



barnabasprayer

***Barnabas Aid** - bringing hope to suffering Christians*

To help you
pray for suffering
Christians

July/August 2024

barnabasaid.org

Thank you for your prayers for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ, which make such a difference to them. We sometimes have to change or omit their names for security reasons, and we have only limited space to share their stories. But the Lord knows the people and places we are praying about. Please do not feel limited by the specific prayer requests, but pray as you feel led. On each Sunday we have provided a set prayer; please feel free to use these in their current form, to adapt them as you prefer, or to use the information they contain to frame your own prayers.

July

MONDAY 1 “Nobody ever asked me what I can do ... except Barnabas Aid.” These were the words of Dalyop, a young believer from Nigeria who lost both his parents to anti-Christian violence while only a child. Dalyop is now one of thousands of Christians in Nigeria studying digital content creation on a course funded by Barnabas Aid as a part of our new Opportunity Africa initiative. Give thanks that Dalyop, having endured suffering and marginalisation, is now being empowered through Barnabas. Pray that the same will be true of many believers in the 36 African nations where Barnabas-funded Operation Africa projects are going ahead.

TUESDAY 2 Please lift up in prayer Nigerian pastor Paul Musa, 59, and his wife Ruth, 50. The couple were abducted in March 2023 by the Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram from their home in northern Borno State. In a video posted online by the kidnappers on 5 May 2024, Pastor Paul calls on the government and the Christian Association of Nigeria for help in securing their release. Pray that Pastor Paul and Ruth will soon be released unharmed. Until then, ask the Lord to draw near to them and comfort them in their captivity.



A Nigerian Christian receives her Barnabas-funded medical backpack

WEDNESDAY 3 “This is removing the bitterness and hate and replacing it with hope and beauty,” commented a Nigerian pastor’s wife who received a medical backpack funded by Barnabas Aid. We have provided these backpacks to Christian volunteers from 30 villages in Plateau State, one of the areas most badly affected by ongoing anti-Christian violence. Each bag contains a thermometer, stethoscope, equipment for giving blood, plasters and bandages. Pray that the provision of these backpacks will ease suffering and even save lives.

THURSDAY 4 Praise God that Lydia Simon – one of the “Chibok girls”, now young women – has escaped from being held by Boko Haram in Borno State, northern Nigeria. Lydia regained freedom in April 2024, ten years to the month she was one of 276 girls, mostly Christian, abducted from the Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok. Lydia was five months pregnant when found and was accompanied by her three children. Give

thanks for Lydia's freedom. Pray for her physical, emotional and spiritual recovery, and that of her children. Continue to pray for around 90 young women from Chibok who remain in captivity.

FRIDAY 5 It is now more than a year since over 40 people, almost all school pupils in their mid-teens, were killed in an Islamist attack on a boarding school in Mpondwe, Kasese District, in Christian-majority Uganda, close to the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Pupils were singing Gospel songs at evening worship before the attackers from Islamic State Central Africa Province (also known as the Allied Democratic Forces), based in north-eastern DRC, launched their assault after 10pm local time on 16 June 2023. Continue to pray for the Lord's comfort to surround the bereaved and traumatised and ask for His protection over our brothers and sisters on both sides of the border as the threat of anti-Christian violence persists.

SATURDAY 6 An estimated 5.4 percent of Sudan's nearly 50 million people are Christians. Our brothers and sisters share in the suffering that has afflicted all people as a result of a civil war that broke out in April 2023. It is also reported that both the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces have targeted Christians, with more than 165 churches forced to close since the conflict began. Christians had previously endured decades of severe persecution under the Islamist government of Omar al-Bashir before he was ousted in 2019. Pray that the Lord will sustain our brothers and sisters in the Republic of Sudan, as well as those who have fled into neighbouring countries. Ask that He

will especially protect His people and restore peace to Sudan for all people.

SUNDAY 7 Heavenly Father, we lift up to You our sisters in Christ who as women are especially vulnerable to persecution. We pray for Christian women who are left without support and protection for themselves and their children, either because they are widows, because their husbands have been imprisoned for their faith, or because they are Christian converts who have been abandoned by their families. We ask that You will shelter our sisters from harm under the shadow of Your wings, and that they will know the protection of the Good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray. (Psalm 17:8-10; John 10:11)

MONDAY 8 "I feel the hands of Jesus in my life with this project," declared 51-year-old Egyptian Christian widow "Layla" after she started a small business breeding goats through Barnabas support. In the past 18 months Barnabas has helped believers to escape grinding poverty by enabling them to start up 289 small enterprises. Most of the beneficiaries are widows. Praise God for the hope these widows and others are experiencing through these ventures. Pray that He will continue to bless their undertakings and that His people will witness His hand directing them more and more.

TUESDAY 9 Lift up in prayer Christians in southern Minya Governate, Upper Egypt, after separate attacks by Islamist extremists on two Christian communities. Several houses belonging

to Christians in Al-Fawakher village, around 150 miles south of Cairo, were set alight late on 23 April, an attack launched in response to an attempt to build a new church. On 26 April extremists attacked Christians in Al-Kom Al-Ahmar village after learning that a church had obtained a permit to construct a church building. Give thanks that on both occasions the authorities prevented the incident escalating. Pray for continued protection of Christians in Egypt's rural areas and that homes damaged will be rebuilt.

WEDNESDAY 10 “There is not a single city in Morocco that does not have a presence of Moroccan Christians, even in the villages,” reported a pastor in the city of Temara. Official attitudes towards Christianity have softened in the past few years, added the pastor, and house church gatherings are generally tolerated. The pastor emphasised the loyalty of Moroccan Christians to their country. However, Christians – and particularly converts from Islam – still face reprisals from extremists within the Muslim majority. Give thanks for greater levels of tolerance for our brothers and sisters and pray that the Lord will protect and sustain Muslim-background believers.

THURSDAY 11 Pastor Youssef Ourahmane's one-year sentence for “illegal worship” was upheld by the Court of Appeal in Tizi Ouzo, Algeria in April. Pastor Youssef, Vice President of the Protestant Church of Algeria (EPA), was charged with holding an unauthorised religious meeting in a building not permitted to be used for religious worship in March 2023. His original two-year imprisonment was halved on appeal in November

2023, but a fine of £605 (\$725; €665) remained in place. In rejecting his second appeal, the court added a further six months' suspended sentence on top of the one-year prison term. Pray that a further appeal to the Supreme Court will be successful and the conviction will be overturned.

FRIDAY 12 “You are our strength and blessings,” wrote the director of a Christian school in Bethlehem, to Barnabas. The Middle East crisis has caused great fear and worry in the city, not least among Christian families, many of whom have lost their jobs because of the downturn in the economy and tourism. Thanks to the donations of Barnabas supporters, the school is able to maintain the education of Christian pupils whose parents are enduring hardship. Pray for peace and stability in the region. Ask that members of the marginalised Christian community will find refuge in the LORD, our very present help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1).



A Barnabas-supported Christian school in Bethlehem is a safe and secure place where children from the minority Christian community can receive a quality education

SATURDAY 13 Yousef is six years old, and his joy is attending a Barnabas-supported Christian school in Bethlehem. He arrives as soon as he can each day, urging his father to wake up early. “I am safe at school because Jesus is our guardian,” says Yousef. Christians are a despised minority in

Bethlehem and the school is a safe and secure place where Christian children can learn. Pray that Yousef and other pupils will grow in their love of the Lord. Ask that the school will be able to continue to serve the Christian community for decades to come.

SUNDAY 14 Heavenly Father, we bring before You our Christian family in Saudi Arabia. We ask You to sustain them in a land where they form a tiny minority in the birthplace of Islam. We give thanks that recent reforms have softened some of the country's harshest laws and pray that Your people will have greater freedom to exercise their faith. We ask You to build up our Saudi brothers and sisters, almost all converts from Islam and secret believers. We ask for Your Divine direction and discernment upon them so that they build confidently on the cornerstone of our faith, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose mighty Name we pray. (Ephesians 2:20)

MONDAY 15 Syria is scheduled to hold its next parliamentary election today. The 250-member People's Assembly has been controlled by the Ba'ath Party since it came to power in a 1963 coup. The elections take place amid a deteriorating economy and ongoing civil war, now in its fourteenth year. Many Christians have left the country, where they previously enjoyed a good relationship with the Muslim majority, prior to the rise of Islamist groups in recent years. Pray that people of a servant spirit will be elected to the assembly who will make wise decisions to alleviate the suffering of all Syrians.

Pray for Syrian Christians to grow strong amid various trials and that harmonious relationships with the Muslim majority will be restored.

TUESDAY 16 The killing of Iraqi soldiers in the east of the country by fighters from Islamic State (IS – also known as ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) in May highlights the threat that the terrorist group still poses. The last piece of IS territory in Iraq was reclaimed in 2017, but IS was never finally defeated, and continues to operate in Iraq and Syria, elsewhere in the Middle East, and beyond. The resilience of IS is a danger to all people, but Christians are among those particularly vulnerable. Pray that IS will not regain power in Iraq. Give thanks for recent efforts to return property stolen from Christians and Yazidis, and for the rebuilding of churches, often with the help and support of the Muslim community.

WEDNESDAY 17 Laleh Saati, 45, an Iranian Christian convert from Islam, was sentenced on 16 March to two years' imprisonment for "acting against national security by connecting with 'Zionist' Christian organisations". A further two-year ban on leaving Iran is effective upon her release. She lived for some time in Malaysia before returning to Iran in 2017 because of the length of time her asylum process was taking, and to care for elderly parents. After raiding her father's home in Tehran intelligence agents used photographs and videos of Laleh's baptism in Malaysia as evidence of her "crime". Pray that Laleh will experience God's comfort and strength in her ordeal, and for the success of any possible appeal.



Laleh Saati [Image credit: Facebook]

THURSDAY 18 Mina Khajavi is a 60-year-old Iranian Christian convert. At the time of writing she is reported to be struggling with pain and unable to access essential medical care, except occasional painkillers, inside Evin Prison in the Iranian capital of Tehran. Mina began a six-year sentence on 3 January 2024 for “acting against national security”, the result of her membership of a “house church”. Sentenced in 2022, she was not required to start her sentence until recovering sufficiently from being run over by a car that summer. Her badly broken ankle was fitted with metal plates following the accident. Pray that Mina will quickly receive the medical care she needs. Ask that the retrial request she has submitted will be granted, and she will soon be released.

FRIDAY 19 Esmail Narimanpour, an Iranian Christian convert from Islam, was released on bail of more than £8,000 (\$10,000; € 9,300) on 30 April after spending more than four months in detention. He was arrested on Christmas Eve, 24 December 2023 and charged with “acting against national security by communicating with Christian ‘Zionist’ organisations”. He was detained around 100 miles from his home in Dezful, western Iran. Esmail was among several converts cleared of “propaganda” charges in 2021 but subsequently forced

to attend Islamic classes. Pray that he will experience God’s strength and guidance as the legal process continues. Ask that charges against him will be dropped and his case dismissed.

SATURDAY 20 Give thanks for the safe arrival in Jordan of a 40ft container full of donated food from the US. The contents are being distributed to Christians in need, who are struggling to find enough to eat due to the country’s economic crisis. Pray that Christians in Jordan will recognise the love and provision of God, and be encouraged in their faith (Psalm 107:1-9).

SUNDAY 21 Lord Jesus, we ask for Your protection over all our brothers and sisters who are displaced within their own country, and all Christians who are refugees. Whether they are escaping war, poverty, or persecution for their faith in You, help them to remember that You are their fortress. Stay with them, Lord, and comfort them as they leave their homes and seek refuge elsewhere. Send Your Holy Spirit to give them strength as they try to rebuild their lives and bring them out of danger and into safety.

MONDAY 22 Do you remember the events that drove nearly 120,000 Armenian Christians from Nagorno-Karabakh into Armenia? When Azerbaijan invaded Karabakh – an Armenian Christian region placed within Azerbaijan by a quirk of history – in September 2023, the inhabitants were already exhausted, malnourished and traumatised. Nearly ten months on, these refugees are facing the reality that they may never be able to

return home. Even if they could cross back into Karabakh, they would find homes, farms and churches destroyed. Please pray that our brothers and sisters will be comforted that, while their earthly homes may be lost, they can be confident that the LORD has gone to prepare a heavenly home where we shall all live with Him for ever (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

TUESDAY 23 “Your organisation has been an answer to prayers,” wrote our church partners in Romania who run a relief centre for Christians fleeing the conflict in neighbouring Ukraine. Barnabas Aid’s funding for food and hygiene parcels to sustain 400 Ukrainian families for six months arrived at a time of great financial challenge for the church following a cut in funding for relief centres by the authorities. Give thanks for the help and care our partners have given to thousands of refugees since the war started in 2022. Ask God, the Father of compassion (2 Corinthians 1:3), to provide the means for them to continue their work.



Christian children in Ukraine receive a Barnabas-funded food box

WEDNESDAY 24 In war-torn Ukraine, access to food and other basic amenities is a challenge for Christians who live close to the frontline. Praise the Lord

for the generosity of our food.gives supporters, whose response to our winter appeal saw a record-breaking 360 boxes sent to our Swindon, UK, warehouse in a week. This, along with further donations, was distributed to our suffering Christian family in Ukraine, who were facing a bitterly cold winter without access to sufficient food. Give thanks to God that food.gives aid has been able to reach needy Christians in Ukraine, and pray that further aid will arrive safely. Ask the Lord to keep Christians in Ukraine safe, and comfort them in this terrifying situation.

THURSDAY 25 “Thank you for your care and hearts,” wrote a pastor in a rural area of Uzbekistan after Barnabas repaired flood damage to a small registered church following the breach of a nearby dam. Most members of the congregation are converts from Islam and many endure hostility because of their decision to follow Christ. Congregation members are poor and could not afford the repairs, yet they share what they can, including opening their church building to another congregation, which enables that congregation to meet legally. Praise God for this caring Christian community, whose strength comes from their joy in the LORD (Nehemiah 8:10). Pray that others will be encouraged by their Christ-like example.

FRIDAY 26 Cousins Asif Masih, 25, and Shan Masih, 28, suffocated on 17 March after inhaling poisonous gases while attempting to clear a blockage in a sewer in Faisalabad, Pakistan. The cousins’ deaths were described as “murders through duty”, as they were forced to enter the sewer without being given protective gear. This is despite a 2015 court order requiring local authorities to ensure protective gear

is provided. Marginalised Christians in Muslim-majority Pakistan often work the lowest-paid, dirtiest and most dangerous jobs, often without proper protective equipment. This has meant that many have died or suffered serious and disabling injuries or health problems. Pray that the families of Asif and Shah are comforted, and that conditions improve for Christian workers in Pakistan.

SATURDAY 27 “All praise to God for this wonderful opportunity!” exclaimed “Priya”, a South Asian student at The Shepherd’s Academy (TSA) – the undergraduate section of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life (OCRPL). She is one of the cohort of Tamil speakers benefitting from following courses in their own language, and particularly praised the energetic and engaging teaching style that provided learners with profound insights and practical applications, as well as excellent technical support. The TSA courses are the first of their kind made available to Tamil speakers with limited resources. Give thanks for the opportunities given to the Tamil Christian community and pray that more students will be thoroughly equipped for Christian ministry.

SUNDAY 28 **Father God, we pray for Christians in Afghanistan, and those returning to the country, who often face intense persecution because of their faith. We pray for any Christian converts who have come from a Muslim background, who live in hiding under the threat of a death sentence. Please help them and protect them in the situation they are living in – often destitute and unable to make a living. We pray**

that You will help all our brothers and sisters remain steadfast against the demands of a world around them that would pressure them to deny their faith. In Jesus’ Name we pray.

MONDAY 29 “When the relief material from our Christian brothers and sisters arrived, it was like a miracle,” said Samana, a Christian mother whose home in a remote, mountainous area of western Nepal was destroyed in an earthquake in November 2023. Food and other practical aid funded by Barnabas supporters “strengthened our faith in God’s goodness and mercy”, she added. Give thanks that our partners were able to deliver food, blankets and warm children’s clothing to Christians in need, despite destruction caused to mountain roads and tracks by the earthquake.

TUESDAY 30 At least 20 churches were reduced to rubble by a powerful earthquake in a poor and remote, mountainous region of western Nepal in November 2023. The local authorities and government will not provide for Church reconstruction or repair as Christianity is viewed by many as an “alien faith” that does not belong in Nepal. Pray that, by God’s grace, the churches will be able to reconstruct their buildings. Give thanks for the steadfast faith of the small, but growing Christian community in Nepal, whose hearts are full of love for the Lord (Ephesians 3:17).

WEDNESDAY 31 Four Christians in Madhesh province, eastern Nepal, face trial, accused of trying to secure forced conversions to Christianity. On 3 April they were required to submit bail of 150,000 Nepali rupees (£895; \$1,130; €1,043) at the district court in Bara. After

the Christians visited a house in Kolhabi on Sunday 10 March, several local residents summoned the police, alleging that the Christians were attempting to convert locals by force. Seven Australian Christians in the town were detained and subsequently deported. Meanwhile, the four Nepali Christians spent 24 days in custody before being bailed. Pray that justice will prevail and that any unfounded accusations of forced conversion will be dismissed.

August

THURSDAY 1 Since its inception in June 2021, food.gives – a project of Barnabas Aid – has sent 173 containers of food and medical supplies to sick and hungry believers around the world. Since the start of 2024, we have provided 3,500,000 servings of food. Often these servings are life-saving. Give thanks to God that we have been able to help so many hungry Christians through the continued generosity of our supporters. Ask that He will enable us to continue to provide these vital resources to our brothers and sisters.

FRIDAY 2 Zimbabwe has declared its drought a national disaster and appealed for assistance to prevent 2.7 million people from going hungry this year. Years of drought in the region have been compounded by the naturally recurring El Niño weather phenomenon, which has led to poor rains across 80% of the country. Our latest food.gives delivery to Zimbabwe – a consignment of 23.5 tonnes of lentils distributed among 11,600 Christians – was described by our

project partners as “nothing short of life-saving”. Continue to uphold in prayer our Zimbabwean brothers and sisters and ask that their needs will be met. Above all, pray for rain.



Barnabas supporters in Australia sent 23.5 tonnes of lentils to Christians in Zimbabwe

SATURDAY 3 Poor farm labourer Krishan's family is among 600 in Pakistan that Barnabas is assisting with a monthly food parcel. “I am very grateful to God Almighty. He never forsakes my family and sent support in unexpected ways,” says Krishan, adding that he will now be able to buy new shoes for his children. Praise God for the difference this aid is making to Christian families in Pakistan. Pray that many more lives will be transformed by this support, especially that children will be able to extend their studies for longer and maximise their gifts in their chosen fields, to God's glory.

SUNDAY 4 Sovereign Lord, we give thanks for the steadfast faith of Christian believers in China, despite increasing restrictions by the authorities on the activities of churches. Please give our brothers and sisters the strength and grace to endure. Please fill church leaders with wisdom and guidance as they navigate this difficult environment. Please pour Your love into the hearts of believers by the Holy Spirit, so that

they know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. We ask this in our Saviour's precious Name. (Romans 5:3)

MONDAY 5 “This is a fact!” declared a church minister in Zhejiang Province, China, on Easter Sunday 2024. The fact to which he was referring was the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, which, said the minister, was an undeniable historic event. This was just one of many Easter sermons given in China’s official Protestant church, the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), that proclaimed the reality of Christ’s death and resurrection. Give thanks that church leaders in the TSPM still have the freedom to make known the truth of the Gospel. Pray that the Lord will bless and protect Chinese Christians, new and old, while they endeavour to live faithfully for Him.

TUESDAY 6 North Korea’s songbun system classifies citizens according to their perceived loyalty to the state. The Korean word “songbun” means “ingredients” (substance, makeup), but the North Korean political structure applies the word to identify a citizen’s socio-political background. Those with religious belief, and especially Christians, are identified as belonging to the “hostile” class and are considered enemies of the state who need to be imprisoned and, in many cases, executed. Please continue to pray for Christians facing imprisonment, torture and death for their faithfulness in obeying God rather than men (Acts 4:19). Pray that through their courageous witness the Church will continue to grow in North Korea.

WEDNESDAY 7 Amid Vietnam’s rainy season (June to November), please pray for a “Bible team” of six Christians who minister among persecuted Hmong Christians in isolated mountain areas. With Barnabas support, they visit about 60 communities of poor farming families. They teach the Bible, pray with families, visit the sick, disciple local church leaders, encourage believers in the faith and provide practical assistance. Recent initiatives include providing employment to widows through weaving grass roofs and baskets and running computing classes to help Christian youth access better job opportunities. Pray that hazardous weather conditions, including frequent mudslides, will not prevent them reaching these communities to carry out this vital ministry.



“Mima” thanks God for her new Bible. “He has given me new spiritual food for my spiritual life,” she said

THURSDAY 8 Gunmen shot dead 47-year-old Pastor Nammye Hkun Jaw Li at a computer shop he managed on 18 March in Mogaung township, Kachin State, Myanmar. He leaves a wife and three children. In Mohnyin township, also in Kachin State, church minister Paul Khwi Shane Aung was wounded and hospitalised on 12 April after masked assailants interrupted a church service he was conducting and

shot him three times. Pray for comfort for those bereaved and mourning the loss of their shepherd Nammye Hkun Jaw Li and for Paul Khwi Shane Aung's full recovery. Ask for protection for church leaders in Myanmar and that such attacks will be prevented.

FRIDAY 9 Christians in Chin State, Myanmar, face a tightening of restrictions on meetings by the country's military (Tatmadaw). On 22 April the Tatmadaw ordered a two-month ban on all assemblies of more than five persons for religious gatherings in the state capital Hakha in response to an attack by militia on a convoy carrying government ministers. Similar restrictions have operated on seven townships in the state since February 2023 when the military authorities issued an order for Christians to submit a list of all those attending church services. Pray that Christians in Hakha and throughout Chin State will grow in resilience and find ways to share fellowship despite these stringent restrictions.

SATURDAY 10 "I am the happiest woman in the world," said "Mima", a Karen Christian living in a remote and isolated Myanmar village. At the age of 64, Mima's prayers were answered when she was given her own copy of the Bible in her own language. "Reading the words of God is my favourite thing in life," she added. Barnabas helped to fund the transportation of 94,000 Bibles to Christians in impoverished rural areas of Myanmar. Praise God for the steadfast faith of Myanmar Christians who have endured decades of persecution, sure in the knowledge that God's Word will last forever (Isaiah 40:8).

SUNDAY 11 Father God, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are converts from other religious backgrounds, and have accepted Your Son as their Saviour, often at great risk to themselves and their families. Lord, we pray that You will help new converts endure any persecution that comes their way. Please comfort them with the promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, that any who have given up home or family for the Kingdom of God will receive greater blessings both now and in the age to come, because we ask it in His Name. (Luke 18:29-30)

MONDAY 12 Hmong Christians are highly discriminated against in Thailand because their faith is viewed as a "foreign religion" and ethnically they are not seen as "proper" Thai nationals. Believers are extremely poor and are being targeted for conversion by the Buddhist majority as well as by followers of Thailand's indigenous religions. Pray that Christians will stand firm in their faith. Ask for guidance and wisdom for two pastors, supported by Barnabas, who visit Christians in remote communities to pray with believers and teach the Gospel. Pray that the church-run youth projects that we support enable young Christians to grow in their strength, knowledge and love of the Lord (Colossians 1:9-10).

TUESDAY 13 Many Myanmar Christians fleeing violent persecution by the country's military have escaped across the border into Thailand. They arrive with little more than the clothes on their back and live in rundown huts in extreme poverty. Barnabas is providing food, clothing and medication to help

refugees. We are also supporting a Hmong church in Thailand that is giving sustenance to their brothers and sisters in need. Every Sunday after worship the congregation provides a freshly cooked meal for the Myanmar refugees. Give thanks for the kindness of this church, whose actions reflect the words of Jesus that “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). Pray for peace in Myanmar.

WEDNESDAY 14 Health is a luxury that is beyond the reach of most Christians in Pakistan. A small and poor minority, despised by the majority of society, many can neither afford nor access medical care. The six medical centres and mobile health clinics funded by Barnabas are a lifeline for more than 40,000 Christians a year. They are a beacon of hope, said a patient, adding they are a reminder that “even in the toughest times there are those who care”. Pray that, despite the hardships of daily life, our brothers and sisters will rejoice in the love the heavenly Father has for His children (1 John 3:1).

THURSDAY 15 Give thanks for the hard work and dedication of the Christian medical teams who staff the six medical centres and mobile health vans funded by Barnabas in Pakistan. As well as providing treatment and health awareness advice, the teams also give spiritual comfort, sharing prayers and Bible verses with their patients. “This support goes beyond just medical assistance,” explains a believer. “It is a reminder that, as Christians, we are not alone.” Praise God for the teams’ Christ-like witness,

a sacrifice which is pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:16).



A Pakistani Christian boy receives a check-up at a Barnabas-funded mobile health clinic

FRIDAY 16 A year has passed since a mob of Muslim extremists rampaged through the Christian area of Jaranwala, Pakistan, on 16 August 2023 following false allegations that two Christian brothers had torn pages of the Quran. At least 24 churches and several dozen smaller chapels were set on fire, and the homes of more than 100 believers were burned, looted or vandalised. Barnabas has supplied aid to 172 families (around 1,032 individuals) worst affected by the devastation. Give thanks for the Christians in Jaranwala who have remained faithful to the Lord in the face of persecution and pray that they will grow strong as they continue to rebuild their lives.

SATURDAY 17 “The loss of my father shattered me emotionally,” said Sawera, a fifth-year student at a Barnabas-funded school in Pakistan. She credits her class teacher for helping her amid her father’s ill-health and subsequent death, with continuous encouragement and support. Barnabas supports more than 11,000 Christian children in 121 schools where they receive a Christian education in

a caring, loving environment. This month these schools are resuming after the long summer break. Pray that the gift of formal education will enable all children to fulfil their potential and be used mightily by God as they progress into adult life. Pray for protection of Christian pupils and staff, as discrimination is never far away.

SUNDAY 18 Lord Jesus, we bring before You all Christian children. Protect them, we pray, in this fallen world where so many of Your followers are persecuted. We cry out for the children who also endure this suffering: hold them close to You, Lord, and comfort them. Please guide all Christian children as they grow, and stay close to them in their moments of opposition. You who called little children to Yourself, fill them with love, joy and faith, and help them to go through life with hope in You. (Luke 18:16)

MONDAY 19 Twenty-five Christians were killed, many injured and more than 3,000 displaced during attacks by Fulani Islamist extremists on four communities in Nigeria's Plateau State in April. Twelve were killed on 12 April when more than 50 armed terrorists "set fire to homes and a place of worship, mercilessly gunning down fleeing civilians". Another 12 were killed just a week later in a similar attack elsewhere in the state, while a university student was murdered in a separate incident on the same day. Lift up to the Lord our persecuted brothers and sisters in Nigeria, so that they stay strong in their faith and feel God's love and protection in these times of fear and uncertainty.

TUESDAY 20 Sixty Christian widows in Kaduna State, Nigeria have each received either a corn-grinding machine or a sewing machine, funded by Barnabas Aid. Their husbands had been killed and their homes destroyed in anti-Christian violence. Now they can earn a living and pay for basic needs and their children's schooling. "There are people who come and can't even afford to pay for grinding their corn and I do assist them without collecting money," one widow shared. "Through your blessing we are also able to bless others." Praise the Lord that His blessing is being passed on and pray that He will use widows' skills to bring healing and hope to their communities.

WEDNESDAY 21 Praise the Lord that Barnabas Aid's theological and pastoral training programme The Shepherd's Academy (TSA) – the undergraduate section of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life (OCRPL) – continues to expand, with more than 900 students from 55 countries enrolled in 28 study centres. Progress is being made in translating resources into Chinese, Russian, Tamil, Arabic and Portuguese, with other languages planned. Pray for Divine wisdom in hard-working translators to combine textual accuracy with sensitivity to their target audience. Ask that they will be mightily used along with TSA tutors to communicate sound doctrine to build up the Body of Christ, especially in regions with limited access to Bible teaching.

THURSDAY 22 Despite all the challenges, the grace of God is sufficient," says "Mark", a student at The Shepherd's Academy (TSA) – the undergraduate section of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life (OCRPL). Mark has

pastoral responsibility for three churches in a Muslim-majority area of northern Kenya. Like other church leaders he faces the challenge of Muslim efforts to gain converts from among the Christian community, as well as desperate food shortages, persistent drought and devastating floods. Pray that TSA's programme will equip Mark and others with the knowledge and insight to extend and deepen their ministries and build up the Body of Christ in East Africa.

FRIDAY 23 People in Christian-majority Kenya have been enduring more devastating floods, which, at the time of writing, have killed at least 291 people and left more than a quarter of a million displaced. Kenya and the wider Horn of Africa region has suffered persistent drought for several years leading to widespread hunger and malnutrition. Now, excessive rainfall has destroyed homes and infrastructure, as well as nearly 50,000 acres of crops. The World Health Organisation has warned of a cholera outbreak in the east of the country. Pray for all Kenyans, asking that food, drinking water and medical supplies will be directed where they are most needed.

SATURDAY 24 Please pray for three Eritrean pastors who have been imprisoned without trial for 20 years. Both Kiflu Gebremeskel and Haile Nayzgi were arrested at their homes in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, in the early morning of 23 May 2004. Meron Gebreselasie was arrested on 3 June that year. None of the pastors have been charged or given any trial, and they have not been told when or if they will be released. Call on the Lord for the release of the three pastors and other Christians held without charge in Eritrea.

SUNDAY 25 Sovereign Lord, we pray for Christians imprisoned in Eritrea for their faith in You. We pray that where they suffer from excess of heat and cold, hunger and thirst, beatings and torture, You will supply abundant comfort by Your Spirit abiding in them. We pray for Your sustaining power for pastors and theological students, who often receive even worse treatment than other believers. Please strengthen and encourage the flocks that have been deprived of their shepherds and guide them in Your paths of righteousness. We ask that they know the loving hand of the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray. (Psalm 23:3)

MONDAY 26 A small house church in a village in southern Laos attacked by residents and village leaders has now reopened under the district authorities' protection. On Sunday 4 February a mob tore down the house where Christians in the village were gathered for worship. The attackers also burned Bibles and other documents. Ministry of Public Security officials have since overruled the village officials and stepped in to protect the Christians' right to worship, enabling the house to be rebuilt. Praise God for the district authorities' support in providing this protection. Pray that this backing will continue, and that Christians will be able to meet regularly without harassment.

TUESDAY 27 Despite efforts from the government of Indonesia to promote religious tolerance, tensions remain. Extremists within the Muslim-majority country often harass and discriminate against Christians, while Islamic State-affiliated groups across the South-East

Asian region have grown in strength. Life is especially difficult for believers in the Indonesian province of Aceh, the only part of the nation governed by sharia (Islamic law). Pray that the Lord will sustain His people and that freedom to worship will be maintained and extended across the country.



A South-East Asian Christian works on the Barnabas-funded rice mill

WEDNESDAY 28 More than 13,000 impoverished Christians in a South-East Asian country have been sustained with rice from a Barnabas-funded rice milling machine. The mill provides 236 tonnes of rice per year to 200 rural churches. Part of Barnabas Aid’s food.gives project, the machine is – in the words of our project partner – “providing a crucial lifeline” to hungry Christians. Free rice is distributed to Christians who cannot afford to pay anything. Discounted rice is sold to pastors and other full-time Christian workers. Pray that the Lord will continue to prosper the rice-milling project and use it to provide many more South-East Asian believers with rice to sustain them.

THURSDAY 29 “I love you and I will always pray for you.” This was the message of senior church minister Mar Mari Emmanuel to a 16-year-old youth who is accused of stabbing him during a worship service in Sydney, Australia, on 15 April. The youth, who is unknown to the minister, has been charged by police with committing a terrorist act. Give thanks that Mar Mari Emmanuel and

another minister injured in the incident have recovered from their injuries. Pray that the words of Mar Mari Emmanuel will move others to be kind and tender-hearted, forgiving others, as Christ forgave us (Ephesians 4:32).

FRIDAY 30 For the second time in seven months, severe floods struck Rio Grande do Sul state in the far south of Brazil in late April. More than 300 cities were affected, leaving at least 80,000 people homeless. Church leader Daniel said, “Our region is destroyed. But we know that despite all circumstances, the Lord remains on the throne, sovereign and suffering with us through all of this! Please pray for us.” Barnabas is working with local partners to provide essential aid to Christian families affected. Pray that they will receive vital physical and spiritual help. Ask that leaders such as Daniel will know the blessing of being used to rebuild their communities as they keep their eyes fixed on the Lord.

SATURDAY 31 Lift up our brothers and sisters in Christian-majority Haiti where, at the time of writing, nearly five million people – almost half the population – are facing acute food insecurity and are struggling to find enough to eat. Surging gang violence, poor harvests and soaring inflation have combined to push the Caribbean nation to its worst level of food insecurity on record. Many have died in the violence and more than 360,000 people have been displaced across the country. As of March 2024, two thirds of Haitian families have suffered job and income loss, while already high food and fuel prices have soared. Please pray that the Lord protects the suffering Christians in Haiti and comforts them in this time of fear and need.

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Front Cover: One of the many Pakistan brick kiln families who
regularly receive aid from Barnabas