. This organisation sought to restore the rights of Pakistan's religious minorities and promote tolerance but met with violent opposition from the start. In addition he was very involved in prison visits, aid distribution, legal support, etc. He was a hands on activist, visiting and supporting Christians when they were subjected to attacks from local extremists. In 1992 CLF launched the first national campaign against the blasphemy laws, with Group Captain Cecil Chaudhry. In 2002 together with others they founded the All Pakistan Minorities Alliance with Shahbaz Bhatti being elected to lead the nationwide coalition of minority representatives and NGO's.

Shahbaz Bhatti received international awards for his leadership of CLF and APMA. Elected to the National Assembly in 2008 he became federal minister for minorities affairs, now a cabinet-level position for the first time. He succeeded in obtaining a 5% minorities quota in government jobs, the first minority seats in the Senate and a 24-hour helpline. He pioneered interfaith initiatives, speaking at large mosques at the invitation of senior imams and in July 2010 securing a groundbreaking joint statement from religious leaders denouncing terrorism. He launched a network of district interfaith harmony committees, encouraging dialogue and uniting communities through common concerns.

He lived with death threats and knew that he could well be killed by fanatics. One such had very recently killed the Governor of Punjab, Salmaan Taseer, who had opposed the Blasphemy Laws and in the eyes of fanatics deserved death because he had visited Asia Bibi, a mother of four, in prison; she had been sentenced to death for blasphemy. Two months before his death Shahbaz Bhatti taped a message to be released on his death. “When I am leading this campaign against the sharia law, for the abolishment of the blasphemy laws and speaking for the oppressed and marginalised persecuted Christian and other minorities, these Taliban threaten me, but I want to share that I believe in Jesus Christ, who has given his life for us. I know what is the meaning of the cross and I'm following the cross and I'm ready to die for a cause. I'm living for my community and suffering people and I will die to defend their rights so these threats and these warnings cannot change my opinion and principles.”

The gunmen who assassinated Shahbaz Bhatti scattered leaflets which said Bhatti deserved to die because he was an infidel Christian who dared to challenge Pakistan's blasphemy laws. Those following his example would meet a similar fate. “With the blessing of Allah, the mujahideen will pick you out one by one and send you to hell.”

That Shahbaz Bhatti was so highly thought of as a Christian, a politician, a human rights activist and defender was shown by the international condemnation which swiftly followed his assassination, from among others - Hilary Clinton and Barack Obama, Navi Pillay, Human Rights Office, United Nations, who called for the immediate reform of the draconian blasphemy laws. Shehrbano Taseer, daughter of Salmaan Taseer, has said that the state has abdicated its responsibilities. The majority of Pakistani politicians etc had fallen silent following her father's death, except for Shahbaz Bhatti. With the deaths of Salmaan Taseer and Shahbaz Bhatti, there are great fears for the safety of Sherry Rehman, the liberal parliamentarian from Karachi, who with the two men spearheaded efforts to reform the blasphemy laws. “Make no mistake: she is in grave danger, like nobody else.” She is living in near hiding and cannot appear in parliament. She has been advised by some senior government ministers to flee Pakistan but has refused to leave. The ruling Pakistan Peoples Party has very carefully avoided taking any action and has

abandoned politicians who support reform. There are worries in many circles that Pakistan's fragile democracy is in danger of succumbing to extremism.

From The Guardian - articles plus obituary

PLEASE SEND APPEALS TO:

The Minister of the Interior, Ministry of the Interior, R Block, PAK Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan (Dear Minister)

Copies can be sent to:

The High Commissioner, The High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 35-36 Lowndes Square, London SW1X 9NJ (Your Excellency)

SUGGESTED DRAFT LETTER:

I have learned with deep distress of the assassination on March 3 outside his mother's home in Islamabad of SHAHBAZ BHATTI, Minister for Minorities and a Christian, by gunmen driving a small white car. I understand that he had reportedly requested, because of constant death threats and the assassination of the Governor of Punjab, Salmaan Taseer, a bulletproof vehicle and a house in the heavily protected minister's enclave. These had not materialised. May I ask why measures to ensure the physical safety of this politician and human rights defender were not put into place?

I urgently call for a full and impartial inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the murder of Shahbaz Bhatti and the failure of the Government and the police to protect him when it was well known that his life was in danger, particularly after the assassination of Salmaan Taseer. I urge that those responsible are brought to justice. I also appeal for all necessary measures to be taken to ensure the safety of SHERRY RAHMAN, liberal M.P from Karachi, who with Shahbaz Bhatti and Salmaan Taseer called for the repeal of the Blasphemy Laws. I understand that she too is threatened with death and is now living in hiding.

The death of Shahbaz Bhatti is a great loss to Pakistan and especially to its minorities, who now feel they have no one to champion their rights either in Parliament or in local communities against the extremists of organisations such as Taliban al-Qaida Punjab.

Yours faithfully or Yours respectfully

BANGLADESH - JUSTICE AT LAST

In 1971 the Pakistan army fought to stop East Pakistan from breaking away from the country. It conducted a campaign of mass murder, rape and ethnic cleansing against the civilian population. In the last few days before independence Pakistani army officers organised the arrest and execution of at least 250 journalists, doctors, artists and university professors using right wing collaborators, the ratakars. There was no justice for the dead or their families.

The 1974 Delhi treaty prevented Bangladesh from charging Pakistani soldiers and officers responsible for the genocide. Their local collaborators, including those who colluded in the killing of intellectuals on 14 December 1971 were able to continue with their lives and in some cases to brag about their past as razzakers.

After waiting for four decades the victims of these atrocities and their families are finally getting justice and hopefully some sort of closure. In 2010 an international war crimes tribunal was set up. Prosecutors have begun collecting evidence in preparation for war crimes trials expected to take place later this year. Arrest warrants have been issued against five members of the far-right Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, which is accused of siding with the Pakistani army during the war. With the tribunal, the culture of impunity may finally come to an end, healing the deep wounds of the past.

From an article by Tahmima Anam

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

MANSOUR OSANLOO, IRAN,

President of Syndicate of Workers for Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company, arrested 2006 and then again in 2007; sentenced to 5 years imprisonment; he is held under extremely harsh conditions in the remote Rajaeishahr Prison; he is very sick and has had a number of heart attacks; when he is moved to hospital his hands and feet are shackled to the bed. (ACAT has campaigned for him on 2 previous occasions.)

SAMISONI TIKOINASAU (SAM SPEIGHT) FIJI,

and other human rights activists; he was detained and tortured over three days; other trade union leaders, politicians, journalists have also been arrested and subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

JIANG TIANYONG, TANG JITIAAN and TENG BIAO, CHINA,

human rights lawyers, arrested and held incommunicado in Beijing 16 and 19 February

DR AHMAD BIN SA'D AL GHAMDI, ABDUL AZIZ AL-WUHAIBI, MUHAMMAD BIN HUSSAIN AL-QAHTANI AND MUHAMMAD BIN NASSER AL-GHAMDI, SAUDI ARABIA

had been trying to register the Islamic Omma Party - the first in SAUDI ARABIA, arrested and held incommunicado in al-Ha'ir Prison

MIR HOSSEIN MOUSAVI, HIS WIFE, ZAHRA RAHMAVARD, MEHDI KARROUBI AND HIS WIFE, FATEMEH KARROUBI, IRAN,

leading opposition leaders and their wives, held under house arrest and then "disappeared"

CLEMENT SHAHBAZ BHATTI, PAKISTAN,

Christian Minister for Minorities, assassinated in Islamabad on 3 March because of his opposition to the Blasphemy Laws - pray for his family and for the family of **SALMAAN TASEER**, Governor of Punjab, murdered in January because of his opposition to the Blasphemy Laws; for the safety of **SHERRY REHMAN**, liberal parliamentarian from Karachi, who supports reform of the Laws and who is now living in fear of assassination.

THE FAMILY OF QAMAR DAVID, PAKISTAN, and others sentenced to death for blasphemy or awaiting sentence - **ASIA BIBI, MARTHA BIBI, YOUNIS MASIH**

CHRISTMAS GREETING CAMPAIGN UPDATES

DR OSCAR BISSET

Dr Oscar Elias Biscet Gonzalez. Cuba who was included on the 2010 Christmas Greetings List, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Dr Biscet, a devout Christian and founder and president of the outlawed Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment in 2002 - he had previously been arrested many times, beaten, and tortured. He is held under very harsh conditions. His wife, Elsa has spoken of the great encouragement that the thousands of letters and cards have brought to all the family. (Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

DIMITRY SHESTAKOV, UZBEKISTAN,

Dimitry Shestakov, a Pentecostal Christian, was sentenced to 4 years in prison; he was included on ACAT's 2009 and 2010 Christmas Greetings List; he was held under very harsh conditions in a labour camp; he was released recently.

DEATH OF QAMAR DAVID, PAKISTAN

Authorities at Karachi Prison reported that **QAMAR DAVID**, 55, sentenced to life imprisonment in 2010 on charges of blasphemy, died on 15th March of a heart attack. He had been arrested in 2006 and charged

with blasphemy against the Prophet Mohammed by a business rival. This Christian prisoner was included on the Christmas Greetings List for 2010. Prisoners sentenced under the Blasphemy Laws live in constant fear of assassination either by the guards or other prisoners. Campaigners, including his lawyer, are doubtful that Qamar David died of natural causes and have raised the issue of murder. He and his lawyer received death threats during the trial. Over 20 prisoners have been murdered in prisons, courthouses and on the way to court in the last few years.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Lieutenant Colonel Kibibi Mutaware has been convicted in a military court of crimes against humanity and sentenced to 20 years in prison, for ordering an attack on a village in which dozens of women were raped. This is the first conviction of a commanding officer for rape in eastern DRC. Three officers who took part in the attack were given 20 year sentences and five more were given sentences of between 10 and 15 years. One officer was acquitted. 49 women came to court to testify at the trial and it is largely thanks to them and their courage that the officers were convicted.

The attack took place in Fizi, a village in South Kivu province on 1st January 2011, when soldiers took revenge for the death of a soldier in a brawl. In addition to the rapes, the soldiers looted and subjected the villagers to inhumane and degrading treatment.

PRAYER VIGIL - FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me
The Vigil, which marks United Nations Day of Support for Victims of Torture is organised by ACAT France. It will take place on the night of 25/26 June, from 8.00 pm on Saturday to 8.00 am on Sunday. Members, groups and churches are encouraged to take part in this very important Vigil when we pray for the victims, their families and communities, as well as for those who commit acts of torture. As Christians we believe in the power of prayer. We are certain that prayer can change lives and even the most difficult of situations, bring comfort and hope to those in despair in the torture chambers of the world and to their loved ones. It can drive away the fear of those human rights defenders, at the forefront of the battle for justice and human rights, knowing that they are not alone. We, as Christians stand alongside them and know that God in His mercy, will answer our prayers. In the next Newsletter we will provide a sheet with prayers and names, which can be used to help focus individual prayer - if you are on your own what about praying for 5 or 10 minutes or asking friends to join you? You can do this in your front room! ACAT and J & P Groups and churches are encouraged to hold their own vigil or services either on the specific night or sometime during the week leading up to the 25th. Ministers could be asked to remember the tortured during Sunday intercessions.

Services and materials will be available for these, free from the office. - these can be used as they stand, to provide ideas or adapted. Flyers will be sent out advertising the event in the next few weeks - members and groups will be asked to publicise the Vigil by distributing these. This is one occasion when we can tell Christians and churches about our work- our campaigning and prayer. This is our opportunity to make ACAT truly a "Powerhouse of Prayer."

Prayer materials should be available free from the office at the beginning of May.

Materials and Intercession for Group and Individual Use
Prayer and Meditation for Group and Individual Use
Prayer Leaflets
Order of Prayer for the Tortured
Prayer Sheet with names etc
Case sheets

At the moment we do not have any details from ACAT France, other than the date of the Vigil so do not know what this year's theme will be.

DO PLEASE TAKE PART IN THE VIGIL AND ENCOURAGE OTHER CHRISTIANS TO JOIN YOU. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS IN IRAQ

One of our members, Steve Goddard, a former ACAT Treasurer, wrote to his M.P asking what action the British Government had taken concerning attacks on Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad in October and on Christian communities in November.

The appropriate Minister, Alistair Burt, replied with details of actions taken including a statement by the British Ambassador. The Foreign Secretary raised the issue in November with the Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs, who agreed that the protection of Christians was the Iraqi Government's responsibility. The Prime Minister also spoke on the phone with the Iraqi Prime Minister, who welcomed UK support. Alistair Burt visited Iraq in November and met senior Christian figures. He also urged leading government figures to improve the protection of Christian and other minority communities. The good news is that the Iraqi Interior Ministry announced on 7 January that it is drawing up a comprehensive plan to protect churches and Christian communities in Baghdad and other areas in the country. The President has also announced the formation of an "Office of Christian Affairs" to look at conditions for Christians in Iraq. In addition a parliamentary committee under the leadership of a Christian M.P. has also been set up to address the official reaction to the recent attacks. The UK Government continues to press Iraq to bring to justice those responsible for the atrocities.

This was a very encouraging reply and shows that the UK Government has made a considerable number of representations over this issue. It also makes similar representations to other countries where abuses occur. We should all take heart from this and think about writing to our M.P's more often on human rights issues

DR BINAYAK SEN, INDIA (Feb/Mar Newsletter)

Dr Binayek Sen was sentenced to life imprisonment in December following charges of sedition and conspiracy and links with the Naxalite Maoist guerrilla movement in Chhattisgarh State. He has been a pioneer in health care to the marginalised and is an important human rights activist. Since his sentence, a campaign has been mounted in his support, which includes the endorsement of 9 past Presidents of India's three Academies of Science, together with a group of 40 Nobel Laureates. A further 6 more Nobel laureates have now signed. A review of his conviction is pending in the High Court of Chhattisgarh. He is held in the high security area of Raipur Central Prison.

LIFE SENTENCE FOR FORMER ARGENTINIAN DICTATOR

President Jorge Videla, former Argentinian dictator, in his 80's, has been sentenced to life imprisonment, together with almost two dozen other leaders of the junta. He had previously been sentenced to life imprisonment but had only served 5 years. The current President, Cristina Kerchner, decided that justice had not been done, following the end of the dictatorship and encouraged the setting up of further inquiries and trials and an end to a culture of impunity.

We may feel that that after such a lapse of time it is not important to expose the truth and "to let the dead bury their dead". There is, however no true reconciliation without justice no matter how long it takes. The abuses and atrocities must be acknowledged and the perpetrators given proportionate punishment.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Private Bradley Manning, 23, a US soldier accused of providing sensitive information to Wikileaks - this information hit the headlines in the US and in the UK and other European countries- has been arrested and is held in punitive pre-trial conditions. He is classed as a "maximum custody" detainee. He is kept in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day, deprived of bedding and personal possessions since July last year.

In addition he is forced to parade naked each morning before the orderly officer. His legs and arms are shackled during visits and he is subject to other restrictions under a Prevention of Injury regulation, although he has no history of violence. This is appalling and gratuitous ill-treatment.

MEMBERS PAGE

THANK YOU VERONICA!

Veronica Yarwood, who lives in Cumbria, has recently produced two articles for Diocesan newspapers and for the area Churches Together. She has also spoken to a district focus group

If other members or groups would like to do something similar but do not have sufficient information, do please contact the office - we can supply details about ACAT and its work, together with articles of varying size, on aspects of torture; leaflets and other publicity materials are available free from the office. We also have posters etc suitable for a display - these can be borrowed. What about a few ACAT leaflets placed at the back of your church, if it has a display area? In addition we now have a power point presentation and can provide a speaker.

FROM STEPHANIE JEFFORD

Rt Rev Derek Rawcliffe OBE (1921 -2011)

It was with great sadness that I learned of the sudden death, on February 1 of Bishop Derek (as we knew him) who was 89. Following the Requiem Mass celebrating his life just under a fortnight later, I learned yet more about this extraordinary man, who was a great supporter of human rights.

He went out on the Melanesian Mission to the South Pacific as a young man where he remained for 32 years in the Solomon Islands and later in the New Hebrides. He became the first Bishop of the New Hebrides until his return to the UK in 1980 and the Scottish Episcopal Church. He was then elected Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. After 10 years there he became Assistant Bishop of Ripon, retiring in the 1990's to the Harehills district of Leeds.

It was in Leeds that I got to know him. He remained very much committed to human rights, opposing racism and all forms of hatred and joining me in clemency efforts in relation to death row prisoners in several US states. He was particularly concerned about the plight of those sentenced as juveniles (before the practice was outlawed in 2005) and the severely mentally ill. It seemed incredible to him that some in the latter category were actually being treated with drugs, only to have the improvement in their conditions used by the authorities to justify seeking the imposition of the death penalty against them, on the basis that they now came within the legal threshold of sanity. He supported and encouraged my own work within ACAT UK. Of our joint efforts, I used to say that "I contributed the legal knowledge, he the wisdom"! He was active in so many other local spheres, appreciating the importance of all Christians working together. A gentle unassuming man with a serene presence, he was unfailingly kind and generous. I shall remember his friendship as a privilege. The Requiem Mass at St Aidan's on Roundhay Road, in Leeds was attended by people from all over the city, the UK and the world.

I once saw an article about him headed "Derek's love of God shines out in all he does!" Nobody who knew him would have any problem with that statement.

Stephanie, from what she has written was profoundly influenced by Bishop Derek, and greatly valued his friendship. Who in the field of human rights has influenced you? It may not be someone known to you

personally but someone whose work for human rights made you decide to become a member of ACAT and make a difference. We would welcome your accounts for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter.

Prayer and Reflection for Good Friday and Easter

Out of the depth I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice.

Lord,
Through your death and resurrection
you have broken the hold of evil in our
world
to proclaim justice for those who are
tormented,
tortured and destroyed by other men's
cruelty
and greed for power.
We pray to you that all those who suffer
will
swiftly find peace, comfort and freedom,
and renew our hearts to work for their
cause.
We ask this in your Name. Amen

Lord,
Help us to see in the groaning of creation
not death throes but birth pangs;
help us to see in suffering a promise
for the future, because it is a cry
against
the inhumanity of the present.
Help us to glimpse in protest the dawn of
justice,
in the Cross the pathway to resurrection,
and in suffering the seeds of joy.
Ruben Alves Brazil

(For those in solitary confinement the
darkness can be taken literally or as
a symbol of their isolation and distress)
Father, you are a God who lies hidden

and yet there is nowhere cut off from your
Presence,
No-one who can be locked away from your
care.
Do not remain hidden from those
who have been shut away by their fellow
men
in the loneliness and isolation
of solitary confinement.
Even the darkness is not darkness for you,
and the night is as clear as the day.
Even in the darkest dungeon,
even behind the bars and the bolted doors
of the smallest prison cell,
your hand is there to lead them
and hold them fast.
Be with them now
as their light and hope in the darkness,
your Spirit of courage and strength.
Warm them with your presence and your
love
and show them that they are never alone,
for you are with them always.
Amen.

Bishop Trevor Huddleston, who campaigned
against the evils of apartheid, and wrote
"Naught for your Comfort" once said:-
I have found Jesus where every Christian
should expect to find him;
in the darkness, in the fear, in the blinding
weariness of Calvary.
And Calvary is but one step from the Empty
Tomb.

We cannot take the full measure of the
world's
sorrows,
but Christ has risen and Christ will triumph;
the world's evil will be swallowed
up in the goodness of our God;
the clamour of war will be

silenced by the peace of our God;
the despair of
humanity in all its need will be overruled
by the hope which Christ inspires

*He is Risen from the
dead and He is Lord!*

A Final Thought

No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether state of war, threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture.

Article 2, 1984 Convention Against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

We hope you have found this newsletter interesting and challenging. Contributions from members (and others) are always welcome - particularly your activities for ACAT.

Please send any material hand written, typed, or e-mail

To:-

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<p>Please send material for the June 2011/July.2011 mailing to reach us by 15th May 2011</p>
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