

*BARNABAS AID - RELIEF AGENCY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH - BRINGING HOPE TO SUFFERING CHRISTIANS*

## UGANDA

*Goats bring self-sufficiency  
to South Sudanese refugees*

## PAKISTAN

*1001 Christian families freed  
from bonded labour!*

## CAMEROON

*Wave of terror engulfs  
Christians in the Far North*

The gift of a goat gives  
**hope and a future**



## The Barnabas Aid Distinctive

## What helps make Barnabas Aid distinct from other Christian organizations 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)
- Channeling money **from** Christians **through** Christians **to** Christians (we do not send people, we only send money)
- 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

- 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 other religions and ideologies that result in injustice and oppression of Christians and others
- 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 persecuted Church by providing comprehensive prayer material
- safeguard and protect our volunteers, staff, partners and beneficiaries
- keep our overheads low

### 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)

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Singaporean supporters may send gifts for Barnabas Fund online via Olive Aid Trust:

**Beneficiary:** OLIVE AID TRUST

**Bank Name:** United Overseas Bank (Malaysia) Berhad

**Swift Code:** UOVMBMYKL

**Location:** KUALA LUMPUR

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**To donate by credit/debit card, please visit the website [www.barnabasaid.org](http://www.barnabasaid.org) or phone 703 288 1681 or toll free 1 866 936 2525**

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**Front Cover: South Sudanese refugee boy in Uganda with his goat, a precious source of income, given by Barnabas Aid**

  
**barnabasaid**<sup>®</sup>  
hope and relief for the persecuted church

**NAE** | National Association of  
**Evangelicals**



# Embracing suffering in the Divine will

**On** Monday January 20, Pastor Lawan Andimi was murdered by Boko Haram in northern Nigeria. Prior to his killing, a video was released in which he stated that his life was in the hands of God. If God so willed it, he would see his wife, children and colleagues again. But if it was God's will that he should die at the hands of Boko Haram, he would willingly accept it. Clearly concerned that his loved ones should not worry about him, he urged them to thank God for everything.

To accept Divine will is one of the most important aspects of the Christian life. For those who suffer for Christ, and especially for those who face the extremity of martyrdom, it is doing the will of God that is important. Then their death is not a tragedy but a glorious triumph. In His mental and spiritual agony in Gethsemane, knowing the horror that lay ahead for Him at Calvary, Jesus relinquished His own will and embraced His Father's: "Not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)

The pathway to peace comes in embracing our Father's will and resting in that.

Writing from northern Kenya in January, after yet another devastating terrorist attack on Christian schoolteachers, a Kenyan Christian leader said, "Apart from God we are on our own." There is no one to protect them. It was the same for Jesus, after His arrest in Gethsemane, when "everyone deserted him and fled" (Mark 14:50). As the medieval French theologian, Peter Abelard, wrote:

Alone thou goest forth, O Lord, in sacrifice to die

The next day, as our Lord hung on the cross in agony, bearing our sins, even God seemed to abandon Him, for Jesus cried out, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)

Towards the end of January, a brutal attack was launched on the small and vulnerable community of Rohingya Christian refugees, first generation converts, who live in Kutupalong Camp, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The attackers were a group of extremists among the Muslim Rohingya refugees who live in the camp alongside them. All the Rohingyas had fled persecution in their homeland, Myanmar (Burma), but now some of the persecuted became the persecutors. Christian homes and the church building were attacked, Christian possessions were looted and at least eight Christians were injured so severely that they had to go to hospital.

Afterwards, the Rohingya church posted on its Facebook page, "O Lord, please forgive our persecutors!" Their reaction, as Christians, in the face of such suffering, was to forgive those who did them such harm. Likewise, our Lord Jesus, as He hung from the cross, gasping for breath, prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

We must always forgive. And this forgiveness is born of love. It was love that led Him to the cross to die for our sins. He loved those who betrayed Him, those who deserted Him, and those who killed Him. His was a "love for the loveless".

When Egyptian President al-Sisi attended a Christmas church service in Cairo, he spoke of love: "If we love God, we must love each other."

There can be no violence or hatred. On the cross, Jesus not only accepted His Father's will, not only hung there alone, but also forgave and loved. For there He embraced His enemies who were killing Him, He embraced His friends who had deserted Him, and ultimately He embraced all humankind, as He fulfilled His Father's will. "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) – a resurrection life that conquers death.

Grant us to suffer with Thee, Lord,  
That, as we share this hour,  
Thy Cross may bring us to Thy joy  
And resurrection power.

(Peter Abelard, 1079-1142, translated by F. Bland Tucker)

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Teenager's art project celebrates the work of Barnabas

# how barnabas is helping

## Spiritual sustenance for young converts in Albania

Barnabas supports a discipleship program for young Albanian converts to Christianity, from both atheist and Muslim backgrounds, aged from ten to 30 years. These new believers face a barrage of atheist and Islamic propaganda in schools and wider society in this officially atheist, but 70% Muslim, country.

Alison converted to Christianity while at university. However, on her return home, her father banned her from attending church. With the support of Barnabas, she is still able to access the Word of God and Christian literature that equips and feeds her spiritually.

The young converts attend weekly meetings with Bible studies, have one-to-one discipleship, are provided with Christian literature and take part in Christian outings where they can fellowship with other believers. Teenager, June, a Christian of two years, experienced opposition from atheist schoolfriends but, equipped with solid Biblical knowledge, she is now able to respond to this challenge.



Smiling Albanian teenage converts who gained spiritual sustenance through Barnabas support

**\$2,347 for one-year's discipleship for up to 40 converts**

Project reference: PR1454

## Widow in Burkina Faso thanks "angels" for aid

"You looked like angels and you ensured me that I have brothers and sisters around the world praying for me and that they care for my life and my kids ... Now I have hope for the future ... Thank you. Thank you a thousand times. May God bless you." These were the words of Brigitte when she received help from Barnabas for herself and her children. They fled when extremists broke into their home in Burkina Faso and shot dead her husband in his bed.

The anti-Christian violence that began in April 2019 is worsening, causing more and more Christians to flee. The destitute Christians arrive in the cities with nothing. Brigitte was one of 2,598 traumatized Christians who received emergency aid from Barnabas including oil, milk, soap and medicines as well as counselling and spiritual support.



Widowed Brigitte with her two children

**\$35,972 for 2,598 people from July to December 2019**

Project reference: PR1491

## Fresh water a "divine miracle" for Cameroonian Christians

Overjoyed Christians in the village of Kebi described two open wells (cisterns) provided by Barnabas as a "divine miracle". The wells provide life-changing access to fresh water in four Cameroonian villages where Christians have endured violent persecution from Boko Haram.

Villagers previously had to walk many miles to collect precious water supplies. At Kebi, the ground was so rocky that it was impossible to drill wells down to the water table. The problem was solved by changing the wells to cisterns. At each site a wide hole was hand dug, around 17m deep, and then partly lined with concrete to a certain height. The cistern collects water that runs in during the rainy season and stores it to provide the community with clean fresh water throughout the dry season, which lasts from July to October.



The final stages of the building of two cisterns in Kebi that have provided violently persecuted Christians with life-changing access to fresh water

**\$5,200**

Project reference: 07-1363

## Compassion in action

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 oppressed Christians.

### Safe Christian-run school brings new hope in Pakistan

Twelve-year-old Akash should be in Class 7, but is still in Class 2. Because he is Christian, he was not allowed to eat or drink with Muslim children at his non-Christian school. He was badly bullied and became too afraid to go to school, falling behind in his lessons. But, free of stress and harassment, Akash is now rapidly catching up on his education at his new Christian-run school.

The threat of false accusations of “blasphemy” and violence from Muslims hangs over Christians in Pakistan, who are vulnerable, despised and living at the lowest level of society. Trapped in a desperate cycle of poverty and illiteracy for generations, most can only get poorly paid, dangerous and dirty sanitary jobs – cleaning sewers or sweeping streets.

Akash’s Christian-run school is one of 124 Barnabas supported schools in Pakistan, giving over 11,000 Christian children a pathway to a brighter future, in a safe and nurturing environment.



Akash’s beaming smile shows how happy he is in a new Christian-run school

**\$28,546 to support running costs of nine Christian-run schools in Lahore for one year**

Project reference: 41-948

### Food aid for internally displaced Kachin believers in Myanmar

Barnabas provided emergency food aid to around 300 displaced Kachin Christians, after the army attacked their village. Widow “Joanna” (the oldest Christian in the internally displaced people camp) comes from a village called Jubilee. Sunday was her favorite day of the week as she loved going to church. Then their village was bombed from the air and everyone had to flee for their lives. Eight of Joanna’s nine children have now died, either in the conflict or in childbirth. “I am already so old. My life here is temporary,” she said. “I cannot see well now, but when I am in heaven, I can see my children and husband very clearly,” said Joanna.

She thanked Barnabas for the support. “Thank you dear friends for bringing us rice and sharing a good message with us ... This is a special day for all of us. God bless you and your friends.”



Widow “Joanna”, deep in prayer

**\$26,777**

Project reference: 75-763

### Touching souls with God’s Word in turbulent Ukraine

“I cannot touch their souls. Over the past three weeks we have had two suicides ... We need spiritual help.” This was the plea of a Christian military commander on the front line in the Ukraine. Barnabas responded by providing 30,000 copies of the New Testament, 15,000 in Russian and 15,000 in Ukrainian, for soldiers and poverty-stricken Christians to enable them to access God’s Word.

The soldiers reacted with “great gratitude” and the many internally displaced and impoverished Christians living in the Donetsk, Lugansk and Luhansk regions were thankful for the New Testaments printed in their mother tongue. “... Everything has been done so that it is maximally familiar and understandable,” exclaimed Sergei when he received his copy. “I sincerely thank all those who donated such wonderful New Testaments,” said Ivanova, a displaced Christian in the Donetsk region.



Christians are grateful to be able to read God’s Word in their mother tongue

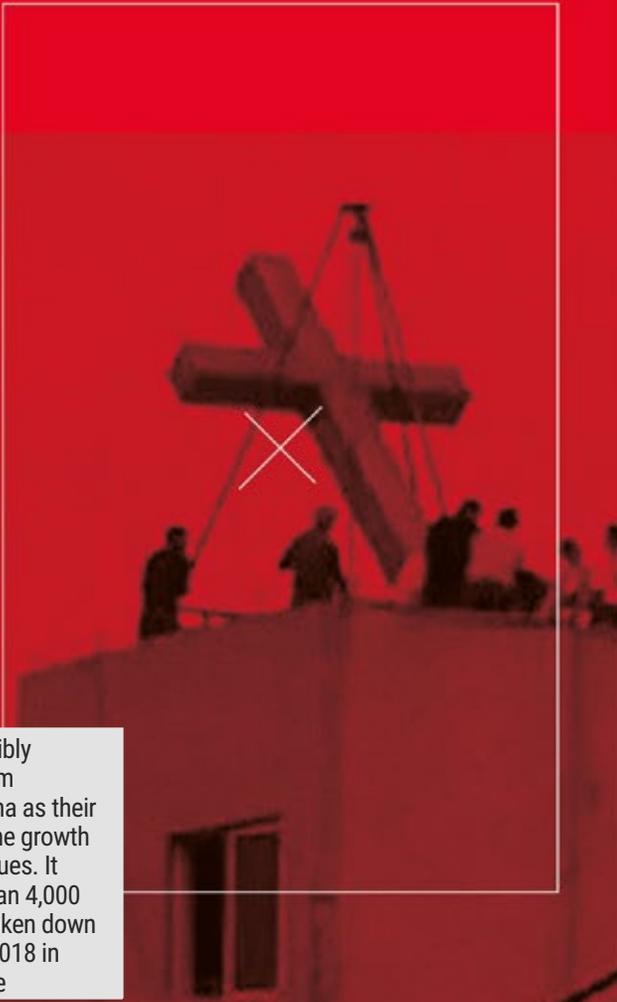
**\$44,478**

Project reference: PR1457

# SURVEILLANCE, SCRUTINY AND SINICIZATION

Christianity is thriving under crackdown in China

Authorities have forcibly removed crosses from churches across China as their crackdown against the growth of Christianity continues. It is estimated more than 4,000 crosses have been taken down since the middle of 2018 in Henan province alone



Christianity is growing rapidly in China, a fact the ruling communist party is reluctant to acknowledge. The authorities admit only to the existence of around 38 million Christians, a figure just below the communist party's 40 million members. In reality the numbers are thought to be at least as much as 150 million, if not 200 million, and increasing at a rate of about 1.2 million a year.

President Xi Jinping's government perceives Christianity as a "Western" religion and is disturbed by its growth. The past two years have seen an intensification of government action against both unofficial, unregulated congregations known as "house churches", which can be considered a part of Chinese society that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) does not control, and state-regulated "three-self" churches.

## FIVE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED RELIGIONS

A series of increasingly repressive measures have been taken against the Church, particularly since the issuing of new religious policies in early 2018. The crackdown seems set to get worse as new rules are introduced, giving the government control of nearly every aspect of religious activities, and the "social credit" state surveillance network spreads across the country.

While the CCP is atheist, the country's constitution officially enshrines religious freedom and officially recognizes five religions: Buddhism, Catholicism, Daoism, Islam and Protestantism.

## "HOUSE CHURCH" CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED FOR REFUSING TO INSTALL CCTV

Local authorities in certain provinces have been relentless in their repression of "house churches". Pastors and members have been arrested, tortured and imprisoned and their places of worship shut down.

The Zion Church in Beijing was one of three large unofficial "house churches" to be raided by the authorities in December 2018. It was abruptly shut and then demolished after its pastor, Jin Mingri, refused to install CCTV cameras that would feed live footage of church services to the authorities.

Pastor Jin said, "Before, as long as you didn't meddle in politics the government left you alone. But now, if you don't push the communist party line, if you don't display your love for the party, you are a target."

*"Of course we're scared - we're in China. But we have Jesus."*

### **HUNDREDS OF "HOUSE CHURCH" LEADERS BRAVELY TOOK A STAND**

Pastors of China's unofficial "house churches" responded to the crackdown by bravely launching a declaration calling for religious freedom in 2018. By November, at least 500 pastors and elders had signed the document protesting that churches were suffering "various degrees" of persecution and contempt at the hands of the authorities. They also lamented crosses being torn from churches, congregations being forced to hang the national flag or to sing songs praising the state, and that children were banned from entering churches or receiving religious education.

The pastors pledged to respect the government's authority to govern as long as it did not "overstep the boundaries of secular power laid out in the Bible and did not interfere with or violate anything related to faith or the soul". They vowed never to lead their churches to join a religious organization controlled by the government, nor to accept any fine imposed on churches because of their faith.

The pastors' declaration closed, "For the sake of the Gospel, we are prepared to bear all losses – even the loss of our freedom and of our lives."

### **STATE-SANCTIONED "THREE-SELF" CHURCHES ALARMED BY GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE**

Pastors of state-sanctioned "three-self" churches, previously left to operate largely unhindered, have begun to raise the alarm over increasing government interference. Church leaders protested that authorities had ordered crosses to be replaced with the national flag and forced surveillance cameras to be installed to monitor congregations and activities.

Enforcement of regulations has varied across the country, in every province, city and village, depending on the zeal of local authorities in enforcing government rules. In some places the government constructs church buildings, or relocates them elsewhere, while in other places it demolishes them. In some places, churches are forbidden to display a cross on the outside, while in others they can have a cross on the front wall but not on top of the roof.

### **CASH REWARDS OFFERED FOR ARREST OF FOREIGN PASTORS**

In March 2019, Guangzhou became the first major city in China to offer financial rewards to anyone who informed on "illegal religious activities" locally.

A tip-off about "illicit groups" could earn a nosy neighbor up to 10,000 yuan (\$1,450) and between 5,000 (\$725) and 10,000 yuan was on offer for the arrest of a foreign pastor. Tips on local church gatherings and local pastors could earn informants up to 3,000 yuan (\$430).

### **NEW RULES DEMAND RELIGIOUS GROUPS "SPREAD COMMUNIST PARTY PRINCIPLES"**

Tougher regulations became uniform across the country on February 1, 2020, when a new set of "administrative measures" came into force. The 41 new articles govern the "organization, functions, supervision and management of religious groups" from teachings and rallies to annual and daily events.

Religious organizations must obey the leadership of the CCP and implement the values of socialism. Article 17 went even further, stating, "Religious organizations must spread the principles and policies of the CCP ... to religious personnel and religious citizens, educating religious personnel and religious citizens to support the leadership of the CCP."

*A church minister commented, "In practice, your religion no longer matters, if you are Buddhist, or Taoist, or Muslim or Christian: the only religion allowed is faith in the CCP."*

### **FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO "SINICIZE" CHRISTIANITY**

The groundwork for harsher restrictions was laid two years ago, when a set of regulations, introduced on February 1, 2018, increased scrutiny of religious literature and websites. Online sales of the Bible were banned and physical sales permitted only through "three-self" churches.

A troubling white paper released by the government at around the same time set out a five-year plan to "reinterpret" Christianity according to secular socialist views, in a process of "sinicization" (i.e. to make Chinese).

### **TEN COMMANDMENTS REPLACED IN CHURCHES WITH PRESIDENT'S PORTRAIT**

In the central province of Henan, where the local authorities are often more extreme in enforcing regulations, every "three-self" church and meeting venue in the county of Luoyang was ordered, in September 2019, to remove the Ten Commandments from display.

Church elders were told that, in place of God's fundamental moral principles, they must display quotes by President Xi. Some churches that refused were shut down, while congregations at other churches were "blacklisted", restricting members' travel, education and employment opportunities.



A church was ordered to prominently display a portrait of President Xi Jinping and surround it with communist party slogans [Image credit: Bitter Winter]

In another instance, the authorities removed the words Bible, God and Christ from classic children's stories like *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Little Match Girl* in a new school textbook.

### PARTY LOYALIST DISPATCHED TO CHURCH TO LISTEN IN ON PASTOR'S SERMON

A congregation in Shangrao, a city in Jiangxi province, arrived one Sunday morning in October 2019 to find the secretary general of the county's United Front Work Department sitting in the back row, holding his mobile phone. Under his watchful eye and ear, the preacher told the congregation how to love their country using examples from the Bible.

"Ever since government officials started staking out our church, the preacher has no choice but to give sermons on patriotism to cope with their demands," said a member of the congregation. "We actually hate listening to sermons based on the 'core socialist values'. However, we have to do so in order to save the church while waiting to meet without officials present."

The proceedings ended with the patriotic song "Bless China, O Lord" from an approved collection of sinicized hymns. The Canaan Hymns, a popular collection of hymns composed by Christian convert Lu Xiaomin, who was born to a peasant family in 1970, has been designated an "illegal publication" and is banned in churches.

### CATHOLIC CHURCHES FACE SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS

The estimated 12 million Catholics in China are also experiencing tighter restrictions from the government, which checks that churches are registered with the state-controlled Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association.

A Catholic community in Ji'an city, Jiangxi province, was ordered in September 2019 to paint over its name with the communist slogan, "Follow the Party, Obey the Party, and Be Grateful to the Party". It also had to remove a Biblical painting to make way for a portrait of President Xi, surrounded with communist party slogans.

In the same month, an underground Catholic meeting venue in Jiangxi (operating outside the control of the Patriotic Association) was ordered to halt all religious activities. Local officials warned elderly members that their retirement pensions would be stopped if they continued to gather for worship. The venue's cross and a Biblical painting were removed and portraits of Xi Jinping and Mao Zedong displayed instead.



Portraits of Xi Jinping and Mao Zedong were displayed at a Catholic meeting venue in Jiangxi province

## HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY OF CHRISTIANITY IN CHINA

- The Gospel was first brought to China in **635 AD** by Syriac-speaking missionaries from the Church of the East, who travelled from Persia. Over the next two centuries many Chinese Christian communities developed.
- In **845**, a pro-Taoist Emperor suppressed all non-Chinese religions, including Christianity, which dwindled, leaving only a remnant of the East Syriac Church to survive and grow in Central Asia during the next four centuries.
- In the **thirteenth century**, the Church flourished again when the Mongols, led by Genghis Khan, conquered China, and some Mongol leaders became Christians. Later that century, European Catholic missionaries arrived and soon won converts, despite encountering considerable persecution.
- In **1368**, the Chinese rose against their Mongol rulers and the emerging Ming dynasty abolished all forms of Christianity.
- In **1807**, the first Protestant missionary arrived. The Taiping Rebellion of 1850 to 1864 started in opposition to the persecution of Christians by the ruling Qing dynasty. It developed into one of the bloodiest wars ever, with a death toll estimated at anywhere between 20 to 100 million.
- In **1900**, a group known as the Boxers, which developed out of a secret Buddhist sect, rose up in rebellion against the Western blue-eyed "foreign devils" and Chinese Christians with the aim of returning Chinese culture to Confucian values. They slaughtered 188 foreign missionaries and around 32,000 Chinese Christians.
- In **1949**, when communists gained control of mainland China, foreign missionaries left the country. They left behind a legacy of established Protestant "three-self" churches, which submitted to communist control. Others continued as unofficial "house churches". The term "three-self" comes from the three principles of self-governance, self-support and self-propagation first coined by nineteenth-century missionary leaders to China.
- The Cultural Revolution of **1966 to 1976**, presided over by Mao Zedong, banned all religious expression. Christian activity had to go underground, and unofficial "house churches" grew as a result.
- In the **1980s**, limited religious freedom was restored in China. The state recognized five official faiths: Protestantism, Catholicism, Islam, Buddhism and Taoism.
- On **March 14, 2013**, Xi Jinping was elected President of the People's Republic of China.



A CCTV camera on the Great Wall of China, one of a network of more than 175 million extending across the country



A huge network of AI-powered technology allows the Chinese authorities to monitor in real-time every move and facial expression of the country's citizens

### SECRETIVE PACT ACCELERATES SINICIZATION CAMPAIGN

The sharp increase in repressive measures by the authorities has raised questions over the future of a secretive pact reportedly agreed between Beijing and Pope Francis. The agreement gave both the Catholic Church and the Chinese government a voice in the appointment of new bishops.

Critics say that, since the deal was signed in September 2018, the government has appeared to accelerate its sinicization campaign, by attempting to focus church teachings on Chinese patriotism and the CCP. They also allege that church ministers are being imprisoned or prevented from participating in religious festivals.

### NO PLACE TO HIDE FOR CHRISTIANS

Alongside its draconian new powers, Xi Jinping's government also has the capacity to closely scrutinize the lives of China's 1.4 billion population through the vast network of advanced AI (artificial intelligence) surveillance technology being rolled out across the country. Much of the technology has been tested and "perfected" against Uighur Muslims, persecuted by the authorities in Xinjiang province, and Tibetan Buddhists.

The system can identify and record citizens' every move, leaving no place to hide for hard-pressed minorities, including Christians.

Individuals are identified by facial recognition or even by how they walk, and the system monitors their purchases, internet activity and social media feeds as well as facial expressions and other behaviors to award a "social credit" score.

Those who are found to break government rules or do not conform are subject to a variety of punishments that range from the inconvenient – internet throttling and slower hotel checkouts – to the life changing, including flight bans and restrictions on loans and rent.

The social credit system has the potential to severely affect the day-to-day existence of Christians and other minorities, especially if they are deemed to demonstrate "dissent".

Monitoring programs will also allow the government to fully access the vast amount of data transmitted across Chinese networks and housed on servers in China, including those belonging to all foreign-owned companies as well as Chinese individuals and entities. An expert explained, "It will cover every district, every ministry, every business and other institution, basically covering the whole of society." ❌

### PUBLISHERS IN CHINA MARK PRODUCTION OF 200 MILLIONTH BIBLE

Publishing history was made in November 2019 when the 200 millionth Bible rolled off the printing press in China.

Its production by the Amity Printing Company (APC) in Nanjing was celebrated at an official ceremony attended by leaders of the state-registered "three-self" church and representatives from the Chinese authorities.

Chairman of APC, Qiu Zhonghui, said, "Out of the 200 million Bibles printed, more than 85 million copies were printed and distributed for the churches in China, including braille Bibles and Bibles in eleven ethnic minority languages.

"Since 2003, APC began to grow their Bible printing for overseas distribution and to date, it has printed 115 million copies of Bible for more than 140 countries and territories."

The Chinese Union Version (CUV) Bible, which was first published in April 1919, is sold only through "three-self" churches in China.



A copy of an English-Chinese Bible: New Revised Standard Version and Chinese Union Version





Shehbaz and his wife Shina are very thankful to Barnabas supporters for transforming their lives and those of their children Rimsha, 13, Elishba, 12, Zarish, 9, Muskan, 6, Silvia, 3, and twin baby sons, Daud and Nouman. Elishba was absent when the picture was taken. Shehbaz is particularly grateful to now enjoy the respect of others, instead of being despised for his bonded laborer status

## 1,001 Pakistani Christian families freed from bonded brick-kiln labor

**“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.”**  
Psalm 118:29

“Our lives have totally changed. My mouth just does not stop praising God for the blessings and freedom He has given us.” These are the grateful words of just one of the Christian families released by Barnabas Aid from bonded labor in Pakistan’s brick-kilns – a number that now stands at a magnificent 1,001 families freed.

### So many lives transformed

Thanks to your generous donations, we have been able to transform the lives of so many families since we began helping them in September 2017. One thousand and one hard-working families have been freed from the oppression of bonded labor by paying their debts, which average 171,300 rupees (\$1,090). And, with your help and God’s grace, we intend to continue to free many more.

### Trapped in debt for generations – bonded labor is almost like slavery

Brick-kiln workers are low paid and families live at survival level. If someone falls sick, or another family crisis occurs, they have to take a loan from their employer, the brick-kiln owner. Interest on the loan is then deducted from their weekly wages and this can go on for years, even generations. The families are

forced to try to subsist on reduced wages and, as long as the debt remains, they are bonded to the brick-kiln, unable to leave and get another job. It is almost like slavery.



Basharat and his wife Saba could only see a future of “slavery and mud” for their children Sahil, 5, Saira, 3, and 18-month-old Sumera

### “All we could see was slavery and mud”

Weighed down by loan repayments, Basharat and his wife Saba despaired of ever having enough money to be able to pay for schooling for their three children in order that they could have hope of escaping the cycle of illiteracy and poverty that trapped previous generations. “We wanted a successful future for them, but all we could see was slavery and mud,” said Basharat. “Now we are free and we are going to get our children educated. Thank you Barnabas for making this possible.”

Shehbaz and his wife Shina are also now optimistic for the future of their seven children, especially as the older ones are now all in school. Their health has improved because, like many of the freed families, they also receive a

monthly food parcel from Barnabas. Shehbaz said, “I am very thankful. I now have respect; earlier I felt like a slave. My dignity has been revived.”

The couple’s older daughters, Rimsha, 13, and Elishba, 12, both attend one of five Barnabas-sponsored adult literacy classes, where they receive Christian instruction at the same time as learning reading, writing and arithmetic. Barnabas also supports more than 30 schools and a sewing center, all of them specifically for Christian brick-kiln families.



A cloud of worry, which kept him awake at night, has lifted from Irshad and his wife Shahnaz, pictured with their children Qasim, 12, Sohana, 10, Shahid, 7, Elishba, 5, and Anisha, 3

### Irshad thanked God for lifting the cloud of worry and depression

Father of five Irshad became depressed and couldn’t sleep for worrying over the loan he had to take out when he and his wife became ill with a viral fever at the same time as he had to find money for his sister’s wedding. Freed from his debt burden, Irshad said, “I thank God I am not in depression and sleep well. I am very thankful to my Lord and Barnabas Aid and those people who supported us.” 🙏



# Persecution exposed: Nepal

## “Roof of the World” exposed as vale of persecution for Christians



A holiday in Nepal conjures up visions of adventure and vibrant cultural experience. It is from here that the magnificent Mount Everest reaches high up into the sky, challenging those courageous enough to take it on. It is here too where the founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama, was born.

This small, mountainous country is an exotic land with fast-flowing rivers, tiger-filled jungles and the rare one-horned rhino. The bustling and colorful city of Kathmandu is one of rich cultural diversity, heady spices, busy bazaars, ancient shrines and splendidly crafted pagodas. As a holiday destination, Nepal beckons both adventurous climbers, hardy trekkers and those who yearn for a “spiritual” cultural experience.

But under this veneer of “spiritual” and cultural bonhomie lurks an ugly truth. Nepal is not a safe or welcome place for Christians, be they Nepali or foreign.

### A dark cloud descends on Christians

Until two decades ago, Nepal was famed as the only Hindu kingdom in the world. While this monarchy was in place, Christianity was something of a “forbidden religion”. With the overthrow of the king in 2008, the 1.4% Christian minority hoped that at last they would have freedom to worship.

And, for a time, they did. From 2008, in the now secular state, the Church blossomed and grew in unprecedented

proportions. In 1951, there were virtually no Christians in Nepal, but today it is estimated that there could be as many as 1.5 million. However, when the new Constitution of Nepal was approved in September 2015, which included laws not in line with religious freedom, things darkened.

A new law came into effect in September 2018 that made the attempted conversion of a follower of a religion “being practiced since ancient times” a criminal offence. This referred to a “Sanatan religion” which is interpreted as one passed down through at least three generations. Hinduism and Buddhism were included, but most Nepali Christians, who are either first-or-second generation Christians, are excluded. A conversion attempt would result in a five-year imprisonment and a fine of 50,000 rupees (\$436). Christians could no longer evangelize or publicly confess their faith without risk of arrest.

The law also banned “hurting religious sentiment”. The vagueness of this phrase means that any Christian activity could potentially be illegal. Christians were not only legally gagged, but also saw their church buildings being deliberately dismantled.

“The Nepali government [has] taken a regressive step and this law severely restricts our freedom of expression and our freedom of religion or belief,” said Tanka Subedi, chair of the national Religious Liberty Forum.

The Constitution of Nepal 2015 recognized the secular nature of the State and guaranteed the right of

individuals to freely “profess, practice and preserve” their religion, but did not guarantee the freedom to share or change religion. Hinduism was attributed special status in society and high levels of hostility towards Christianity persisted with some Hindu politicians verbally attacking Christians for the “epidemic” of conversions that had taken place.

### Christians arrested

After the 2018 law, widespread persecution of Christians began. A Christian police officer, Dilip, was arrested on October 3, 2018 for giving his testimony at a church conference. He was accused of propagating Christianity with the intention of converting people.

In November 2018, after being secretly followed and filmed, four Christians were arrested for evangelizing. The previous month four church buildings were attacked, one bombed and three set on fire. A spate of further arrests of Nepali, as well as Japanese, American and Indian Christians followed based on allegations of contravening the “anti-conversion” laws. Bibles and Christian literature were confiscated and local church leaders arrested.

But greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4) and, despite the danger, some courageous Nepali Christians continue to proclaim their faith in Christ.



## Nigerian Christian bride-to-be shot in murderous Christmas rampage by Islamic militants

**NIGERIA**

Islamist extremists shot dead a Christian bride-to-be and a group of her friends as they travelled by road to her wedding in Nigeria on December 26.

Martha Bulus and her party were on their way from Maiduguri to Adamawa for the ceremony, due to take place on December 31, when they were ambushed by members of Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in Gwoza, Borno State. All on board the vehicle were shot dead.

On the same day, ISWAP released unverified video footage of its militants beheading ten Christian men and shooting an eleventh man dead in north-east Nigeria.

***“We should, under no circumstance, let the terrorists divide us ...”***

The footage showed the captives, thought to have been abducted from Maiduguri and Damaturu in Borno State, on their knees, with masked militants standing behind. The killings are believed to have taken place on Christmas Day. Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari condemned the murders saying, “We should, under no circumstance, let the terrorists divide us by turning Christians against Muslims because these barbaric killers don’t represent Islam.”

On December 22, ten people were killed and two women taken captive when Islamist militants targeted Christians and those working for international aid organizations, travelling in a convoy towards Maiduguri.

Posing as soldiers, the jihadists stopped the vehicles and separated out those identified as Christians, as well as aid workers and members of the police, before shooting them. Two women aid workers have since been released.

## Sudanese Christians promised right to worship freely and sharia law on women’s dress repealed

**SUDAN**



Sudanese Christian women, imprisoned under sharia law, worshipping with their children in jail. Barnabas Aid supports a prison ministry that has helped more than 1,200 women and 150 children

Sudan’s new minister for religious affairs says Christians who suffered and endured “very bad practices” under previous president, Omar al-Bashir, have the right to practice their faith freely.

“They are Sudanese and their religion is heavenly with its values and beliefs,” said Nasreddine Mufreh, who is part of the transitional joint military and civilian council now running Sudan. He pledged that property stolen from churches and Christians during the 30-year rule of dictator al-Bashir will be returned.

Al-Bashir, ousted by the military in April 2019, closed Christian schools, demolished churches and forced Christians to live with a second class status under Islamic sharia law.

In a separate development, Sudan has repealed the strict sharia law that controlled how women acted and dressed in public. Many women used to be jailed for minor infringements, like letting a little hair show. In a Twitter post on November 29, Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok paid tribute to women who had “endured the atrocities that resulted from the implementation of this law”.

## Prayers answered as more than 50 churches reopen in Myanmar’s Shan State

**MYANMAR**



Ethnic Wa people (pictured) were led to the Lord by American missionaries in the early twentieth century. Wa Christians have been targeted by the China-backed separatist authorities for alleged links to Western “missionaries”  
[Image credit: Evangelos Petratos]

The United Wa State Army (UWSA) in control of the Wa Special Region in Myanmar (Burma), bordering China’s Yunnan province, has allowed at least 50 church buildings to reopen.

Local church leaders issued a plea for prayer when the China-backed, communist-influenced separatist

***Local church leaders welcomed the reopenings and reported that most church buildings ... are now open for worship***

group closed more than 100 churches in northern Shan State in 2018, demolishing some. At least 200 Christian leaders and workers were detained. All have since been released. A Bible school was also shut down and 41 students forced into hard labor.

Local church leaders welcomed the reopenings and reported that most church buildings in the towns of Panghsang, Hopang, Kho Pang and Namphan are now open for worship, leaving only one church and a school still closed.

## Russian security agencies target Christians under new “anti-extremism” law

RUSSIA



Russian Christians worshipping together

Russian security agencies are using sweeping surveillance powers of the “Yarovaya Law”, introduced in 2016, to impose harsh restrictions on evangelical Christian groups in the name of tackling vaguely defined “extremist” activities.

The law, which imposes tough fines and even potential expulsion from Russia, places restrictions on religious groups including requiring a permit to meet outside registered religious

buildings. This, in effect, outlaws prayer meetings held in Christians’ homes as well as criminalizing house churches.

asking to be let in so they can ‘pray.’

“If we don’t let them in, they film us turning them away and then use the footage against us. And if we do let them in, then they take pictures inside the church to identify ways that we are violating the ‘Yarovaya Law’. We have had to pay several fines for ‘illegal missionary activity’.”

Meanwhile, Christian Olga Glamozdinova won a landmark legal case on November 14 when the

***“If we don’t let them in, they film us turning them away and then use the footage against us. And if we do let them in, then they take pictures inside the church to identify ways that we are violating the ‘Yarovaya Law’”***

The law also gives security agencies access to private communications held by telecom companies including phone conversations and text messages.

“There are practically no Protestants that haven’t been impacted by the law,” said a pastor of a Protestant church in Moscow. “I lead a congregation of 50 people, and almost every Sunday a police squad interrupts our services. Sometimes, local authorities dress up like civilians and knock on our door,

Russian Constitutional Court ruled that worship services can take place in private houses.

Olga went to court on October 8 to challenge a fine of 10,000 rubles (\$155) for allowing her house in Veselyi, Rostov Oblast, to be used by her Protestant church for worship services. She argued the authorities’ decision to fine her violated her “right to freedom of conscience and religious confession”.

The court’s ruling sets a groundbreaking precedent for Christians in Russia, where it is almost impossible to obtain official permission to build new evangelical churches.

## Muslims beat, rob and try to convert Norwegian street preacher

NORWAY



Roar Fløttum regularly preaches and prays for the sick on the streets of the historic city of Trondheim, in Norway

Four Muslim men abducted, beat and robbed a street preacher in Trondheim, Norway, finally demanding at knifepoint he convert to Islam or be killed.

Roar Fløttum was lured away on November 28 to pray for an “injured friend” of the men.

After pushing Fløttum down a flight of stairs and beating him, the men took his bank cards and withdrew money from his accounts.

They tried to force Fløttum to recite Arabic words, probably the Islamic creed, and demanded he “convert to Islam or die” while threatening him with a knife. Muslims believe that anyone who recites the creed has become a Muslim, even if they do not understand, or believe, what they have said.

Police said it was the first incident of its kind in the city. Fløttum plans to continue his evangelism. “I only want to tell others about God’s love,” he said.



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# The gift of a goat gives **hope and a future**



*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,  
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to  
give you hope and a future.”*

(Jeremiah 29:11)

To be forced to flee your home and seek safety in a strange land is a traumatic and bewildering experience, and for many there is no “happily ever after” ending. It is a scenario none of us would want to go through, but this is the reality for tens of thousands of South Sudanese Christians who fled their famine-wracked and war-torn country to seek refuge in the sprawling refugee camp in Uganda known as Camp Rhino.

### Life in Camp Rhino

This vast refugee camp is home to over 100,000 of the most vulnerable South Sudanese refugees. The majority of them are women and thousands of them are children, many of them unaccompanied or orphans.

Uganda has shown both generosity and compassion in their refugee policy by providing refugees with land on which to build a shelter and grow crops. In theory, they also allow them freedom of movement, the right to work and access to public services and primary education.

However, life in the refugee camp remains one of hardship and increasing food insecurity. Malnutrition is rampant, particularly among the children where the level is at crisis point. What many pray for is some means of self-sufficiency that will provide them with a better future.

Always faithful, God hears their prayers.

### A priceless gift for Gideon

Gideon is one of Camp Rhino’s orphans, who lost both his parents to the terrible violence in South Sudan. Bereaved and alone in the vast camp, Gideon longed to attend school to gain the vital education needed to earn a good living, but it seemed impossible. He could barely survive on the meagre food rations he received in the camp let alone find a way to pay school fees.

But the Lord made a way for Gideon. While attending church, he received practical Christian love in the form of a goat, sent by Barnabas supporters.

Gideon now has not only a means to survive and thrive on the nourishment that his new companion gives him, but also an income to realize his dream of an education which will give him hope and a future.

For Gideon, this goat has truly been a priceless gift of love. He told Barnabas, “I am very happy for being given this goat and I pray that God will use [the goat] to be a source of income to support me every day.”



Orphaned boy Gideon cried as he told his story to our partner and received his goat. With the income he can make from the goat’s produce he will be able to go to school

### The growing gift of a goat

The gift of a female goat from Barnabas is the light these suffering refugees need to be able to set off on the path to becoming self-sufficient once again. Goats are hardy animals who are able to feed well off the scrubland and provide nutritious milk for the families together with manure to fertilize crops.

Those who receive a goat in the Barnabas funded program must give away her first female kid to another “goat-less” family, who in turn will do the same once their goat gives birth to a female kid. The average female goat produces one to three kids twice a year allowing the gift of a goat to multiply and bless many more. A kind of domino effect, except with goats! By selling the excess milk, or further offspring, the refugees are able to make a modest income that can buy them food and medicine and send their children to school. Selling just one goat can provide a



Happy South Sudanese refugee women in Camp Rhino, now on the path to self-sufficiency again thanks to their cherished goats sent by Barnabas Aid supporters

## South Sudan – a land wracked by war and economic crisis

Predominantly Christian South Sudan became independent from Sudan after a referendum on July 9, 2011. These Christians had no desire to be Islamized by the Muslim-majority in the north. They also feared the Muslim northern-based government would marginalize them.

The Christians had suffered greatly from conflict, drought and famine creating Africa's biggest refugee crisis.

Economically the country is in crisis with one of the highest food insecurity levels ever seen. Six million people daily struggle to find sufficient nutrition. At the height of the famine in 2018, the UN estimated that at least a third of the population were suffering from malnutrition.

To date, Uganda has accepted 51% of South Sudanese refugees amounting to over a million people.

Aid agencies recognize that the crisis in South Sudan is likely to continue indefinitely, and that resourcing nourishment for the refugees is something that could be difficult in the long-term.



***“I thank God that I was among the goat beneficiaries,” she said, “My goat has produced a she-kid. This gives me hope for an income... Thank you so much Barnabas Aid.”***

– Janet

family with enough money to pay one child's school fees, including all school essentials, for a full year.

Thousands of Christian refugees gain nourishment and a means of income as the goats are distributed. They also regain a sense of independence and self-respect and are encouraged by the Christian love shown to them by believers from across the world.

For many of these destitute refugees, the dream of returning to their homes in South Sudan is something that might never be realized because of the ongoing crisis and danger in that troubled land. Their only real hope for a future lies in them rebuilding their lives at the camp and finding a means to be self-sufficient. The cost of the gift of one female goat is \$40, and for these suffering refugees it is the “God-send” they need to help them to achieve that goal.

### **Janet gives thanks to God for her goat**

Like Gideon, Janet is an orphaned refugee who longed to be able to continue studying after she had completed primary school, but she was forced to drop out of education in order to try to obtain some income to survive. “I thank God that I was among the goat beneficiaries,” she said, “My goat has produced a she-kid. This gives me hope for an income... I am hopeful that with the production of my goat, I will get fees for secondary

school. The goat project should continue so that other vulnerable persons like me can benefit. Thank you so much Barnabas Aid.”

### **Long-term sustainability and hope for the future**

The Barnabas program aims to provide long-term sustainability for an initial 2,400 Christian families from 35 congregations at Camp Rhino. At the end of 2019, a total of 2,000 female goats and 66 male goats had been gifted. The wonderful multiplication aspect of the project means that more and more vulnerable Christians will benefit from this gift as these goats go on to bear kids.

“May God bless Barnabas Aid,” said a church leader at the camp. “Our children will have meat and milk. This will contribute to eliminating malnutrition among the children and breast-feeding mothers. It is amazing that many of our Christians that had lost all their animals in South Sudan have some animals to graze.”

To have real hope for the future it is crucial that these Christians, including many orphans, at Camp Rhino become self-sufficient again. The gift of a goat will realize that to the glory of God. 🐐



# Pushed to the brink

**Boko Haram unleash another wave of terror on Christians in Far North Cameroon**

**B**oko Haram struck after dark, forming a circle around the village. The gunmen howled and chanted through the night, while some swept through the community breaking into homes – killing, looting, and burning as they went. This was how an eyewitness described one of several terrifying attacks, by gangs of up to 300 Islamist extremists, as they targeted five rural Christian communities in Far North Cameroon in early January 2020.

At least seven Christians were killed in the nightlong raids, and four children were kidnapped, leaving their families distraught.

“We don’t know what to do. Pray for those who lost their beloved. Pray also for little children left without even clothes,” pleaded Pastor James when he contacted Barnabas. “Throughout the night I was thinking about the wives and children of those who were killed and how they will start life hopeless, empty handed, so these families need serious prayer and help,” he said.



Pioneering pastor David Mokoni was murdered when Boko Haram attacked his church in Moskota

## “Beyond persecution”

Another Cameroonian pastor described the plight of Christians in the rural Far North as an extreme situation “beyond persecution” that is plunging thousands of Christian families into a “deplorable humanitarian crisis”.

Boko Haram began stepping up its attacks on Christian villages in Far North Cameroon at the beginning of 2019, in an effort to establish an Islamic caliphate stretching from its base in north-eastern Nigeria across northern Cameroon and other countries of West Africa. They have reduced scores of villages to smoldering ruins, looted homes, plundered food stores, stolen and destroyed livestock and devastated crops.

## Isolated Christian villages dotted across Cameroon’s Sahel

Cameroon is majority-Christian, but Muslims dominate the Far North. Conflict between religious groups is rare in most of country. However, in the Far North Christians face discrimination in larger towns and rural Christian communities are subjected to Boko Haram violence.

Cameroon’s Far North, located in the harsh African Sahel, is dotted with small, isolated villages linked by poor roads. The Christian population live mainly in these rural communities, although increasing numbers are being displaced to Muslim-dominated larger towns. Cameroon’s security forces struggle to combat the well-armed Boko Haram militants, who strike under cover of darkness and then escape swiftly across the border to Nigeria. The UN estimates that more than 170,000 people, mostly Christians,

have fled the violence. Others “hide out” at night in the mountains and bush, or travel to a town to sleep, for safety rather than stay in their beds at night, when Boko Haram often strikes.

### “The people had only their eyes to cry”

The relentless suffering has also left survivors in a state of unprecedented psychological distress. “These attacks led to great fear, psychosis, trauma and panic,” said a local pastor.

Another contact described how powerless the families felt when militants swarmed Zangola village, killing three Christians, on December 2, 2019. “Helpless before the terrorists, the people had only their eyes to cry,” he said.

The previous day, a Sunday, the armed extremists had opened fire on a Christian funeral in the village of Kotserehé, causing mourners to flee in all directions. The assault left four dead and three wounded. A witness lamented, “A place of mourning has turned into a theatre of war that has ended in carnage.”



Christian villagers survey the ruins of their burnt out homes after a Boko Haram attack in Far North Cameroon

### Boy hacked to death for refusing to become “soldier”

Boko Haram murderously target men, leaving families without a provider or protector. The extremists are also known to capture boys and youths in order to force them to fight.

A 12-year-old boy was brutally hacked to death in Tourou district in November 2019, when he resisted the militants’ attempts to abduct him. In a raid on Mbrecche village in December, the extremists kidnapped 21 young people – nine girls and twelve boys. Four others, including a girl aged 13, managed to escape.

Rebecca, a witness to an assault on Kotserehé village, described a ruthless attack on a 15-year-old boy. “He was so soundly asleep in his bed he didn’t hear any of the noise around him. They thrust the blade of the axe deeply into his skull, to the point where we had to use a hammer to get it out of his head.”

### A harvestless year ahead for surviving families

Barnabas Aid has sent emergency relief aid to help more than 2,000 Christian families in two of the worst hit areas. We have sent food, blankets, sleeping mats and essential hygiene items to help those who lost everything except the clothes they were wearing when the militants unleashed their attacks.

A desperate struggle now lies ahead for these survivors. Last year, throughout the rainy season, people could not farm because of the attacks. “The lack of a harvest will cause long term hardship for our Christian brothers and sisters in this forgotten part of the world,” said Pastor James. ■

## A young Christian writes lament for slain pastor

*Moskota village has become the scene of the agonies of Boko Haram.*

*Only the dead, only the displaced;  
Only ghost villages, shops ransacked  
and emptied;*

*Only health centers plundered  
and looted;*

*Only cattle taken away; empty  
buildings.*

*Boko Haram struck – our founder  
Pastor Mokoni paid the price.*

*And when a pastor falls in Africa  
doesn't that mean anything?*

*Only ... emptiness.*

This is a song by a young Christian man, written to lament the death of his pastor, the church pioneer, David Mokoni, who was killed alongside a hearing-impaired Christian boy when Boko Haram attacked a church in Moskota on November 6, 2019, one of a series of assaults on the village.

All Christians in the district were singing the song as they tried to come to terms with the loss of their much-loved founding pastor and the destruction wrought on their community.



Barnabas Aid has sent food and essential supplies to more than 2,000 Christian families affected by devastating Boko Haram violence in Far North Cameroon. Thankful Ngaldiyé, a widow displaced by the violence, told us, “God, You who do not give up Your children, here I am rescued by people whom I have never known even for one day.”

If you would like to make a gift, please direct your donation to Victims of Violence in Cameroon 07-1363



Victims of Violence in Cameroon - 07-1363

# In Touch

## Swimmers brrrr-ave cold Christmas dip in the sea

Around 150 hardy swimmers braved a one-minute dip in the chilly sea off Northern Ireland on Christmas Eve to raise money for Barnabas Aid.

About 200 supporters turned out to cheer on the swimmers as they crested the waves at Helen's Bay in the 23rd year of the event.

Thanks to their intrepid efforts \$885 was raised towards our work helping persecuted Christians around the world.

## Could your church take up an Easter offering for Barnabas Aid?



This Easter, as we remember Christ's own sufferings and His joyous resurrection, could your church take up an Easter offering for Barnabas Aid, to bring hope and aid to believers who are celebrating in the midst of persecution because of their faith in Christ?

Particularly at this time of year we think of Christ's simple command to us, "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12). For suffering believers, the knowledge that fellow Christians around the world are praying for them, standing with them and supporting them is a great encouragement.

## UK Supporters' Afternoon, Coventry

**Saturday 20 June, 2 – 4.30 p.m.**

Queens Road Baptist Church, Coventry, CV1 3EG

We warmly invite all Barnabas Aid supporters to come along and hear an update on Barnabas Aid's work supporting persecuted Christians and meet members of the Barnabas team. There will also be an opportunity for fellowship and to peruse our bookstall.

To book your place, please go to: [barnabasfund.org/supportersday](http://barnabasfund.org/supportersday). Alternatively, phone: 024 7623 1923.

## Children at a church in Cheshire, UK, go into hiding to learn about persecution

Children from a church in Cheshire, UK, hid under tables to understand what life is like for boys and girls who live in countries where it is illegal to be a Christian.

The youngsters from Rhema Church, Rode Heath, pretended to meet in secret, and learned about how others their age around the world suffer because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

They led the congregation in prayers they had written for a Suffering Church Sunday, which was marked at Rhema Church on November 3, 2019.

Pastor Simon King said they used resources produced by Barnabas

Aid for Suffering Church Action and Awareness Week as part of their service. A collection raised \$270 to help persecuted Christians.



Time for a quick discussion with children meeting "undercover" at Rhema Church

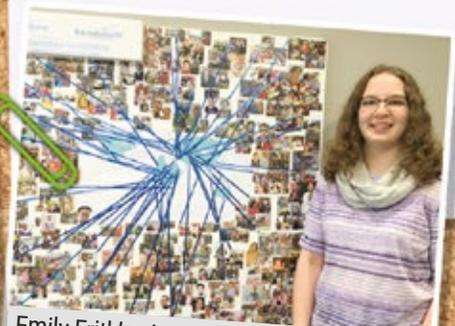
## Teenager's art project celebrates the work of Barnabas Aid

Teenager Emily Frith drew on the work of Barnabas for inspiration to produce a stunning picture montage for a school project.

Emily, whose father Jeremy is Chief Executive Officer of Barnabas Aid USA, was tasked by her teachers to carry out a community project that would benefit a local organization. Creative Emily came up with the idea of producing a piece of art celebrating the varied work Barnabas has done over the years in many different countries.

The 16-year-old meticulously sifted through several years of Barnabas magazines and publications, cutting out photographs of people Barnabas has helped and linking them to the countries where they live.

The finished work has pride of place on her father's office wall. Jeremy, who was Chief Operating Officer of our UK office for over ten years, recently moved with his wife, Stacy, and their family to Pennsylvania to take up his new role.



Emily Frith's picture montage takes pride of place on her father's office wall



## Order a Barnabas Aid Prayer Pack

Prayer is a priority at Barnabas Aid. We are so grateful that many supporters already pray for the persecuted Church and in this sense are already partnering with us in prayer. However, if you would like to create a dedicated prayer group, we invite you to become a Prayer Partner. Please contact your local Barnabas office to receive a free Prayer Group Starter Pack.

### The Prayer Group Starter Pack includes:

- Bible references to assist in praying for persecuted Christians
- Latest "Prayer Focus"
- "Prayer Partners Guide"
- 10 Prayer card bookmarks
- "A Call to Compassion" booklet
- "My Devotional Journal" book
- Latest "Praying for the Persecuted Church" booklet
- Latest "Barnabas Prayer" prayer notes
- Barnabas Aid sign-up sheet
- 8 day SCAAW "Daily Devotional" booklet (whilst stocks last)

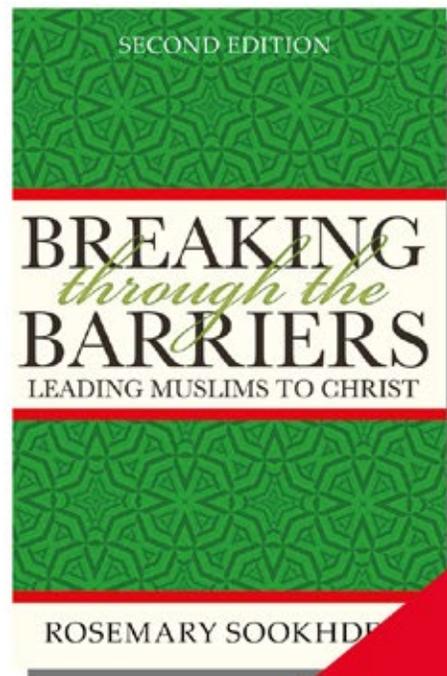
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How can we understand our Muslim friends and neighbors so that we can share the Gospel effectively with them? This book discusses their religion, culture and practices to find points of contact that will help Muslims respond to the Christian Gospel and provides crucial information on the differences between Islam and Christianity.

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