



barnabasprayer

Barnabas Aid - bringing hope to suffering Christians

To help you
pray for suffering
Christians

**January/February
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.

January

MONDAY 1 The Western New Year can be a time of increased danger of violent attack for Christian minorities in parts of the world where this season is considered to be a Christian celebration. Pray for the protection of our vulnerable brothers and sisters. Ask, too, that they will be kept from fear, filled with the knowledge that they dwell in the shelter of the Most High, and rest in the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1). Pray that they may face the coming 12 months with joy and hope, springing from their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY 2 “We are gradually losing our lives, our homes, land and rights without help as the attack continues. The state forces have forcefully taken some tribal towns and villages and they are planning to take others in the near future ... There are a few charities [including Barnabas Aid] supplying relief materials but never enough to feed the 41,000 displaced persons. I personally see no sign of improvement and hope for the foreseeable future ... Please continue to pray for us.” This message came to Barnabas Aid from a church leader in Manipur state in north-east India in November 2023, where the Christian-majority Kuki people had

been suffering violent attack for the previous six months. Temperatures in January can fall as low as 8°C causing great suffering for displaced people without blankets or warm clothes.

WEDNESDAY 3 Hundreds of Christians were affected by a 5.6 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on 3 November 2023. They were among thousands of Nepali families made homeless by the disaster, with many left injured and mourning the loss of loved ones. One pastor lost his daughter and four grandchildren. Barnabas Aid project partners estimated that 18,000 houses were destroyed, along with at least 20 church buildings. We have sent funds for food, blankets and temporary shelters for the earthquake-affected Christians. Pray that the Lord will continue to provide for their needs and comfort them in their sorrow.

THURSDAY 4 Please pray for Mae A-neng, a Christian widow in Laos, and her five children, aged 13 to 26. The family became Christians in 2018 and have refused to yield to demands by their village authorities that they renounce their Christian faith. On 23 September 2023 villagers therefore dismantled the family’s rice barn, used to store food year-round. The next day

they dismantled the family's house, then evicted the family from the village and turned them over to the Toumlane District authorities who put them in police detention. At the time of writing, they are believed to be still detained. The Lao Constitution affirms the freedom of Lao citizens "to believe or not to believe in religions" (Article 43). Pray that this right will be recognised in rural parts of the country as it is in cities.



Mae A-neng's house in Kamap village, Toumlane district, Laos, being dismantled by order of the village authorities [Image credit: Human Rights Watcher for Lao Religious Freedom]

FRIDAY 5 Between 2019 and 2021 many people became Christians in Khampou village, Assaphone district, Laos. This triggered two years of persecution (2022-23) by the village authorities. Under such pressure, some renounced Christ but others remained faithful. On Sunday 1 October 2023 the remaining Christians were worshipping together when the deputy village chief and village security authorities interrupted the meeting and ordered them to "cease manifesting their religion or belief in worship". The Christians were threatened with arrest and huge fines if they disobeyed. They were also threatened with a huge fine if anyone in

the village were to fall sick or die. Pray for the believing remnant in Khampou that their faith will not fail.

SATURDAY 6 Bangladesh will hold a general election tomorrow, 7 January. The current Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, is seeking a fourth consecutive term in office and there have been violent protests and many arrests as supporters of the main opposition party demand her resignation. Sheikh Hasina has done much to protect the rights of Christians and other non-Muslim minorities in Bangladesh. She has affirmed the equality of all Bangladeshi citizens and her government has paid for the restoration of 65 major churches and other Christian properties across the country. Pray for peaceful and fair elections, and that the Lord will work out His purposes for Bangladesh through them.

SUNDAY 7 Lord Jesus Christ, we saw so much death and destruction at the end of 2023. Please give us Your peace which transcends all understanding and help us to trust in You as the world sinks into mistrust and anxiety. We ask that You guard the hearts and minds of those who are persecuted because of their belief in You. We pray that they will overflow with hope despite their circumstances. We ask this in Your precious Name. (Philippians 4:7)

MONDAY 8 "We thank God for the life of each one of you and for the privilege that we have of being able to count on God's people." These words from an impoverished Cuban Christian reflect gratitude for a vital food delivery.

Barnabas funded transport costs for more than 139 tonnes of food to around 35,000 Cuban believers across the island. One of the seven containers transported served as an emergency response to a hurricane season, which saw 8,000 forced to flee their homes. Give thanks for this vital aid and pray that the Church in Cuba will grow in strength in the communist-ruled state.

TUESDAY 9 When the conflict in the Holy Land erupted in October, Bethlehem was quickly sealed off. No tourists could visit – even if they had wanted to amidst the violence. Many Christian families in Bethlehem earn their living through jobs connected with tourism, so this sudden change in circumstances drastically affected their livelihoods. In November, the head teacher of the Christian school in Bethlehem supported by Barnabas Aid wrote to us of Bethlehem’s “great turmoil” as many of the children’s parents and others in the Christian community had lost their incomes. Pray that Jehovah Jireh, the LORD our Provider, will help all in Bethlehem, especially our Christian brothers and sisters.

WEDNESDAY 10 “I pray that all wars, especially between Jews and Arabs, will end and I know that the world really needs my universal Prince of Peace,” said S.H. He is an Iraqi from a Shia Muslim background, who now describes himself as a “follower of Jesus, Immanuel, the heavenly Prince of Peace”. Although S.H. wrote his prayer back in 2006, when war broke out in Lebanon between Israel and the predominantly Shia Muslim Hizbullah group, it is just as relevant today.

Add your “Amen” to the prayer of our Christian brother.

THURSDAY 11 Marginalised Christians often struggle to find work in Egypt, especially in rural areas. In the last year Barnabas has helped more than 310 women (mainly widows) and young men amongst these impoverished believers to earn livings by setting up 289 small businesses ranging from transport enterprises to market stalls and carpentry. “Ruth” said her small enterprise selling slippers and shoes gave her family “hope and a new beginning” after her builder husband was paralysed in a fall, leaving them without income. Give thanks to God for these new beginnings. Ask that the fledgling businesses will thrive.

FRIDAY 12 The suffering of chronically ill Christians in Lebanon has been compounded by the country’s long-running economic crisis. Many believers can no longer afford the rising costs of medicines and some have resorted to taking their medication every other day to eke out supplies. Christian widow Samira, 71, who has heart problems and diabetes, is among 200 chronically ill Christians whose medical needs are being supported by Barnabas.



Delivering medication to poor and chronically sick Christians in Lebanon

She is thankful for the assistance, and for the joy our project partners bring when they pray with her as they deliver her vital medicines. Lift up our sick brothers and sisters in prayer and ask that they draw strength from God (Psalm 73:26).

SATURDAY 13 “While I am many other things – a son, a husband, a father, an accountant – all other people seem to see me as an IDP [internally displaced person]. So long as I am an IDP, I feel like I cannot embrace the beauty of being anything else.” These were the words of a Christian in Iraqi Kurdistan, one of thousands of Iraqi believers who have fled to the autonomous region, mostly in 2014 when terrorists from Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL Daesh) seized the areas where large numbers of Iraqi Christians lived. A recent study of Christian IDPs in Iraqi Kurdistan showed that many struggle deeply with the loss of their homes and the trauma they experienced. Yet they also spoke of their Christian faith being a help and comfort. Pray that the Lord Jesus will continue to strengthen the displaced Christians, and that they will find their identity and hope in Him.

SUNDAY 14 **Father God, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Saudi Arabia, who cannot show or speak publicly about their belief in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Please especially sustain Saudi converts who have to keep secret their faith in Your Son or face severe punishment, perhaps even death. Please keep safe from persecution all Christians in this land, if it is Your will. Whatever happens to them, may they grow**

in faith, knowledge and love. We ask this in the Name of Jesus.

MONDAY 15 Give thanks for the success of Ugandan police in foiling another terrorist bomb plot. Extremists planned to explode bombs in two churches in Kibibi, Butambala District, on Sunday 15 October. The devices, sent disguised as gifts to pastors, were discovered and defused. Pray that any further anti-Christian plots in Uganda, often perpetrated by militants based in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, will also come to nothing.

TUESDAY 16 Christians in Somalia are like lambs in the midst of wolves (Luke 10:3). Their country is practically 100% Muslim, and dominated by a strict interpretation of Islamic law. As converts from Islam, the tiny Christian community are severely persecuted to the point of being hunted down and killed. The preaching or propagation of any religion apart from Islam is illegal, and there are no functioning church buildings. Pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will fill Somali believers with hope, peace, joy and love.

WEDNESDAY 17 Six Christians were shot dead in an attack in the Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Nigeria, and six others were injured. The community targeted are part of the Christian-majority Atyap Chiefdom. Pray for those who mourn for Sarah Adamu, Rejoice Adamu, Enoch Adamu, Juan Aminu, Salomi Aminu and Meshak Aminu asking that the God of all comfort will sustain them with His peace. Pray for full healing for the injured. Pray also for many Nigerian Christians who have been

injured or bereaved, or lost their jobs and livelihoods in other similar attacks that frequently occur. In recent years an estimated average 500 have been killed per month.

THURSDAY 18 Barnabas Aid is organising a petition to “End the Genocide of African Christians”. Around 45,000 believers have been killed by violent extremists in Nigeria since 2009, around 5,500 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since October 2014, and around 1,800 in northern Mozambique since October 2017. That makes an estimated total of 52,300. Pray that we will receive at least 52,300 signatures on the petition and that it will result in more help from the international community for the African governments who struggle to combat this violence. See barnabasaid.org/resources/africa-petition

FRIDAY 19 Children in Zimbabwe are showing marked improvement in their health since receiving daily servings of the nutritious porridge ePap, funded by Barnabas. More than 2,000 children



Nutritious ePap is distributed to the neediest believers in Zimbabwe, including this blind young man

under 6 years old are among nearly 12,000 people having their health transformed by the extra vitamins, minerals and protein contained in ePap. Conditions such as ringworm, patchy skin and discoloured and sparse hair are being reversed. Praise God for these gains and pray that many more needy Christians in Zimbabwe will receive this life-giving nourishment.

SATURDAY 20 In the midst of heavy shelling, all the children were safely evacuated from the village in an operation organised by the mayor – all except Michael (10) and Nver (8), the mayor’s own sons, who were yet to leave the village. A few days after the attack began, both boys were found dead. This family tragedy occurred in Sarnakbyoor village in Nagorno-Karabakh, as the Armenian Christian population of the enclave fled en masse following Azerbaijan’s attack on 19 September 2023. Almost the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh (120,000 people) are now in Armenia. They arrived malnourished after a nine-month blockade. They are traumatised and grieving for their lost homes and homeland, now under Azerbaijan’s control. Most have no work and nowhere to live long term. Pray that the God of endurance and encouragement (Romans 15:5 ESV) will meet their needs.

SUNDAY 21 Dear Lord Jesus, we pray today for our Christian brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. We rejoice that they come from across the spectrum of ethnic and religious backgrounds as well as from families who have faithfully followed You for generations, and we pray that this will be a powerful witness to

You and Your love. We ask that You will protect them from harassment and persecution and will provide for the needs of the many who are desperately poor. Give them daily courage, hope and joy as they follow You.

MONDAY 22 A Sunday morning worship service in Sri Lanka's Puttalam District was broken up by police after a complaint made by a resident via an emergency hotline. Two police officers came to the pastor's house, where his church were meeting. The officers ordered the congregation to leave, questioned the pastor, and warned him that he could be arrested if they were called again. This incident followed previous complaints made to police about the church. Pray that a way will be found to enable the pastor and other Christians to live at peace with their neighbours (Romans 12:18).

TUESDAY 23 A Christian leader in Pakistan wrote to Barnabas Aid about the mental anguish which the Christian community endures because of the way in which Christians are viewed by many other Pakistanis as "second class citizens" of little worth, suitable only for the lowest and most menial cleaning jobs. Even if highly qualified, non-Muslims are never given the most senior positions in government, police or military. Pray that Pakistani believers will not be disheartened by this attitude towards them, but will rejoice in the knowledge that as Christians they are "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession" (1 Peter 2:9).

WEDNESDAY 24 The murderer of a Pakistani Christian woman has been given a 25-year prison sentence for his crime by the Islamabad Sessions Court. The man shot Sonia Bibi in November 2020 after she refused to become a Muslim and marry him. "We are Christians from generations, and Sonia was a true Christian and strong in her faith," said Sonia's father. Christian and Hindu women and girls in Pakistan remain at risk of abduction, forced marriage and forced conversion. Pray that this prison sentence will act as a deterrent and thus protect these vulnerable women and girls.

THURSDAY 25 Towards the end of last year, Pakistan began to crack down on allegedly illegal immigrants from Afghanistan. Some Afghans were deported, while others made their own way back in response to the pressure being put on them by the Pakistani authorities. All are returning to a country of strong repression (especially for women and girls) and much hunger. Any Afghan Christians deported to Afghanistan also face the possibility of death if their faith is discovered. Pray for all who are suffering in Afghanistan, especially our brothers and sisters. You might like to base your prayer on the words of David, whose life was often in danger: "I trust in you, LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me" (Psalm 31:14-15).

FRIDAY 26 A new church building, seating 750 people, was opened on Sunday 8 October in Yeşilköy, Istanbul, Turkey, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended

the inauguration ceremony. This is remarkable given the Turkish state's record of unjustly expropriating churches and other church properties, adding greatly to the difficulties of the Christian communities in Turkey since the formation of the Turkish Republic in 1923. Pray that the unprecedented event will be the start of a new and more positive attitude by the Turkish authorities to their country's Christian minorities.



Gevriye Ego, shot dead, in a Christian village in Turkey [Image credit: World Council of Arameans]

SATURDAY 27 A 91-year-old Christian in the south-eastern Turkish province of Mardin was killed on 6 November 2023. Gevriye Ego was ambushed in front of his house in the Christian village of Enhil and shot multiple times in the head. He died in hospital. Christians have lived in south-east Turkey for many centuries but are now a small minority. Pray for comfort and protection for these believers and particularly for Gevriye's family and friends.

SUNDAY 28 Lord Jesus, we pray for Your followers in countries where they face persecution from "rulers and authorities". Give them grace not to worry ahead of time how to speak and defend themselves if they are arrested. May they face the future with peace in their hearts, knowing that You will give them the words and wisdom they will need when the time comes. Give them assurance that You will strengthen them to face prison or torture, if that is Your will for them. May they be effective witnesses, so that even their persecutors may come to know and love You. (Luke 12:11; 21:12-15)

MONDAY 29 "The religious freedoms in our country are steadily, increasingly eroded," wrote a Christian leader from a Central Asian country in November 2023. "The situation in [City X] is also intensified, and it is now eight years since the local authorities have been trying to prohibit brothers and sisters to meet for worship, fellowship and prayer." The most recent incident was the forced closure of a church building, so that believers now gather in small groups in homes. Muslim religious leaders in X are also "concocting a variety of obstacles to prevent believers from meeting", adds the Christian leader. Pray that our brothers and sisters will be able to keep meeting to pray together and build each other up in the faith, whatever the pressures and problems that face them.

TUESDAY 30 Christians in Uzbekistan thanked the Lord for answered prayers after the donations of Barnabas supporters funded repairs to a registered church (meaning a building in which it is legal to gather for prayer). We

replaced the roof and repaired walls and flooring. Three church congregations share the building, enabling them to meet legally. It is also used by the host church for twice-weekly Bible studies, for its youth and children's ministries, regular prayer meetings and for training courses. Give thanks for this vibrant Christian community. Pray that their joy in the Lord will be a light to others (Matthew 5:14).

WEDNESDAY 31 Christians in a Central Asian country ask us to pray that "brothers and sisters experiencing persecution would not be intimidated by the threats but continue attending services and witnessing. Regardless of the opposition from the enemy of the souls of men, we still have wide open opportunities for evangelising and witnessing to people around us." Praise God for the courage of our fellow-Christians in that country and ask the Lord to continue to add to their numbers as more people put their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Pray also that the Lord will encourage and help them as they face the hardships of winter right now.

February

THURSDAY 1 "This will allow the church to stand for years to come," said a spokesman for a church in Kazakhstan. Barnabas funded crucial repairs to this registered church building, paying a specialised company to seal the basement that had been flooded every spring for the past ten years by melting snow. The church, which includes converts from Islam, began over 30 years ago, with its members meeting

in libraries and halls before they had their own church building. Give thanks for the completion of these vital repairs and pray that the building will develop as a centre where Christians can grow spiritually and in number in the years ahead.

FRIDAY 2 One of the ongoing difficulties facing Christians in a certain Central Asian country is burial. Local Muslims will often not allow Christians to be buried in the cemetery, especially if the deceased is a convert from Islam. This causes some danger and a great deal of distress to the Christian relatives of the bereaved and other believers. Pray that the Lord will intervene and smooth the way for His children to be laid to rest peacefully, which is very important in the local culture. Pray also that the bereaved will take comfort in the knowledge that their loved one will be raised imperishable in a new spiritual body and that through the Lord Jesus Christ "death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:42-56).



Burial of a Christian man from a Muslim background in a Central Asian country where there is much opposition to burying such believers in cemeteries

SATURDAY 3 Please continue to pray for Barnabas Aid's The Shepherd's Academy (TSA), which is our programme of theological education for grassroots church leaders in the Global South who otherwise may not be able to access

such training. This vital ministry is expanding, God willing, into the Central Asian region in 2024, where there are many new believers and few trained leaders. Ask that the Lord will use TSA to equip the under-shepherds of Christ's flock in Central Asia, and elsewhere, for their God-given calling.

SUNDAY 4 Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd, we are so thankful to be part of Your flock, wherever we are in the world. Please work through those You have called to lead Your people, especially in places of poverty, discrimination and pressure. Give them wisdom and courage, especially as they can expect to be main targets for persecution by those who are hostile to You. We pray You will help them follow Your example, as the Chief Shepherd, so that they may be a channel of blessing to Your suffering people and will receive an unfading crown of glory. (1 Peter 5:4)

MONDAY 5 "I have learned not only to preach the Gospel, but to live the Gospel," said a recent graduate from a theological seminary in Pakistan, which is part-funded by Barnabas. "I understand the importance of relying on the Holy Spirit for effective ministry," recounted another. Give thanks for the knowledge and wisdom that has been given to these graduates through their studies. Pray that they will continue to grow in Christ-likeness, and will be powerfully used by God to build up His people in Pakistan.

TUESDAY 6 A general election will be held in Pakistan the day after tomorrow, 8 February. Pray that there will be no

violence, and that Christians will be able to vote without fear or intimidation. Ask that the Lord, in His mercy, will raise up a new government that will promote better treatment of Christians and the other non-Muslim minorities and will work towards peace and stability in the country, as well as improving the economy. The country has been wracked by spiralling inflation, which peaked at 38% in May 2023. Christians in Pakistan are among the most impoverished, and religious minorities are at particular risk of violence at times of political turmoil.

WEDNESDAY 7 Eight families (about 60 people) have been expelled from their village in Laos, because they left the traditional spirit cults of their fellow-villagers and decided to follow Jesus Christ. The expulsion order was made on 4 October 2023 and the families were given 30 days to find themselves new homes outside the village. They began by trying to build temporary houses, using materials they found in the forest. Pray that the Son of Man, who had nowhere to lay His head (Luke 9:58), will enable our brothers and sisters to find a safe place to live and ways to support themselves.

THURSDAY 8 Laos is almost bankrupt and its government has ordered rice-growing regions to hand over their land to Chinese investors to grow water-melons for export, thus bringing in foreign currency. That means there is now only one rice harvest per year (December) and rice prices have risen, hurting the rural poor, amongst whom are many Christians. The December 2023 harvest was badly affected by a freak torrent of heavy rain which

washed away large areas of rice in the fields. Ask for God's blessing on various agricultural projects which Barnabas helps to support, providing income for Christian farmers.

FRIDAY 9 The village chief and village authorities in Tabong village, Sa Mouay district, Laos, have dismantled and destroyed the home of an extended Christian family of seven people. Then they had the family locked up at the police station and banned the three sons (aged 7 to 10) from attending school. This persecution was inflicted on the family because they insisted on their right to follow Christ. At the time of writing we do not know whether the family are still in detention, where they are living if they have been released, or how they are supporting themselves – but the Lord knows. Please lift up in prayer Umvang, his wife Ter, brother Vuang, sons Alin, Veoy and Soulin, and his 3-year-old daughter Rebecca.

SATURDAY 10 Next Wednesday (14 February) the population of Indonesia will go to the polls to elect a new president. The current president, Joko Widodo, who has done much to combat Islamist extremism and to help Christians, cannot stand for re-election because he has completed the maximum allowed two terms in office. Ask that the Lord's hand will be over events on Wednesday. Pray that whoever He allows to take the highest position in this, the fourth most populous nation in the world and which has more Muslims than any other, will govern with wisdom, compassion and justice.

SUNDAY 11 Lord Jesus, we pray for our brothers and sisters in North Korea whose lives are constantly under threat because of their devotion to You. Thank You for those who daily deny themselves, take up their cross and follow You. Only You know how many Christians are worshipping you in secret and how many are imprisoned and tortured in labour camps and prisons. We pray that they will all be sustained by the encouragement of the Scriptures and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. We ask this in Your most holy Name. (Matthew 16:24-25)

MONDAY 12 International experts have warned of a “raging fire of brutality” in Myanmar, and accused the Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) government of “war crimes and crimes against humanity” including attacks on schools, hospitals and camps for internally displaced people. An estimated 4,000 civilians have been killed by the Tatmadaw since the military coup of February 2021. Among those suffering this brutality are believers in Christian-majority Karen, Kachin and Chin states, as well as the large Christian communities of Kayah and Shan states. Pray that there will be an end to the violence, and that all people in Myanmar will be able to live in peace.



Displaced Christians in Myanmar

TUESDAY 13 A joint funeral service for 29 people, including 11 children was held in Myanmar. They had been killed in a Tatmadaw (Myanmar military) strike on a camp for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Christian-majority Kachin State. Fifty-six people were injured in the same attack. The victims had fled there from another IDP camp, to which they had gone after being forced from their original homes. The day of the funeral was marked by prayer meetings in other parts of the state. Ask the Lord to remind His people of their hope in Christ who said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (John 11:25).

WEDNESDAY 14 Praise God for the way in which the internet, apps and other IT enable Afghan Muslims to find and study the Bible. Even those who are illiterate can hear the Word of God being read aloud to them. By these ways, many have come to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. Pray that the new believers will grow in faith and that, if it is His will, the Lord will protect them from persecution. Pray also for the Christians who create the technology and follow-up enquiries from seeking Afghans, that they may have the wisdom of the Holy Spirit day by day.

THURSDAY 15 Presidential elections are due to take place in Algeria in 2024, though no date has yet been confirmed. While Algeria’s economy is performing reasonably well, the country is at risk of Islamist

extremism and the radicalisation of young men in particular. The government has been cracking down on churches for the last few years. At the time of writing, 49 church buildings have been forcibly closed and not more than seven are left open. Pray that whoever wins the presidency will be given wisdom to deal with the challenges facing Algeria, and ask that the government will re-open churches and allow Christians to worship in peace.

FRIDAY 16 The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention issued a “red flag” warning on 1 November 2023 highlighting the risk of an Azerbaijani invasion of Christian-majority Armenia. Armenia is currently hosting nearly 120,000 thousand refugees who have fled the Armenian Christian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh since it was seized by Azerbaijan in an attack on 19 September. Ask our sovereign LORD to be the shield and deliverer of the Christians in Armenia. Pray that any plans to attack their country will not succeed (Psalm 140:6-8).

SATURDAY 17 Four translations of the New Testament into languages spoken by tribal ethnic minorities in Bangladesh have recently been completed. Please pray that the Word of God will encourage, comfort, teach, rebuke, correct and train in righteousness the believers amongst the Tripura, Khuang, Kruck and Kol peoples as they read it in the language of their hearts (2 Timothy 3:16).



Barnabas Aid is continuing to build simple one-room brick houses for hundreds of Christian families from the Santal ethnic group in Bangladesh who were made homeless when the wooden shacks they used to live in were deliberately burned down in 2016. Please pray that phase 3 of the project (100 more houses) will be completed on schedule by June 2024

SUNDAY 18 Heavenly Father, we lift to You those who are caught up in conflicts around the world, especially Christians who already endure persecution because they believe in You. Please protect Your Church in countries where enemies attack and besiege them even outside of war. We pray that You will strengthen believers living in such places and ask that You prepare them for the suffering they will face for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose Name we pray.

MONDAY 19 At least 70 people, the majority children and the elderly, were killed in Burkina Faso's Central-North

region on 5 November 2023. Dozens of homes were burned during the attack on Zaongo village. It took place amid the ongoing jihadi insurgency that has brought devastation to a country that was once a bastion of religious tolerance. More than two million people have been driven from their homes during the eight-year campaign of violence by Islamist extremists, much of it targeted against Christians. Pray for the bereaved of Zaongo and ask that no more families will experience the loss of their loved ones. Ask the Prince of Peace to intervene to halt the bloodshed.

TUESDAY 20 Cameroon's Christian majority has been increasingly threatened by Islamist violence in the Far North, which borders Boko Haram bases in north-eastern Nigeria. Thousands have fled attacks targeting rural Christian communities, often finding refuge in neighbouring Chad. Cameroon's relative stability has been shaken by tensions between the majority Francophone region and the smaller Anglophone region in the south-west, where separatists have clashed with state forces. Resources have been stretched by an influx of refugees fleeing violence in the Central African Republic. Pray that the Church will respond to the multiple crises in unity and with a strong witness.

WEDNESDAY 21 Chad has emerged as a centre for jihadi violence with an estimated 3,500-5,000 Islamic State West Africa Province fighters having made their base in the Lake Chad area in recent years. The Christian minority, around 35% of the population, often suffers discrimination by the Muslim majority, especially in rural areas

where Muslim herders try to seize land belonging to Christian communities. Christian converts from Islam are threatened to try to force them to return to Islam. Pray for protection for Christians in Chad, who also have to contend with natural disasters such as intense flooding. Ask that the Chadian Church will grow stronger through the adversity encountered.

THURSDAY 22 In China, Christianity is still viewed as a Western religion and therefore is marginalised. Pray that Christian leaders, Christian values and Christian perspectives will nevertheless impact society in China. Pray also for Christians in China who are following online theological and ministry training courses. The geopolitical tensions between the US and China are leading both nations to block their online meeting platforms and social media, making it difficult for the Christians to pursue their studies. Pray too for training being done since Covid within China's house churches (unregistered churches). Many of the trainers do not have formal training themselves in theology and Biblical hermeneutics. Ask that the Holy Spirit will be their Teacher (John 14:26) as they teach others.

FRIDAY 23 At least 26 people were killed on 24 October in a Christian area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Extremists used machetes to attack residents in the town of Oicha. About 5,500 civilians (almost all of them Christians) have been killed by Islamist extremists in DRC since October 2014. Ask the LORD, who can break the bow and shatter the spear (Psalm 46:9), to bring an end to this terrible violence.

SATURDAY 24 Extremists in Abu-Qurqas, Minya, Upper Egypt, attacked the home of a Christian called Emad Wagih Emad following false rumours that the Christian community were building a church without getting permission first. Local Christians have applied for a licence for a new church while, separately, building work was taking place on a new house. The attackers cut off supplies of electricity to the village and set fire to Emad's home. Give thanks that nobody was hurt, and pray that the situation will be resolved peacefully. The Egyptian authorities have, at the time of writing, granted licences to 3,189 of the 3,730 churches that applied. Pray that the other applications, including this one, will be successful.

SUNDAY 25 Almighty God, we lift up Christian children around the world who believe in You even at a young age. We remember that Your Son, Jesus Christ called children to Himself, saying that Your Kingdom belonged to such as them. We ask that You help Christian children cling to this hope and truth, especially those who are rejected by classmates, teachers, friends and even their own family because of their faith in You. We ask You to support them, strengthen their hearts, and remind them that Your love for them will never change. We pray this in Jesus' Name. (Luke 18:16)

MONDAY 26 Christians in Eritrea who do not belong to one of the three denominations allowed by the government are often imprisoned for their faith. They are accused of being

non-sanctioned Christians or enemies of the state – or they are not charged at all but simply incarcerated, often for years on end. Imprisoned Christians are often singled out for extra abuse and torture. Pray that Eritrean Christians in this situation will soon be released, if this is God’s will, or that He will strengthen them to endure and will use them for His purposes while they remain behind bars. Ask that they will be reminded that “where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17).

TUESDAY 27 Ethiopia continues to suffer severe humanitarian disasters, some caused by human conflicts and some by too much or too little rain. Remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God,” pray that God will raise up peacemakers to bring an end to the violence (Matthew 5:9). Two-thirds of the population identify as Christians. Pray that they will reflect the peace-making character of their heavenly Father.

WEDNESDAY 28 The government of Indonesia has announced that from the beginning of 2024 it will use the Christian term “Yesus Kristus” to refer to Jesus Christ in official communications. Prior to this the Arabic term “Isa al Masih” was used. Yesus Kristus is “Jesus Christ” in the national language of Indonesia, and is the term used by Indonesia’s Christian minority. Isa al-Masih is the

name given to Jesus in the Quran, and therefore does not carry the meaning of the Biblical Jesus who is the Son of God. Give thanks for this very significant change, which has been welcomed by church leaders.



Indonesian Christians gather around a borewell which Barnabas provided for a village church

THURSDAY 29 Although Iran’s non-Persian Christian groups are largely tolerated, Farsi (Persian)-speaking Christians continue to suffer persecution as they are mostly converts from Islam and their children. Christian worship in Farsi is forbidden. Christian converts are often arrested on various pretexts such as spreading anti-state propaganda and other national security offences. Punishments include prison sentences, fines, internal exile, and other deprivations such as restrictions on employment or overseas travel. Christian converts are sometimes also asked to sign declarations that they will not meet with other believers or forced to take classes in Islam. Pray that the Lord will sustain our brothers and sisters facing such pressures, and ask that in time all Christians in Iran will be permitted to worship freely.

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