



Suffering Church Action
and Awareness Week

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER – SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER
INFORMATION AND RESOURCES INSIDE FOR
YOU AND YOUR CHURCH TO GET INVOLVED

barnabasaid

You can
**bring
hope**

This is your
chance to share
the needs of our
suffering family

WE WORK BY:

- directing our aid only to Christians, although its benefits may not be exclusive to them (“As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**” Galatians 6:10, emphasis added)
- channeling money **from** Christians **through** Christians **to** Christians (we do not send people, we only send money or goods e.g. food)
- channeling money through existing structures in the countries where funds are sent (e.g. local churches or Christian organizations)
- using the money to fund projects which have been developed by local Christians in their own communities, countries or regions
- considering any request, however small
- acting as equal partners with the persecuted Church, whose leaders often help shape our overall direction.

WE SEEK TO:

- meet both practical and spiritual needs
- encourage, strengthen and enable the existing local Church and Christian communities – so they can maintain their presence and witness rather than setting up our own structures or sending out missionaries
- inform and enable Christians in the West to respond to the growing challenge of other religions and ideologies to Church, society and mission in their own countries
- facilitate global intercession for the suffering Church by providing a range of prayer materials
- safeguard and protect our volunteers, staff, partners and beneficiaries
- keep our overheads low.

WE BELIEVE:

- in the clear Biblical teaching that Christians should treat all people of all faiths with love and compassion, even those who seek to persecute them
- in the power of prayer to change people’s lives and situations, either through grace to endure or through deliverance from suffering.

CONTACT

International Headquarters

The Old Rectory, River Street,
Pewsey, Wiltshire,
SN9 5DB, United Kingdom
Telephone 01672 564938
Email info@barnabasaid.org
Fax 01672 565030

USA Office

80 Abbeyville Road,
Lancaster, PA 17603
Telephone 703-288-1681
or toll-free 866-936-2525
Email usa@barnabasaid.org

Published by Barnabas Aid
1934 Old Gallows Road Suite 350,
Vienna, VA 22182, USA
Email usa@barnabasaid.org

© Barnabas Aid 2024

For permission to reproduce articles from this magazine, please contact the International Headquarters address (above right).

To guard the safety of Christians in hostile environments, names may have been changed or omitted. Thank you for your understanding.

Every effort has been made to trace copyright holders and obtain permission for stories and images used in this publication. Barnabas Aid apologizes for any errors or omissions and will be grateful for any further information regarding copyright.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New International

Version®, NIV®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.
www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Front Cover: A Barnabas volunteer getting involved at an event and raising awareness about the suffering Church

NAE | National Association of
Evangelicals



Enhancing Trust





**Suffering Church Action
and Awareness Week**
27 Oct - 3 Nov

Remembering those who are mistreated

Each year Barnabas Aid observes Suffering Church Action and Awareness Week (SCAAW). This year SCAAW begins on Sunday 27 October and runs until Sunday 3 November.

The purpose of SCAAW is to provide an opportunity for Barnabas supporters to remember our persecuted and suffering brothers and sisters, just as the writer to the Hebrews instructs. We should remember those who are imprisoned, those who are marginalised and those who are threatened with violence all because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In this way, the writer says, we show love to those who are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

SCAAW resources

In this special edition of the *Barnabas Aid* magazine, you will find all the resources you need for SCAAW – whether a prayer meeting or Sunday service focusing on the persecuted Church, another event highlighting the plight of suffering Christians, or for your own personal use.

- **On pages 4-10**, we explain **How and why Christians suffer persecution**. Here you will find our map of just some of the places where Christians suffer violence, discrimination, imprisonment. In our regular “In Brief” section we share some recent examples of Christians who have been falsely accused, abducted or killed because of their faith.
- **Pages 11-18** focus on **How Barnabas helps**. We introduce the Scriptural basis for our work and give a brief overview of some of our projects. More detailed project reports and our regular “Compassion in Action” give further insight into how we seek to be of service.
- Finally, **on pages 19-23** we show **How you can respond** – in prayer, by raising awareness, by making a one-off or a regular donation, or by volunteering. We never cease to be grateful for all our supporters do!

Hope and confidence

Like the writer to the Hebrews, our hope and our confidence is in the Lord who has declared that He will never forsake His people. We trust that the Lord will bless your prayers on behalf of our suffering Christian family, for His glory and for the good of His Church in all parts of the world.

“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters ... Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” – Hebrews 13:1, 3

“God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?’” – Hebrews 13:5b-6

Contents

Why are Christians persecuted?

4 Why are Christians persecuted?

The spiritual reasons for anti-Christian persecution

6 In Brief

Three Christian aid workers killed in Haiti

8 SCAAW map

Pray for Christians in lands of persecution



10 Children’s map

Encourage your children or grandchildren to join you in prayer



How Barnabas helps

11 How Barnabas helps

The Scriptural basis for the work of Barnabas Aid

14 Compassion in Action

Aid for Nigerian Christians widowed by terrorists

16 Myanmar

Believers give thanks for the gift of Bibles

18 food.gives

Vital aid for Christians in Fiji and Ukraine

How you can respond

19 Getting involved

How you can respond to the needs of suffering Christians

20 Living Streams

An introduction to our programme of regular giving

22 SCAAW song

Be inspired by our Barnabas song, “Soldier of Faith”



23 In Touch

New food.gives warehouse opens in Northern Ireland



“They will persecute you”

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” – John 15:18-20a



Survivors of anti-Christian violence in Middle Belt Nigeria

In a discourse that served as a farewell speech before He was arrested and crucified, the Lord Jesus Christ made it plain to His disciples that they too would endure the hatred of the world. This teaching was not just for the 11 who were with the Lord when He spoke these words, but for His followers throughout the ages. We no longer belong to the world; therefore, the world hates us as it hated Christ.

All Christians endure to some measure the scorn and opposition of the world. For many believers throughout history this scorn and opposition has taken on forms that we would recognise as persecution. This remains so for hundreds of thousands – even millions – of our brothers and sisters in many parts of the world at this very moment.

The ultimate reason why the world persecutes the Church is because the world hates Christ. “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first” (John 15:18). In practice, this hatred is manifested in persecution of Christ’s representatives on earth – His followers. This persecution takes place in particular cultural, political, ideological and religious contexts, and proceeds from different sources.

A world of hatred

The world’s philosophies, ideologies and religions all come into conflict with each other, but all share a hatred for the Lord and His people.

Islamism is a common source of anti-Christian persecution. In its most extreme form – the Salafi-jihadism of Al Qaeda and Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh), among others – Islamists rejoice in the murder of Christians. Classical Islam teaches that Christians (and Jewish people) should be subjugated. Not all Muslims want to attack or kill Christians, but anti-Christian attitudes do persist within Muslim communities. Converts from Islam are a particular target.

Other religions also have extremist elements. Many Christians have been killed or displaced by the Buddhist-nationalist military of Myanmar, to name just one example.

Communist authoritarianism is another notable source of anti-Christian persecution: believers face restrictions in China, Laos and Vietnam. Totalitarian North Korea maintains zero tolerance for any belief not sanctioned by the state, with Christians often receiving the harshest treatment in prisons and labour camps where they are abused, starved and tortured until they die.

Persecution is often the result of government policy. It comes also from communities – neighbours, colleagues and family members – and terrorist groups. Believers may be ostracised or subjugated, denied access to necessities such as clean

drinking water, falsely accused and imprisoned, or killed for their faith. Only the Lord knows how many Christians throughout the history of the Church have joined the company of martyrs who stand before Him (Revelation 6:9-11).

A prayerful response

On pp.8-9 you will find a map highlighting just some of the world’s hotspots of anti-Christian persecution. Our hope is that this information will help you to pray for your suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.

For more information, you can download our booklet *Praying for the Suffering Church* at barnabasaid.org/pray/praying-for-the-persecuted-church, or request a copy of the booklet from your local Barnabas Aid office (see inside front cover for contact details).



The home of Shahbaz and Hinna was burned down by an extremist mob during anti-Christian riots in the Jaranwala area of Punjab, Pakistan, in August 2023. At least 24 church buildings were set on fire and more than 100 homes belonging to Christians were burned, looted or vandalised. Barnabas supplied emergency aid to more than 1,000 believers affected by the violence

Three Christian aid workers attacked and killed by gangs

HAITI

Three Christians have been killed in a gang ambush in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince.

Davy Lloyd, 23, and his wife Natalie, 21, a missionary couple from the US, worked for the Christian organisation Missions in Haiti, which was founded by Davy's parents in 2000.

The couple were shot dead on 23 May alongside Jude Montis, a Haitian national who had worked for Missions in Haiti for 20 years.

The three were attacked when they were leaving church with a group of children. Three trucks full of gang

members ambushed them and robbed them, leaving them tied up. They escaped to a house connected to their mission to take cover, as more gang members arrived. The gang members shot at the house, killing all three Christians.

Haiti is currently experiencing surging violence and insecurity, as rival armed gangs control more than 80% of Port-au-Prince.

Approximately 362,000 Haitians have been displaced by the violence and insecurity, and in the first three months of 2024 alone, more than 1,500 people were killed by gang violence.



Davy and Natalie Lloyd had been serving their mission for a year when they were attacked and killed by Haitian gangs [Image credit: Missions in Haiti Inc.]

Six believers arrested at pastor's home

LAOS

Village authorities in Tahae village, Khammouane Province, central Laos, arrested six Christians meeting at the pastor's home.

Officials made the arrests on orders by village chief Mr Lang at around 10am on 22 June. Along with Pastor Mum, five believers also arrested were Mr Liang (aged 40), Mr Pa (24), Ms Laen (50), Ms Lan (23) and Ms Khoon (28). The group

were meeting for prayer to prepare for the Sunday worship planned for the following day.

The church served by Pastor Mum has grown to around 40-50 believers since 2019 and had met regularly without harassment until Mr Lang was appointed as village chief in May 2024.

At the time of writing no formal charges against the six believers have been issued.

Church minister released after two weeks in captivity

NIGERIA

A church minister in Zamfara State, Nigeria, regained his freedom two weeks after being captured by armed militants.

Mikah Suleiman was kidnapped when gunmen stormed his home in the city of Gusau at around 3am on 22 June. His captors subsequently released a video in which he urgently pleaded for assistance.

Mikah's release was announced in a statement issued on Sunday 7 July. Church spokesman Pascal Salifu said, "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to God for His protection and to everyone who offered prayers and support during this challenging time."

Mikah published a video declaring that he was in good health, saying, "I want to thank you for your prayers and your support towards my rescue. By the grace of God, I am out of the hands of the bandits. Thank you very much."

Pastor killed on return from church

UGANDA

Ugandan pastor Richard Malinga has been attacked and killed while travelling home from church.

The 36-year-old had been conducting prayer sessions with his congregants in Pallisa District, around 130 miles north-east of the capital Kampala, when he was attacked as he rode home by motorbike on 17 June.

The pastor suffered multiple head injuries and his body was found on the road the next morning. His motorbike had been stolen.

Authorities say that this is not the first incident of its kind. A few months earlier, a teacher was killed in a similar ambush.

Two Christians handed lengthy prison sentences

IRAN

An Iranian convert from Islam was sentenced to five years in prison after he was judged to be “acting against national security”.

Esmaeil Narimanpour was sentenced by a court in Ahvaz, western Iran, on 28 May, and at the time of writing was awaiting the summons to begin his sentence.

Unlike the historic Armenian- and Assyrian-speaking Christian communities of Iran, Farsi (Persian)-speaking Christians such as Esmaeil are converts from Islam – that is, apostates – and therefore punishable according to Islamic law.

Esmaeil was one of nearly 50 Christians arrested over the Christmas period. His arrest came on 24 December 2023, when his home in Dezful was raided in a search without a warrant and his Christian books were confiscated. He was held in Ahvaz, around 100 miles south of Dezful, for more than four months, and eventually released on 30 April, on a bail of more than £8,000 (\$10,000; €9,300).

Esmaeil was among several converts cleared of “propaganda” charges in 2021 (see “In Brief”, March/April 2022) but subsequently forced to attend Islamic classes even though the judge ruled that conversion to a different religion was not punishable under the laws of Iran.

In a separate case, a Christian Armenian citizen was given a ten-year prison sentence for supposed “proselytising”, a charge for which there was no significant evidence.

Hakop Gochumyan and his wife Elisa were arrested by intelligence agents during their holiday in Iran in August 2023 and accused of participation in “illegal Christian activities”.

Hakop and Elisa were held at the notorious Evin Prison in Tehran where they are reported to have been placed in solitary confinement and subjected to intense psychological torture. Elisa was released on bail in October 2023, but Hakop remained in captivity.



Hakop was sentenced to ten years in prison [Image credit: Article 18]

Hakop was found guilty of “engaging in deviant proselytising activity that contradicts the sacred law of Islam” through “a network of evangelical Christianity”.

This appears to result from his possession of seven Farsi language New Testaments, visits to Armenian churches and a visit to a Farsi-speaking “house church”.

The ten-year sentence was given in February 2024 and was first reported in June after Hakop’s appeal failed.

Elderly Christian man dies after attack by Muslim extremists

PAKISTAN

An elderly Pakistani Christian died in hospital nine days after he was attacked by Muslim extremists in Sargodha, Punjab province.

Nazir Masih, who was in his 70s, was beaten and stoned by the mob of extremists on 25 May following unsubstantiated allegations that he had desecrated a Quran.

The mob attacked Nazir outside his house. They also set fire to the house and to a shoe shop owned by his family, as well as attacking and damaging the homes of other Christians in Sargodha city’s Mujahid Colony.

Police are reported to have arrested more than 100 suspects for the attack and for mob violence.

Punjab’s Home Secretary Noorul Amin Mengal ordered an investigation

into the violence. “Pakistan belongs to all of us; no injustice will be tolerated under the guise of religion,” he said. “Action will be taken according to the law after a complete investigation.”

Elsewhere in Punjab province, a vulnerable Christian woman was arrested for alleged “blasphemy” against Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, following an accusation made by a shopkeeper.

Jamila Jacob, who has mental health problems, was charged under Section 295-C of the Pakistan Penal Code, which carries a mandatory death sentence.

The shopkeeper claimed Jamila made derogatory remarks against Islam after becoming unhappy over a brand of shampoo on sale; however, this was disputed by eyewitnesses.

Pakistan’s “blasphemy” laws are often used to make false accusations in order to settle personal grudges.



Flames engulf the shoe shop belonging to Nazir Masih’s family [image credit: X video]

Hotspots of Chris



You can use this in your church or prayer group

This map shows just some of the places of persecution. We hope this will help

Afghanistan

When the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021 they gave Christians there three choices: leave, return to Islam, or be killed. Those who were able to fled. An unknown number, who will be killed if discovered, remain as secret believers.



Key prayer: For Christians who are at constant risk of death if their faith is discovered.

Saudi Arabia

Leaving Islam is punishable by death, meaning that those who convert to Christianity could be executed for their faith (though there have been no known executions for apostasy in recent times). The estimated million Christians who work as expats in Saudi Arabia face restrictions on worship and are prohibited from sharing their faith with Muslims.



Key prayer: For secret believers who may be killed by family or former friends, or arrested by the authorities, if discovered.

Nigeria

An estimated 45,000 Christians have been killed in Islamist violence across northern and Middle Belt Nigeria since 2009. There are mass graves throughout areas such as Kaduna and Plateau states, with no sign of any end to the violence.



Key prayer: For the survival of the embattled Church in Nigeria, and that the Lord's people will continue to trust in Him through times of severe difficulty and hardship.

D. R. Congo

An estimated 5,500 Christians have lost their lives to Islamic State-affiliated militants since October 2017. The militants attack believers in the north-eastern states of Ituri and North Kivu, as well as launching armed assaults in western Uganda.



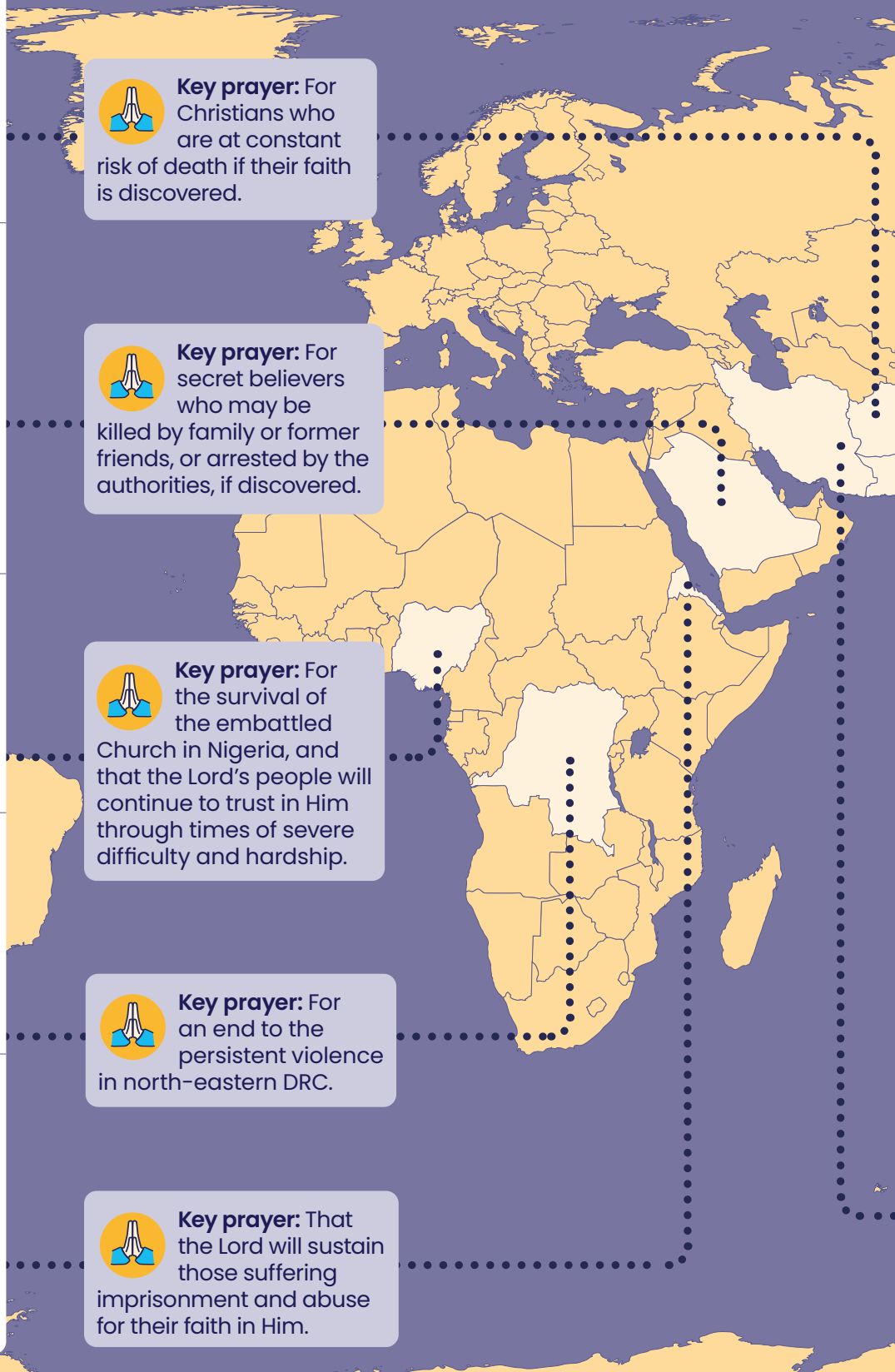
Key prayer: For an end to the persistent violence in north-eastern DRC.

Eritrea

Christians outside of Eritrea's three legally permitted denominations (Eritrean Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Lutheran) are often subject to arrest and imprisonment without trial. Believers, and especially church leaders, are subject to shocking mistreatment and abuse in Eritrea's prisons.

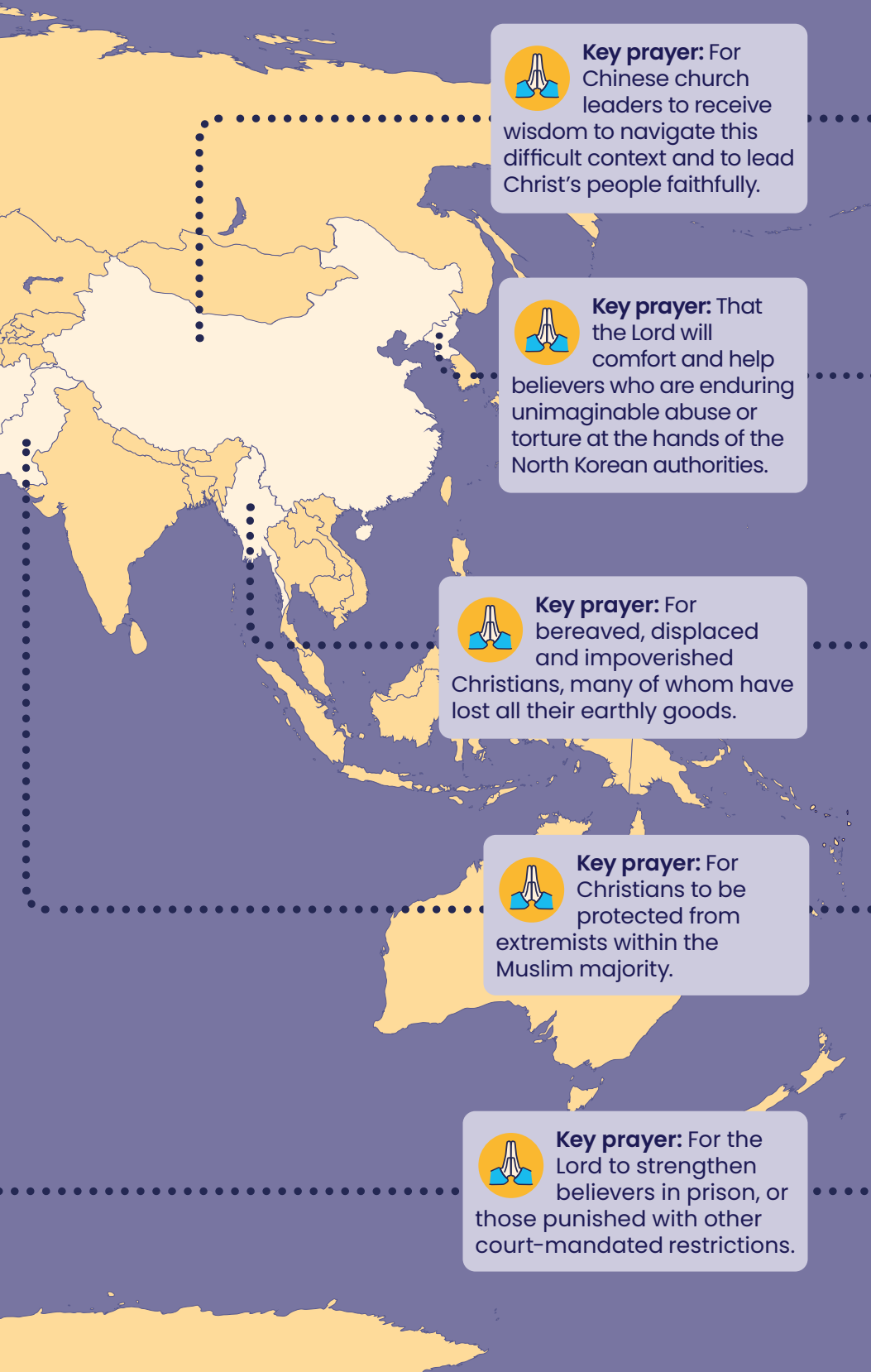


Key prayer: That the Lord will sustain those suffering imprisonment and abuse for their faith in Him.



Christian persecution

Places where Christians suffer high levels of persecution. Pray for our brothers and sisters.



Key prayer: For Chinese church leaders to receive wisdom to navigate this difficult context and to lead Christ's people faithfully.



Key prayer: That the Lord will comfort and help believers who are enduring unimaginable abuse or torture at the hands of the North Korean authorities.



Key prayer: For bereaved, displaced and impoverished Christians, many of whom have lost all their earthly goods.



Key prayer: For Christians to be protected from extremists within the Muslim majority.



Key prayer: For the Lord to strengthen believers in prison, or those punished with other court-mandated restrictions.



Download this and more resources at:

www.barnabasaid.org/scaaw

China

Pressure is increasing on church leaders in China's official churches to conform their teaching to that of the Chinese authorities. Many Christians belong instead to unofficial congregations. In some areas these congregations are tolerated, but in others churches can be raided and closed down.

North Korea

Praying, telling people about Jesus or owning a Bible are all examples of the "crimes" that can result in whole families being imprisoned and killed in North Korea. Christians in prisons and labour camps often receive even harsher treatment than other prisoners.

Myanmar

Repression of Myanmar's ethnic-minority Christians (including the Chin, Kachin and Karen people) has continued for many decades. Hundreds of believers have been killed and thousands displaced by the Buddhist-nationalist Myanmar military since the beginning of a civil war in February 2021.

Pakistan

Christians are a despised and marginalised minority in Muslim-majority Pakistan. One difficulty faced by believers is false accusations under Pakistan's notorious "blasphemy" laws. Such accusations can lead to mob violence and even the murder of Christians.

Iran

Christian worship and evangelism is forbidden among Iran's Farsi (Persian)-speaking majority. Farsi-speaking believers are converts from Islam who are often arrested on charges of illegal evangelism or on dubious national security grounds. Iran's prisons are notorious for abuse and ill-treatment.

Colouring-in Prayer Map



Pakistan: People in Pakistan sometimes tell lies about Christians. Christians can be attacked or arrested. Ask that God will protect the Christians from these lies.



Afghanistan: Many Christians have been forced to flee from Afghanistan. Those who remain must keep their faith secret to stay out of danger. Please pray that the Lord will protect them.



Saudi Arabia: It is a crime to stop being a Muslim in Saudi Arabia. This means that anybody who becomes a Christian could be arrested. Ask the Lord to help these new Christians.



Iran: In Iran new Christians can be arrested and put in prison. Pray that the Lord will look after them and keep them safe.



D. R. Congo: Terrorists in DRC often attack Christians. Ask the Lord to stop these attacks from happening.



Eritrea: Many Christians in Eritrea have been sent to prison where they are treated very badly. Please pray that they will be released.



China: Some churches in China are at risk of being closed down. Ask that God will comfort Christians who might feel worried or afraid.



Myanmar: Christians are often attacked by the army in Myanmar. Pray that there will be peace for Christians and all people there.



North Korea: In North Korea it is against the law to be a Christian. Many Christians are put in prisons where they are treated horribly. Ask the Lord to help them.



Nigeria: Christians in Nigeria are often attacked by terrorists. Pray that the Christians will continue to trust in God.



When you've prayed for a country, find it on the map and colour it in!

Download the map and other resources at www.barnabasaid.org/scaaw



“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need”

Nigerian believers forced by anti-Christian violence to flee from their homes receive Barnabas-funded emergency aid

“We have experienced ... the killing of women and children, the destruction of our villages with the aim of wiping us out because we are Christians,” said a pastor in Nigeria. “But we have also experienced love from Barnabas.”

These words of thanks came after Barnabas Aid provided food, sleeping mats, roofing sheets and other urgently needed supplies to 2,200 Nigerian believers who had been displaced by anti-Christian violence in 2022. It has been our joy and

privilege over many years to share with the Lord’s people wherever we are able to meet their need.

“Brothers and sisters who are far away continue to put us in their prayers and send food and materials to us,” the pastor added. “What more can we ask for?”

In the preceding pages we have sought to give you a bird’s-eye view of how Christians are persecuted and why they are persecuted. Now we shift our focus: how does Barnabas Aid respond, and why do we respond?

The family of believers

The words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans represent just one of the Biblical texts that provide a spiritual foundation for the work of Barnabas: “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need” (Romans 12:13).

Around the world there are millions of the Lord’s people who are in need, suffering from hunger and thirst, lack of medical care, denial of educational and employment opportunities, and other hardships – often because of persecution.

The Lord Jesus Christ makes clear the importance of sharing what we have with our brothers and sisters in need, making it the criterion of who will be declared righteous in the final judgement:

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite

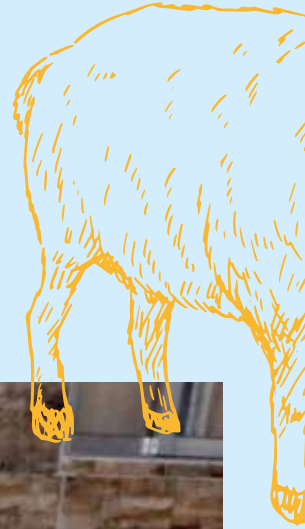
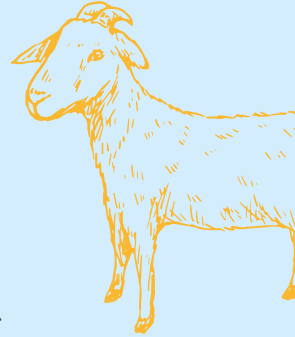
you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25: 34-40).

Salvation is of course by faith and not through good works – but the Apostle James reminds us that a true and living faith will result in good works (James 2:14-17), and the Lord Himself singles out meeting the needs of our suffering Christian family as a work of special significance.

This significance is again highlighted by the Apostle Paul, this time in the letter to the Galatians. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,” says Paul, adding: “especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10).

Scripture, then, is clear that Christians, as we have opportunity, should seek to meet the needs of our needy Christian brothers and sisters. The work of Barnabas is to help you to do just that. By making believers aware of the plight of their brothers and sisters in far-off lands, and partnering with Christian organisations in those lands who can help, we have created a channel by which your donations go from Christians, through Christians, to Christians.



An elderly believer in the Middle East received Barnabas-funded food aid



Boxes at one of our food.gives warehouses remind us of our spiritual purpose

How Barnabas helps

The needs of suffering and persecuted Christians are many and varied. For this reason our response is also varied. Your generous giving allows us to help in many different ways.

The most obvious form of persecution is violence. Through our Victims of Violence fund we meet the needs of those left injured, destitute or displaced after violent attack. In 2023 we provided food, bedding, hygiene kits and household goods to believers who had suffered mob violence in Jaranwala, Pakistan. We have recently provided relief to 182 Nigerian Christian widows whose husbands were killed by Islamist terrorists just months ago (see p.14).

In June 2015 we launched Operation Safe Havens to rescue Christians from Iraq and Syria who were suffering greatly at the hands of Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh). We still give practical help to displaced Middle Eastern believers today (see p.14).

Discrimination against Christians means that in many parts of the world our brothers and sisters are among the most impoverished and marginalised. We have funded feeding programmes for hungry Christians in various places, including Central Asia, Lebanon and Pakistan. Three years ago we launched food.gives, a Barnabas project that delivers food to where our brothers and sisters needed it the most. Since the start of 2024, we have provided more than 3,500,000 servings of food (see p.18).

As well as food we also provide for medical needs, funding clinics and health centres in India, Pakistan and Nigeria or providing medication for struggling Christians in Lebanon.

In order to break the cycle of poverty, we support Christian schools in several countries (109 schools in Pakistan alone) for Christian children who may otherwise go without formal education or face discrimination and harassment in the classroom. We also fund apprenticeships and vocational training, as well as the means for Christians to

start up their own small businesses in countries such as Egypt (see p.14) and Indonesia.

Earlier this year we launched Opportunity Africa, a new Barnabas project with the aim of helping Christian communities across sub-Saharan Africa become more resilient, self-sufficient and independent (see *Barnabas Aid*, May/June 2024, pp.6-10).

Believers in Christian-minority contexts are often the last to receive help in times of emergency. Our Disaster Relief Fund has allowed us to meet the urgent needs of Christian communities after natural disasters in locations as varied as Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Syria and Turkey.

Equally important are the spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters. We provide theological and leadership training across Africa, Asia and the Middle East through the Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life and The Shepherd's Academy. We fund the repair and refurbishment of church buildings in countries such as Uzbekistan. We provide Bibles for believers hungry for the Word of God (see pp.16-17).

These are just a few of the ways in which Barnabas Aid seeks to fulfil the Biblical call, "Share with the Lord's people who are in need."

Thankful to the Lord

Barnabas Aid has been at work for more than 30 years. Yet any success we have seen in that time cannot ultimately be credited to us. It is the work of the Lord, on whom we depend for all things.

We are also grateful to our faithful supporters, who give so generously of their time and money, who pray for our projects around the world, and who intercede for our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.

In the pages that follow you will read of just a few of our recent projects. We invite you to give thanks for all that the Lord has done through Barnabas, and to pray that He will continue to use us as His servants for as long as He has need of us.

Compassion in action

How your donations are helping

Strengthened and encouraged. This is what we often hear from Christians who have received support from Barnabas Aid. Thank you for making this possible. Here are just a few examples of the many ways we have recently helped persecuted and suffering Christians.

\$36,000

for phase one of
aid delivery



Believers in Brazil give thanks for aid after record floods

“The scene is like one of war,” said Pastor Daniel describing the destruction caused by months of unprecedented flooding in southern Brazil in early 2024. His severely damaged church has undergone extensive restoration, including the installation of a new pulpit, in a project partly paid for by Barnabas.

Phase one of our aid delivery also funded food parcels, cleaning kits, clothing, furniture and household appliances for around 300 Christian families afflicted by the disaster. “I have no words to thank you,” said an elderly believer. “May God bless you mightily.”



Part of the clear-up outside Pastor Daniel's church

Project reference: 00-634
(Disaster relief fund)

\$26,659



Hundreds of Ugandan Christians receive the gift of a goat

Four hundred Christians in Uganda have received a Barnabas-funded female goat under an initiative to create small farming enterprises. The goats reproduce quickly, and the young can be sold, providing an income. The goats' milk can be sold or used to feed the family.

The distribution took place in Kasese district, an area that has suffered attack by Islamists from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. Each recipient is encouraged to give a kid from their goat's early litters to another Christian to establish more new ventures.



Every recipient of a Barnabas goat received training in animal husbandry

Project reference: PR1700
(Opportunity Africa)

\$24,735



Aid for Nigerian Christians widowed in Islamist attacks

Relief aid given by Barnabas to 182 newly widowed Nigerian Christian women will ensure their families do not go hungry, said a pastor.

The women’s husbands – the family breadwinners – were killed in a wave of Islamist attacks on Christmas Eve, 24 December 2023, on 25 Christian-majority villages in Plateau State.

Initially the death toll was put at around 300 but later rose to 618. Each widow received 50kg of beans and 50kg of maize as well as a blanket, mat and soap.



Women widowed in the Christmas 2023 attacks gather to receive Barnabas-funded aid

Project reference: 39-772 (Victims of Violence in Nigeria)

\$61,645



Egyptian Christian women helped to start up businesses

“This project has turned my life around,” said Egyptian Christian “Hanan”. She worried constantly about how she could support her children after her husband was injured in an accident. Now the family has a stable income after Barnabas provided Hanan with the machines and training to start a digital printing business.

Hanan is one of 93 poor Christian women (mostly widows) and young Christian men whom Barnabas has enabled to become self-sufficient and escape grinding poverty under the latest phase of our small business programme in Egypt.



Barnabas has enabled “Hanan” and 13 other Christian women to set up digital printing businesses

Project reference: 11-226 (Small business start-ups in Egypt)

\$60,000



Believers in Iraqi Kurdistan give thanks for food

“Thank you for thinking about my family,” said a believer when Barnabas provided food parcels for nearly 2,000 impoverished Christian families in semi-autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan. Another commented, “Sometimes we have to borrow money to cover our rent and food. This month we won’t need to.”

Large numbers of Iraqi Christians are still displaced in the region, to which they fled in 2014 to escape Islamic State. Many live in poverty and still suffer discrimination as an ethnic and religious minority. They are also at risk from attacks by Turkey aimed against Kurdish militants.



An Iraqi Christian receives a Barnabas-funded food parcel

Project reference: 20-227 (Iraqi Christians – General Fund)

Words of life

Thousands of Myanmar believers celebrate end to long wait for Bibles

No one had brought Bibles to "Sandar's" island before Barnabas partners distributed copies this year



“When I received the S’gaw Karen Bible, I was so happy that I cried,” said 17-year-old “Sandar”. She is one of the many Christians in isolated regions of Myanmar that Barnabas has enabled to receive their own copy of the Bible, in many cases, like Sandar, for the very first time.

“This is beyond my dreams and thinking, because I never thought Bibles would be distributed for free on our island,” Sandar continued.

Barnabas has funded the transportation of 94,000 Bibles to Christians in Myanmar, who continue to suffer violent persecution from the country’s military.

The first shipment of 50,000 Bibles, in the S’gaw Karen language, was successfully distributed in February

and March 2024. Distribution of the remaining 44,000 began in May and is still ongoing at the time of writing.

We are working with a local Christian project partner to deliver the Bibles, which each include a hymnal of Christian songs, to Karen Christians living in impoverished rural areas including islands and other isolated locations that are very difficult to access.

Reaching even the most isolated regions with the Word

“Arkar”, a 45-year-old islander who makes his living as a fisherman, concurs with Sandar. “I wanted to read the Bible,” he says, “but on our island, there were no Bibles even to buy, and 95 percent of the Christians on our island had never even seen a Bible.”

Now that Arkar has been provided with God’s Word, he always brings his

Bible when he goes fishing on the sea, and whenever he has opportunity, reads it while on his fishing boat.

“The Word of God changed our family from a disunited family to a family united in Christ”

The Scriptures have had a transformative effect on Arkar’s family. “After we read the Bible together in our family, we are happy in spirit,” he declares.

“My two sons are now going to church,” he adds. “The Word of God changed our family from a disunited family to a family united in Christ. Thanks for your greatest gift to our family.”

The distribution of Bibles has impacted the younger generation significantly,

motivating young people to deepen their relationship and commitment to God. “We are reading together and discussing together when we have time, especially in the mornings,” Sandar says. “Since we received the Bibles, we are growing in faith. Now, many of our young people are motivated by the Word of God and many more have started coming to church.”

“Marlar”, another recipient, is 51 years old and had been praying for a Bible for 15 years. “You have sown the best seed to me and the S’gaw Karen people,” she said, “especially those who live on islands and in the remotest areas that even Google Maps does not mention.”

Trusting the Lord through loss of family

“Dedan” was just nine years old in 2008 when both his parents and his three brothers were all killed in Cyclone Nargis. In his teenage years he found comfort in his Christian faith, a faith that was nourished when he had opportunity to borrow and read his pastor’s Bible. He started praying fervently to be able to buy a Bible.

“After eight years, God answered beyond my prayers,” Dedan explains. “My prayer was to be able to buy a Bible, but God answered me by giving me a free Bible with a hymnal. How great is our El Shaddai (Almighty) God!”

His joy at receiving a copy of God’s Word is clear to see. “Even though I live in a bamboo house, my eternal house is in heaven. Thanks for your wonderful and amazing gift of Bibles to me and other needy people in our village and other places in our region. God bless you all.”

“Hayma”, an 82-year-old widow, also suffered huge personal loss in Cyclone Nargis – when the cyclone struck her village, her husband and all their seven children were among many who died.

Hayma’s faith remained undimmed. She had been praying to receive God’s Word since she was 19, and never gave up hope.



“I hope you can know how happy I am when you see my big smiling face in the picture,” said “Dedan” to our project partner when he received his Bible. Behind Dedan is the bamboo hut that he built to be his own home

“Our God always has the best plan for us, and He never forgets our prayers,” she said. “I strongly believed that God would answer my prayers to own a Bible before I died.”

“Now, every day, I read the Bible, and I am the happiest and most joyful widow in the world,” she declares. “Even though my husband and all my children died, and I live alone in a bamboo tent, I am happy, because God has given His peace to me.”

God answers when we call

“Thet”, now 59, is yet another whose family was affected by Cyclone Nargis. He lost his wife and two of his three daughters in the disaster. Thet’s Bible was lost along with all his possessions in the cyclone and he could not afford a replacement. After long years of prayer, he has finally received his copy for free.

“God promised us that when we will call unto him he will answer us,” Thet explains, in reference to his favourite Bible verse Jeremiah 33:3, “and also show us great things beyond our needs in life.”

Thet speaks for many in acknowledging the Lord’s hand in reaching Christians with His precious Word. “Thank you so much for your generous donation of our S’gaw Karen Bible especially to remote areas people. It is not easy carrying Bibles to our area, but when God shows His mighty power and chooses His people, it happens.”

Turn to pages 20–21 to learn more about how you can become a regular contributor to our Bibles and Scriptures Fund.



Christians at a Karen church wasted no time reading the Bibles they had just received

Project references: 00–362 (Bibles and Scriptures Fund); 75–763 Aid for Persecuted Christians in Myanmar

food.gives

A project of **barnabasaid**

Barnabas Aid's food.gives project feeds hungry Christians all over the world. We assist in the short-term needs following an emergency or crisis, and the long-term needs of believers who are under persistent threat of malnutrition or even starvation.



Ukrainian Christians rely on food.gives for basic needs

“We thank you so much because from the beginning of the war, you have been close to us, and you did not let us down,” reported a Ukrainian Christian.

Regular donations from our supporters have enabled us to send aid to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine throughout the war; this believer's testimony highlights the importance of this provision. Access to food and other basic necessities is limited, and these Christians rely on food.gives to obtain them.

“We are now left only with Barnabas' help,” he continued, “and we are so thankful because you stayed close to us, supported us with food, clothes, hygiene and children's necessities.”



Ukrainian Christians have been given what they need to survive

These comments were made after a food.gives shipment, delivered in May 2024, that supplied sanitary items, medical equipment and food – enough for 274,640 servings of food to nourish our suffering brothers and sisters.

Your donations attend not just to the physical needs of Christians. “We share food packs and words of encouragement,” said our project partner, “and people receive these with joy and hope.”

Struggling believers in Fiji give thanks for continued food aid

“I really want to convey my deep appreciation to Barnabas for their invaluable assistance... We are so grateful to God for providing us with food through the generosity of the Barnabas group. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!”

These are the words of Grace, a Christian woman in Fiji whose family of seven has been fed by the aid delivered through food.gives. They are one of the 1,008 Christian families who have benefitted from food.gives shipments this year.

Many basic necessities are becoming unaffordable for our brothers and sisters in Fiji: food prices have increased by 30%, electricity and water costs have risen by 25% over the past year, and soaring fuel and housing prices have also added to the difficulty they face. As many as 29.9% of people live below the poverty line, and the vast majority teeters just above it.

Since the beginning of 2024, food.gives has delivered 16 tonnes of aid consisting of lentils, chickpeas, flour and rice to our brothers and sisters in Fiji; this provided them with 120,960 servings of food.

Your donations are helping the many Christian families who must make difficult choices about where to allocate the little money they have in this time of struggle

Get involved with Taste & See



“Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him” – Psalm 34:8

To encourage more people to get involved with the work of food.gives, we invite you to host a Taste & See event.

Taste & See is a simple meal made from the ingredients that would usually be included in food.gives boxes. This can be shared with your family, friends or church.

You could use our recipe card for daal and rice available at [food.gives/resources](https://www.food.gives/resources) to create a meal similar to what our suffering brothers and sisters eat with the food donated through food.gives.

Ask your guests to bring an item of food to put into a food.gives box. Then, after the meal, pack all the donations into your food.gives box and follow the delivery instructions in your food.gives starter pack; we will then ship your donations to hungry Christians around the world. To obtain a starter pack go to www.food.gives



Getting involved

The Bible commands us, “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). Yet it isn’t always clear how to do that. Here are a few suggestions of how you can respond to the needs of suffering and persecuted Christians and help to carry their burdens.

Pray

A commitment to prayer is core to the identity and mission of Barnabas Aid. Our aim in sharing news and information about the suffering and persecuted Church is to enable you to pray on their behalf as we are instructed to do: “Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people” (Ephesians 6:18b).

You can pray first and foremost that persecuted Christians will be delivered from persecution. Yet we also know that anti-Christian persecution will persist until the Lord returns (Matthew 24:9; Revelation 6:9-11). It will not always be the Lord’s will to deliver His people. We must also pray, in keeping with His promises, that He will give them grace and strength to endure their suffering and sustain them in their faith.

You can use our SCAAW prayer bookmark and prayer diary, enclosed in this magazine, to guide your prayers. Or turn to our map of persecution hotspots on pp.8-9 (also available to download at barnabasaid.org/scaaw). You can also discover more prayer resources at barnabasaid.org/pray.

Raise awareness

Many Christians in lands of relative safety and security may not be aware of exactly how their brothers and sisters are suffering. Others may be almost entirely unaware of the scale of anti-Christian persecution around the world.

You can help by raising awareness of the plight of the persecuted Church. Perhaps you can follow Barnabas Aid on social media, sharing our news updates and prayer requests (see the back page). Maybe you could raise the needs of persecuted Christians in your small group or prayer meeting.

Another possibility is to arrange a SCAAW event using the resources in this magazine or available from barnabasaid.org/scaaw.

Give

Barnabas Aid works by channelling money from Christians, through Christians, to Christians. None of this would be possible without our supporters who give so generously and sacrificially to support the needs of the persecuted and suffering Church.

If you feel able to make a donation, then please visit barnabasaid.org/donate or fill in the form enclosed with this magazine. You can make a one-off

donation or set up a regular payment that will help meet the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Turn to p.20 to find out more about our Living Streams sponsorship programme, or download our *Barnabas Gifts* catalogue from barnabasaid.org/projects/barnabas-gifts to see the full range of our projects.

Volunteer

If you share our passion for serving poor and persecuted Christians and have the time and desire to help, then you could apply to become a Barnabas volunteer.

Please visit barnabasaid.org/get-involved/volunteer to find out more about serving as a church volunteer, prayer group leader, food.gives volunteer (for example, helping in one of our food.gives warehouses) or Barnabas speaker.

Fundraise

Our supporters frequently amaze us by the bold and imaginative ways they find to raise money to meet the needs of the suffering Church. Could you organise a fundraising event for Barnabas Aid on behalf of persecuted Christians? Visit barnabasaid.org/get-involved/fundraise to find out more.



Pray



Raise awareness



Give



Volunteer



Fundraise

Living Streams

Barnabas Aid's Living Streams sponsorship programme enables our supporters to commit a monthly gift to sustain and strengthen persecuted and suffering Christians. By joining Living Streams you can:

- sustain a Christian family living in poverty in Pakistan with monthly food parcels
- support an evangelist or pastor in their ministry
- sponsor a child throughout their school years and see them grow in the Lord
- strengthen suffering Christians with God's Word through the gift of a Bible.

Pastors and evangelists

"I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge" – Jeremiah 3:15

Your sponsorship of a pastor or evangelist through Living Streams will help them to build God's Kingdom in places of persecution and pressure round the world.

Thanks to donors' gifts, Barnabas supports 40 church planters working to establish and maintain congregations on Java, Indonesia's largest island.

These pioneering pastors often experience intimidation and hostility from extremists among the Muslim-majority population, as well as from followers of traditional religious practices.

The financial aid given through Barnabas helps to meet the pastors' practical needs. Equally important to the pastors is the knowledge that Christians from other continents are praying for them.

"There are many examples of pastors who are able to stay on and hold on in an utterly hostile environment because of the sponsorships," explained our project partner.

Great answer to prayer

Regular giving has also been crucial in Algeria, where the authorities have

closed down many churches, leaving the small Christian community in desperate need of pastoral care. In 2023 Barnabas provided financial support for 30 pastors.

"The support we are receiving from Barnabas is a great answer to prayer," said Pastor Ahmed following the closure of his church. "We have started six house groups and visited many believers for pastoral care, training and discipleship. Thank you."



A pastor baptises a Christian in a remote mountain community in Vietnam. The pastor heads a Barnabas-supported Bible team of six who provide spiritual support to persecuted ethnic Hmong Christians in around 60 isolated villages

Project references: 00-477 (Pastor support fund); 00-478 (Evangelist support fund)

Family feeding

"He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry" – Psalm 146:7

"The happiness we felt was indescribable," said 71-year-old

Christian widow Khursheed from Pakistan as she recalled the moment her family received their first monthly food parcel.

Khursheed relies on her son, but his work is irregular and he struggles to support her along with his wife and four-year-old son with the little he earns. "I was deeply grateful to God for this gift," continued Khursheed. "This lifeline of assistance is not just about food; it is about the power of faith to overcome adversity."

Pakistan's Christians are an impoverished and marginalised minority. Their situation has been made worse by soaring inflation that has pushed up food prices.



Christian widow Khursheed with her family

Ray of hope for families

Monthly food parcels contain staple items like rice, flour, sugar, lentils, cooking oil, salt, spices and tea. Families use the money they save on food to meet other basic needs such as school fees or medical care.

"Barnabas Aid is a ray of hope for all the poor families under debt and poverty,"

said brick kiln worker Shahzad, another recipient. “Thanks to Barnabas Aid for all the favour and kindness.”

Project reference: PRI500
(Family feeding sponsorship fund)

Bibles and scriptures

“Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path” – Psalm 119:105

“After 49 years of praying, God has amazingly answered my prayers. Praise the Lord!” exclaimed “Mima”, a 64-year-old Karen Christian living in a remote village in Myanmar on receiving the precious gift of a Bible – the first one she has ever owned.

“Reading the words of God is my favourite thing in life,” she added.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters, Barnabas funded the transportation of 94,000 S’gaw Karen Bibles to believers in Myanmar, who continue to suffer violent persecution from the country’s military. Many of the recipients had prayed for decades for a Bible of their own.

There are many reasons why suffering Christians around the world such as these are unable to take comfort and strength from the daily reading of the Word of God. Some are too poor to afford a Bible. Some live in countries where the authorities seize the Christian Scriptures. Others lost their Bibles while fleeing violence or disaster.

Precious gift

You can support our brothers and sisters in their faith through Living Streams and the precious gift of a Bible.

Zanzibar Christians are a tiny and persecuted minority, and few believers or church leaders have a Bible to call their own.

Through your generosity, Barnabas has funded 100 Bibles in the native Kiswahili language for a Zanzibar church. These will be a blessing to churchgoers and help in training new pastors.

Project reference: 00-362
(Bibles and Scriptures fund)



“Mima” says she receives new spiritual food from the Bible every time she reads it



Sponsor a schoolchild

“All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace” – Isaiah 54:13

“Education is a vital need and an important tool for the creation of a bright future,” says ten-year-old Ayesha, a young believer from an impoverished Christian family in Pakistan.

Ayesha is among more than 9,000 Christian children who study at one of 109 Christian schools in Pakistan funded through Living Streams.

will become a doctor and “help the poor people like us”. She prays that God will use Barnabas Aid to help even more children to get an education and grow in their love of the Lord.

In countries where Christians are a despised and persecuted minority, Christian children can be victimised in state-run schools. Many Christian children do not go to school at all because their parents are too poor.

Cycle of poverty and illiteracy

Barnabas-supported Christian schools enable Christian children to learn in a safe environment, where their faith is nourished, and they are taught by teachers who are Christians.

These Christian schools help to break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy that trapped previous generations.

“I am thankful to God for Barnabas Aid who made education possible for needy children like me,” says eight-year-old Awais in Pakistan, who hopes to become a police officer and support his family. “May God bless Barnabas Aid.”

Project reference: 00-514 (School Place Sponsorship Fund)



Regular giving through Living Streams helps young believers to get a good education and grow in their faith

Become a hope-giver and provide an essential, continuous life-flow of support for Christians in need...

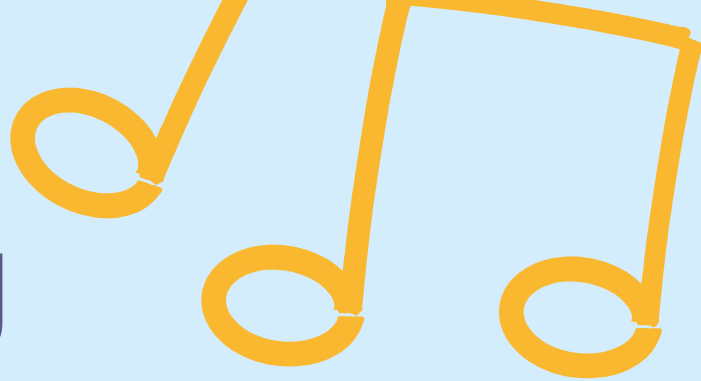
£5 could provide a Bible to encourage and strengthen the faith of a Christian living under pressure and persecution.

£18 could sponsor a child living in poverty so that they could attend a Christian school and grow in body, mind and spirit.

£20 could provide a Bible to encourage and strengthen the faith of a Christian living under pressure and persecution.

£30 could support an evangelist or pastor sharing the Gospel with those who need it.

Join with them in song



You can use this song in your church or small group

“Soldier of Faith” is a heartfelt anthem that contrasts the freedoms enjoyed by Christians in the West with the severe persecution faced by believers in other parts of the world. Rooted in personal experience and Scriptural inspiration from 2 Timothy 2, this song calls for solidarity, awareness and action among all Christians.



Available on all music streaming platforms, including:



Download the music and resources at:

barnabasaid.org/scaaw

VERSE 1

My world was so small, before I believed
You opened my eyes and now I can see
It's no longer about me, my comfort or pride
Now my heart beats for You and Your suffering Bride

VERSE 2

I've been protected and privileged, preserved
Compared to my brothers and sisters unheard
I pray that Your Word gives them hope against strife
Enduring through suffering as servants of Christ

CHORUS

*The athlete prepares, competes and is crowned
The farmer who works hard shall reap from the ground
I may have been saved, but it's not to be safe
Instead let me stand – a good soldier of faith*

VERSE 3

One part of our body always suffers in pain
Another is cast out, or imprisoned in chains
Help us stay faithful, run the race for Your Son
And fight the good fight that You've already won

(CHORUS)

INTERLUDE

You are the perfect example for us
Bearing the burdens of others in love
Help us to love the same
The way that You poured out Your Son

VERSE 4

We're all sons and daughters of His holiness
From in Him we have an inheritance
We wait on Your kingdom where suffering will cease
Until the trumpets resound, and we sit at Your feast

LAST CHORUS

The athlete prepares, competes and is crowned
The farmer who works hard shall reap from the ground
The soldier enlists, puts their life on the line
Dying to self, so that Your story shines
I know I've been saved, but it's not to be safe
Instead let me stand – a good soldier of faith
Lord please help me stand – with my family in faith

New food.gives warehouse opens in Northern Ireland

Barnabas Aid celebrated the growth of our food.gives initiative in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland with the opening of a new warehouse in County Down.

Since food.gives Ireland operations began in 2022, generous supporters have given more than 32 tonnes of donations that have been forwarded to our warehouse in Swindon, south-west England, for sorting and shipping.

Our new 2,500 sq ft warehouse and office in Drumbo, near Lisburn, will enable us to carry out this work on site and we plan to shortly begin shipping aid directly from the island of Ireland to our brothers and sisters in need around the world.



Church and community leaders are shown round the new warehouse at its official opening

“This is a tremendous achievement,” said a spokesman for food.gives in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

“It is all thanks to the wonderful support of our donors and our small band of dedicated volunteers who come in weekly to assist with packing and other tasks.”

Church and community leaders, including the Bishop of Down and Dromore David McClay and the Bishop of Multan (in Punjab, Pakistan) Leo Paul, joined staff and volunteers at the warehouse on 15 June to celebrate its official opening.

If you would like to find out more about food.gives in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, or would like to join our volunteer team, please email ireland@barnabasaid.org

Fundraising “Canon on Wheels” John Bowers dies, aged 91

We give thanks for the life of retired clergyman and stalwart Barnabas supporter Canon John Bowers who died on 24 May, only weeks short of his 92nd birthday.

Canon John, from West Kirby, UK, was a tireless champion of oppressed and suffering Christians around the world.

Following his retirement from full-time ministry at the age of 70 in 2002, Canon John embarked on a series of annual fundraising cycling pilgrimages, spanning more than two decades.

In total these rides raised more than £278,000 to help believers in need through the work of Barnabas Aid.

Affectionately nicknamed the “Canon on Wheels”, John Bowers’ 21st – and final – sponsored ride took place on his 91st birthday, on 17 June 2023.

The majority of the funds that Canon John raised supported Cana Girls’ Rescue Home, a Christian shelter in Kenya for girls fleeing sexual abuse and other dangers. However, he supported many other Barnabas Aid projects as well.

He explained, “When I retired from ministry, I wasn’t able to be face-to-face on a day-to-day basis, so I decided I would help those I would never see face-to-face. That’s when and why I chose Barnabas.”



“Canon on Wheels” John Bowers

SAVE
THE DATE
22-24 Aug
2025

Thank you – and see you next year at BCF!

Thank you to supporters old and new who came up to say hello and find out more about the work of Barnabas Aid at Big Church Festival (BCF) in May, held in West Sussex, UK. Also thank you to our volunteer helpers for their hard work. God willing, we look forward to seeing you all again at next year’s BCF on 22-24 August 2025.





Stay connected to the
global Church



Follow Barnabas Aid on:



Instagram

[instagram.com/barnabasaidofficial](https://www.instagram.com/barnabasaidofficial)



YouTube

[youtube.com/barnabasaid](https://www.youtube.com/barnabasaid)



X

x.com/barnabasaid



Facebook

[facebook.com/barnabasaidofficial](https://www.facebook.com/barnabasaidofficial)