

— by Peter Hammond

CHRISTOPHOBIA

ON RADIO



Kate Turkington Radio 702 talk show host

were killed for their faith. Christians have been beaten, imprisoned and killed for the 'crime' of being a Christian in Red China. In Sudan, Christians have been bombed, massacred and sold into slavery. In Indonesia Muslim mobs have wiped out entire villages of Christians. Christian missionaries have been targeted and assassinated in Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt."

Kate Turkington questioned that surely this was an exaggeration and the situation could not possibly be that bad. What were my sources she asked? As a missionary, who has been dedicated to serving persecuted Christians in restricted access areas over the last 26 years, I had personally witnessed the destruction of literally hundreds of churches. I personally had experienced aerial bombardments and artillery and rocket attacks on churches where I was preaching in Sudan.

Documenting the Facts

As for the statistics, The Christian World Encyclopedia, Voice of the Martyrs, Open Doors and numerous other organisations and websites provide exhaustive documentation of the persecution of Christians worldwide. "But surely," the presenter insisted, "these statistics cannot possibly be so high. Aren't we dealing with a few isolated exceptions?"

The Soviet Holocaust; Communist Carnage

"No," I insisted, "it is calculated that over 42-million Christians died at the hands of anti-Christian governments, mostly Communist regimes, in the 20th Century alone. The Black Book of Communism, written by ex-Communist leaders themselves, documents, using the Soviet Union's own archives, that under Joseph Stalin over 20-million Christians were slaughtered. Over one million Christians were murdered in Red China under Mao Tse Tung's purge. At least 300,000 Christians were murdered under Samora Machel's Frelimo regime in Mozambique..."

'Christians Deserve to be Persecuted'

Before I could give more statistics I was interrupted and told there were many callers waiting to challenge my assertions. She then read out several SMS's including one that stated: "It's good that Christians are being persecuted. Christians deserve everything they are getting!" The first caller identified himself as 'Muhammad' and he stated that Christians should expect to be persecuted as they are a minority in another country which holds a different religion. "Why do Christians go to countries which have another religion? They are bringing this upon themselves."

Hostile opinions

When I had the opportunity to respond I pointed out that one cannot say that the Christians in Sudan are foreigners who have come into Sudan to interfere. For many centuries Black Christians were the majority in Northern Sudan. Christianity long pre-dated Islam in Sudan and was already established there in the 1st Century. For nine centuries the Black Christians in Sudan managed to resist the Arab invasions and, when they finally crumbled before the Islamic offensives, a remnant of Christians continued to hold on tenaciously to their Faith. Today they are suffering Jihad from the National Islamic Front government which has been trying to eradicate their Faith. As far as comparing the persecution of Christians in Indonesia with possible discrimination that some Muslims were experiencing in the USA, I did not think it was morally equivalent to dismiss the beheading of Christian school girls in Indonesia, by referring to some discrimination that individual Muslims may experience at the hands of some citizens in the USA.

Many of our freedoms are at risk. There is a rising tide of anti-Christian intolerance worldwide.

an explosive reaction. How could I suggest that anyone has ever been killed in the name of Atheism?

Humanism: The Greatest Killer

Far more people have been killed in the name of Atheism than by all other religions combined. The 20th Century has been the bloodiest century of all. Secular Humanism has proven to be the most destructive religion of all time. In the name of Atheism and Evolution, Secular states, with Humanism as their state ideology Marxist regimes, such as the Soviet Union, slaughtered tens of millions of their own citizens. We are not talking about soldiers killed in war by foreign invaders. We are talking about unarmed civilians being massacred by their own governments, mostly in peace times. Death By Government and The Black Book of Communism document conclusively that, in the name of Atheism, Secular Humanist governments killed over 160 million of their own citizens - in the 20th Century alone.

"If the world hates you, remember that it hated Me before." John 15:18a

Another caller related how a Hindu girl at a local school had asked a Christian scholar whether she really needed to believe in Jesus in order to go to Heaven. The caller was most irate as she related that the Christian child had told this Hindu girl that Jesus is "the Way, the Truth and the Life". We are not here talking about some teacher forcing a certain party line on students, but a conversation between individual scholars. Was she really suggesting that governments should legislate and interfere with personal opinions, privately expressed?

What About Religious Freedom?

Surely we must uphold freedom of speech, freedom of opinion and freedom of religion. Religious freedom was a Christian innovation. It came out of the Protestant Reformation. Throughout history, in every culture, civilisation and religion, people were expected to conform to whatever the state religion demanded.

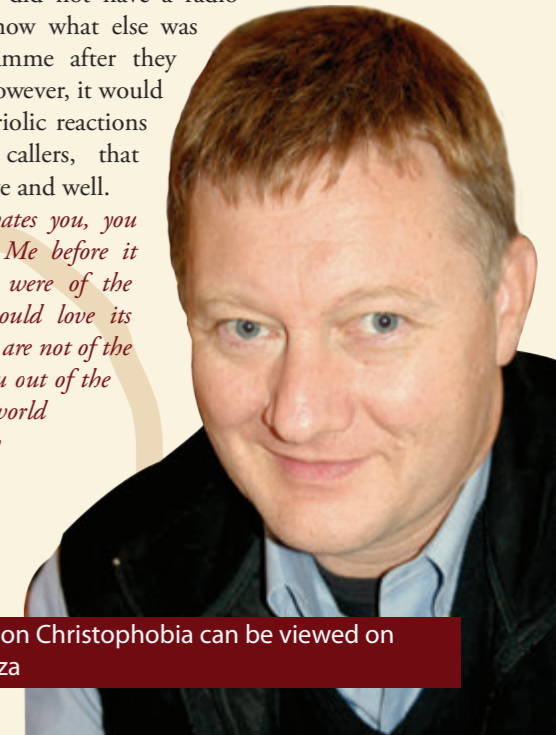
Misinformed listeners

Another caller opined: "Christians can also be irrational. If Christians obtained power then they would do the same abuses of power as everyone else." Before the Protestant Reformation authoritarianism prevailed, whatever the chief, king, pharaoh, caesar or emperor said, was law. However, the Protestant Reformation introduced the whole concept of the Rule of Law, Constitutional Authority, Representative Governments and Separation of Powers. It is a fruit of Christianity that some countries have the opportunity to peacefully replace their governments, while many examples could be cited of Atheist states murdering millions. To this there was quite

Persecuted for Christ is our joy

It was about this time that I was informed that my contribution was over and someone came on the line to thank me for my participation. As I did not have a radio available, I don't know what else was said on the programme after they disconnected me. However, it would appear from the vitriolic reactions of many of the callers, that Christophobia is alive and well.

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you...If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you..." John 15:18-20 ■



The original article on Christophobia can be viewed on www.frontline.org.za

Chris-t-o-pho-bi-a n.

- An abnormal fear or hatred of Christ, Christians and Christianity.
- Anti-Christian sentiment can be held by individuals or groups, and may be the result of fanaticism or bigotry leading to prejudice or discrimination.
- Christophobia is rife worldwide but especially in Turkey, India, China, United Kingdom, United States, Canada

Recently I participated in Radio 702's programme, Believe It Or Not. The subject was Christophobia. Little did I realise that the explosive, and mostly hostile, reactions from callers would demonstrate the reality of Christophobia better than anything I could have said on the programme.

What is Christophobia?

The programme host, Kate Turkington, began by expressing her surprise that I had written an article on the subject of Christophobia. She said that she had never heard of such a thing and challenged me to justify the statement from my article on the www.christianaction.org.za website: "Many of our freedoms are at risk. There is a rising tide of anti-Christian intolerance."

The World Wide War Against Christianity

"There is a growing worldwide war against Christianity. Last year over 160,000 Christians

