

## A Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Heavenly Father,

You have asked us to take care of Your children who suffer hardship. We pray that You will open our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters and that You will put compassion in our hearts. Help us to share the good gifts You have given us with others and act according to Your will.

We lift up to You those who have to pay the price for following You. May Your love and Your presence surround them at all times. May they take heart and be at peace because they know that You have overcome the world. We thank You for their faith, that despite persecution and hardship, they place their trust in You. We pray that their faithfulness will inspire us to follow You more closely and surrender all to You.

In Jesus' precious Name,

Amen

## Original new song "You"

A Barnabas Fund supporter in Australia, singer/songwriter Claire Hazzard, sent us one of her latest songs (due to be released at the end of 2008) which speaks directly about our responsibility to the persecuted Church and ties in perfectly with this year's theme for Suffering Church Sunday. Claire's passion is "to challenge the mediocrity of westernised Christianity and to encourage believers to take seriously Jesus' call to true discipleship". We have printed the lyrics here, and you can download and listen to the song on our website [www.barnabasfund.org/scs](http://www.barnabasfund.org/scs). It is a great song to start off or end your Suffering Church Sunday service.

### You

#### For the persecuted church

Well I know I spend a bit too much on clothes  
 And I must admit I care a bit too much about my hair  
 And it's true I eat my food for taste or comfort not for hunger  
 I am sorry that I live my life as if you were not there

When you, you wonder if you'll wake each day  
 And you, you gather secretly to pray  
 And you, you know that death's a part of living  
 And you are my sister and my brother  
 So maybe I could pray a little harder

A picture of you flashes through my mind  
 As I think about the way you live and die each day  
 But I am so comfortably removed from your situation  
 It is not hard to forget about the price you pay

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## Suffering Church Sunday offering

You can help us to care for our Lord's "little ones" – our brothers and sisters in Christ. Barnabas Fund provided means to feed over 40,000 Christians in the year to June 2008. With your help, we will be able to feed even more. Please consider taking up a Suffering Church Sunday offering, either for our **general feeding fund** or for feeding Christians in particular countries:

**Feeding Fund** (00-636)

**Iraq** (20-246)

**Iraqi refugees in Syria and Jordan** (20-383)

**Egypt** (11-220)

**Holy Land** (65-377)

**Pakistan** (41-331)

**Darfur, Sudan** (48-511)

**Zimbabwe** (91-721)

## Suggested songs for your service

#### **Lord, speak to me that I may speak**

(Frances R. Havergal, *Christian Worship* 484)

#### **Help us to help each other, Lord**

(Charles Wesley, *Methodist hymnbook* 717)

#### **Beauty for brokenness**

(Graham Kendrick, *Songs of Fellowship* 664)

#### **Brother let me be your servant**

(Richard Gillard, *Songs of Fellowship* 54)

#### **Who can sound the depths of sorrow?**

(Graham Kendrick, *Songs of Fellowship* 604)

#### **From heaven you came**

(Graham Kendrick, *Songs of Fellowship* 120)

#### **Blessed be your name**

(Matt Redman)

#### **So come (You have taken the precious)**

(Tom Davis & Kevin Prosch, *Songs of Fellowship* 1138)