

BE ON YOUR GUARD

**SUFFERING CHURCH
SUNDAY 2010 – 2011**
PREPARING FOR PERSECUTION

The Barnabas Fund Distinctive

What helps make Barnabas Fund distinctive from other Christian organisations that deal with persecution?

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)
- aiming the majority of our aid at Christians living in Muslim environments
- channelling money from Christians through Christians to Christians
- channelling money through existing structures in the countries where funds are sent (e.g. local churches or Christian organisations)
- using the money to fund projects that 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

- acting on behalf of the persecuted Church, to be their voice – making their needs known to Christians around the world and the injustice of their persecution known to governments and international bodies

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
- tackle persecution at its root by making known the aspects of the Islamic faith and other ideologies that result in injustice and oppression of non-believers

- inform and enable Christians in the West to respond to the growing challenge of Islam to Church, society and mission in their own countries

- facilitate global intercession for the persecuted Church by providing comprehensive prayer materials

WE BELIEVE:

- we are called to address both religious and secular ideologies that deny full religious liberty to Christian minorities – while continuing to show God's love to all people
- 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

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Our Father in heaven,

We give you thanks and praise that You revealed Yourself to us in Your Son and drew us to Yourself. We pray for those who endure discrimination and persecution, violence and injustice for the sake of Your Holy Name. We pray that you will grant them daily strength to persevere in the hardships they may face.

We pray for those who seek to persecute Your children, that they will turn their eyes to You and come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

We pray too for ourselves. Lord, we know that we are not immune to mockery, harassment and even persecution for Christ. Should we find ourselves suffering because of our faith in You, we ask that You will enable us to stand firm in all our trials. May we know that You are with us and that You are always faithful to your people.

In Jesus' Name

Amen

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I/We would like to receive regular news and prayer information about the persecuted Church

Please find enclosed our/my gift of for the suffering church to be used:

Where it is **most needed**

To support Christians suffering through **violence**

To help Christians support themselves by starting up a **small business**

To support Christian **pastors** and **evangelists**

To help **feed** our persecuted brothers and sisters

To help Christian children to get a Christian **education**

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Name of church:

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:10

Please tear off and send to your nearest Barnabas office with you gift