

Persecuted...

With your support, Barnabas Fund can enable local Christian groups to provide proper houses and churches for these homeless Christians in South Asia.

Since Barnabas Fund began in 1993 we have built hundreds of homes and scores of churches, transforming the lives of needy Christians under pressure. Help us to keep helping!

India

Thousands of Christians from Kandhamal District of Orissa State have been homeless since 2007/08 when their communities were violently attacked by Hindu extremists. Many ended up in tented refugee camps, which are now being closed down. Some are in cramped quarters with relatives. Others are in makeshift huts in the jungle.

How they became homeless

Christmas 2007 - Hindu extremists entered the homes of their Christian neighbours telling them that they had to convert to Hinduism or leave. Houses and churches were burned down or rendered uninhabitable by the extremists; many Christians were wounded or killed. In August 2008 brutal attacks started again, continuing unabated for two months. At least 400 villages were "cleansed" of all Christians. Over 56,000 Christians were left homeless.

Working through:

Evangelical Fellowship of India
Bless India / Vision 2020
The Ashiana Trust

Need: 2,000 houses

Cost: £700

This provides a simple one-room house for a Christian family in Orissa, India. Houses are built of brick, with a cement floor and a tin roof. An overhanging roof at the front of the house creates a veranda for cooking.



"One night, they came to our house and told us to become Hindus if we wanted to stay there. They had targeted to kill my father and brothers. With fear we all fled to the forest. They followed us in the night searching to catch and kill us. We had to run away from the forest and came to [a town] where we stayed in a relief camp... Our house is completely burnt down and our belongings are nowhere found, we have no place to stay."

Smrutilata, a girl from Orissa, India

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Pakistan

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Homeless since 2009, 250 Christian families are living in a tent camp just outside Islamabad without electricity or direct access to clean water and sanitation. Their conditions are filthy with great risk of disease.

How they became homeless

Following a housing dispute in which authorities reneged on their promise of providing land, more than 2,000 poor and vulnerable Christians became homeless in June 2009. They ended up living in tents along the centre of a highway with up to 20 people per tent. The only water supply ran beside an open pit latrine and waste dump. Two people died from the heat that first summer. In 2010 the government moved the families to a camp outside the city, but their tents were badly damaged by the devastating floods later that year.

Working through:

Brethren Church

Need: 250 houses

Cost: £2,500-£3,000

This provides a four-room house with electricity, a kitchen and a bathroom with toilet and shower. A church and health clinic will also be built.



"I have a dream in which I tell my friends, 'This is my home that protects my family; it may be small but it is filled with God's love and grace.'"

A homeless Christian in Pakistan

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Sri Lanka

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In northern Sri Lanka thousands of Christians are living in desperate conditions following decades of war and violence in which houses and churches were reduced to ash and rubble. Some Christians are living in temporary huts, while many are in makeshift tents and shelters. The war ended in 2009 but still they have nowhere permanent to live.

How they became homeless

The ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka lasted more than 30 years and left the north and east districts of the country in a war-ravaged state: devastated land and vegetation, houses in ruins, and up to half a million people displaced and living in temporary camps. Since the war ended in May 2009 reconstruction work has begun, but many Christians are still without permanent homes. They meet together to worship in tents and sometimes under trees.

Working through:

National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka / Alliance Development Trust

Need: 500 houses

Cost: £3,500

This provides a basic home with an indoor kitchen, toilet and water supply. £6,000 can fund a new church building to provide a place to worship and pray.



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