CHAIN OF HOPE
Linking Christians together

YOUTH PULL-OUT SECTION
Seven messages of hope from the persecuted Church

PETITION
Call to action on IS Genocide

Chain of Hope
The Barnabas Fund Distinctive

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

We work by:
- directing our aid only to Christians, although its benefits may not be exclusive to them ("As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10, emphasis added)
- aiming the majority of our aid at Christians living in Muslim environments
- channelling money from Christians through Christians to Christians
- channelling money through existing structures in the countries where funds are sent (e.g. local churches or Christian organisations)
- using the money to fund projects that have been developed by local Christians in their own communities, countries or regions
- considering any request, however small
- acting as equal partners with the persecuted Church, whose leaders often help shape our overall direction

- acting on behalf of the persecuted Church, to be their voice – making their needs known to Christians around the world and the injustice of their persecution known to governments and international bodies
- facilitate global intercession for the persecuted Church by providing comprehensive prayer materials

We seek to:
- meet both practical and spiritual needs
- encourage, strengthen and enable the existing local Church and Christian communities – so they can maintain their presence and witness rather than setting up our own structures or sending out missionaries
- tackle persecution at its root by making known the aspects of the Islamic faith and other ideologies that result in injustice and oppression of non-believers
- inform and enable Christians in the West to respond to the growing challenge of Islam to Church, society and mission in their own countries

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)

How to find us

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German supporters may send gifts for Barnabas Fund via Hilfe für Brüder who will provide you with a tax-deductible receipt. Please mention that the donation is for “SPC 20 Barnabas Fund”. If you would like your donation to go to a specific project of Barnabas Fund, please inform the Barnabas Fund office in Pewsey, UK.
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To donate by credit/debit card, please visit the website www.barnabasfund.org or phone 0800 587 4006 (from outside the UK phone +44 24 7623 1923).

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Front cover: A Ugandan Christian child whose community is being helped by Barnabas. See page 12.

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T
here are times when the people of God have to undergo the most severe of trials, when their circumstances are restricted, when cruelty is enacted upon them to such a degree that they cry out in despair like their Saviour, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”

Jeremiah, sometimes called “the weeping prophet”, whom many feel comes closest to the Lord Jesus in terms of pain and suffering, spoke of a time to come when the children of Israel would be removed from their land and taken into captivity for about 70 years. They would lose homes, property, country and the Temple where they worshipped the Lord. They would be led in chains into a foreign land where – with all hope gone – they would weep as they remembered their homeland. “By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.” (Psalm 137:1)

Without their Temple and its Holy of Holies, God seemed far removed. The believers were left bereft of hope and lost in their own mental anguish. And yet all was not lost, for Jeremiah says that God has plans for His people’s future welfare (Jeremiah 29:9-11). The word here translated “welfare” is the Hebrew shalom, meaning peace and wholeness. God’s ultimate plans for His people are not calamity, affliction and evil. Rather He promises them a future and a hope. They would have questioned whether they had a future, or whether all was lost and God’s purposes for them as a people were finished. But God, in His infinite wisdom and mercy and unfailing hesed (covenant love), had destined for them a future beyond their suffering and exile.

This future hope was not an abstract concept but something definite and certain. The Hebrew word for hope here is tikvah. It means a rope made of many strands that are woven to create something sturdy, strong and dependable. A mountaineer will trust his life to the strength of the rope and the reliability of the person holding it.

The spies who were sent to survey Jericho sought safety in the home of the prostitute Rahab who hid them and later let down a rope from her window to enable them to escape. Later the same rope, which we now learn was scarlet in colour, hanging in her window, protected Rahab and her family from harm. (Joshua 2:15,18). Tikvah is the word used for this scarlet cord.

In Zechariah 9:12 we read of captives who are called “prisoners of hope”. It is as if hope is bound to them so firmly that they cannot escape from it. This rope will lead them to deliverance. It binds them to God.

As Christians we are bound by this scarlet cord, a cord steeped in the blood of our Saviour Jesus. This cord wraps around us, engulfs us and encompasses us. We cannot escape from it. It is the means of our salvation just as the rope saved the Israelite spies and Rahab’s family. For He is our only hope.

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf ...” (Hebrews 6:19-20)
Many Christians today have endured the loss of their country, their homes and their possessions, and have had to flee as exiles into foreign lands, alienated and alone. Others live in their communities but in great fear, uncertain of what will befall them on account of their Christian faith. As the Pew Foundation has recognised, Christians are now amongst the most discriminated against and persecuted people in the world.

A new generation is being born – young people who constitute the future foundation of the Church. Whether born in exile or born in their historic homeland, discrimination, affliction, suffering and persecution will be their lot. How they respond is vital for the future of the Church. Yes, we can be assured that God indeed will keep His Church in the hollow of His hand and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Ultimately we see that final victory, and Christ glorious and triumphant, ruling and reigning over His people.

But how are we to respond for now? What is needed above all else is HOPE. In every living cell, the molecular chain of life that we call DNA provides all the information needed to create the whole organism from the smallest beginning. For humans that chain has three billion nucleotides linked together in each strand. What a picture of that life, hope and future which God promised through Jeremiah to the exiled children of Israel.

Barnabas Fund is unique in the way it supports the persecuted Church: linking Christians eager to provide hope and aid with those in a position to make a difference on the ground, who in turn give practical help and distribute aid to Christians in need in over 70 countries worldwide.

“Chain of Hope” is a campaign which captures the vision of the universal Church being linked together through Christ Jesus. We are bound together with those who suffer, not in chains of bondage but by a Chain of Hope – “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27)

Barnabas Fund brings hope to the persecuted Church in seven principal ways. We have given each of these a distinct identity as shown in this feature; as you read, see how you are, or could be, a link in the Chain of Hope.

**Youth**
Young Christians are the future of the Church and so must be a priority for Barnabas Fund. Where Christian children are at risk of discrimination in schools, in some cases heavily exposed to Islamic teaching, or faced with issues such as poverty and war, we build or support Christian schools. These schools – together with the youth events we support through local churches – encourage and equip young people to stand firm in their faith and be the hope for tomorrow’s Church.

**Physical needs**
Persecuted, marginalised and victimised Christians are often amongst the poorest in their societies, sometimes denied access to all but the worst-paid jobs and trapped in a cycle of deprivation with little prospect of escape. In places like the Middle East, thousands of Christians are driven out of their homes with precious little to live on. Need also arises from natural disasters. Barnabas Fund’s provision of food and basic supplies is a lifeline in such cases, a source of hope against a backdrop of despair.

**Health**
In remote or impoverished Christian communities, healthcare may be inaccessible or unaffordable. Barnabas Fund is here an invaluable carrier of hope, helping train health workers, establish clinics and promote better hygiene and awareness of health issues among Christian communities. Funding is also given towards emergency surgery, medicines and travel arrangements for individuals in dire need, including church leaders whose health deteriorates because of pressure from the authorities.
**Employment**

Where there is discrimination against Christians, or disaster strikes, it is sometimes hard to get any job, let alone one that will pay enough money to live on. Assistance from Barnabas Fund includes the provision of training and resources for Christians to start their own small businesses and achieve a measure of financial security, greater self-confidence and fresh hope for the future. Alongside this, some salaries of Christians working in fields such as teaching and church leadership are covered, whilst feeding programmes may also provide a source of income.

**Energy**

In some regions Christians face the additional problem of failed or unstable power supplies during conflict or long, bitterly cold winter months. Barnabas Fund here delivers hope in very practical ways, be it the replacement of a family’s heating system in the former Soviet Union, paraffin heaters and blankets in Syria and elsewhere, or emergency generators for churches in the war-torn regions of Ukraine. This area of giving is making a vital difference, enabling some churches even to put on additional services and extend their level of outreach.

**Spiritual Development**

A key avenue through which Barnabas Fund brings hope to the persecuted Church is helping Christians withstand and overcome persecution, discrimination and oppression of all kinds, or the hardship following events such as war or a natural disaster. This includes providing training for pastors, funding the salaries of church workers, running conferences, assisting the construction of church buildings, printing and distributing Bibles and other Christian literature in different languages, and supporting Christian broadcasting.

**Education**

In countries across the world education is very difficult for Christians to access due to factors such as poverty, discrimination and war. Barnabas Fund is helping provide hope and a future for many children by building schools, providing free or subsidised school places, funding teachers’ salaries and paying for books and other teaching materials. In countries like Pakistan, such provision is key to breaking the cycle of illiteracy and poverty that has existed across generations.
how barnabas is helping

Welcome warmth for believers in Ukraine

In Lugansk, one of the key Ukrainian regions caught in the crossfire of the ongoing conflict with Russia, loss of jobs and homes, alongside unstable electricity supplies, left many people struggling to warm themselves through the winter months.

Barnabas Fund provided 30 fan heaters to Christian families struggling to heat their homes, whilst five petrol generators were given to warm four churches so that believers could meet together more easily. These generators also enabled the churches to serve the neediest amongst their community with food, as well as temporary accommodation for the displaced.

The funding from Barnabas was also used to distribute 140 food parcels amongst the most needy Christian families, with a further 40 parcels given to displaced families being housed in church buildings.

Safe haven in Canada for Syrian family

Through our Operation Safe Havens project, Barnabas Fund has come to the aid of a Syrian family looking to flee their home in Homs and settle in Toronto, Canada. It is a welcome boost for the family who, alongside the challenges posed by the civil war, have a five-year-old, Michael, who has leukaemia which cannot be treated effectively in Syria.

By selling their car and with the help of donations from other Syrian Christians, the family raised a portion of the funds required for the move. Barnabas Fund agreed to cover the shortfall, enabling them to finance four airfares (for Michael, his parents and twin brother Mark), plus basic living costs whilst they settle in. Canada is the third country that has received specifically Christian refugees from the Middle East through Operation Safe Havens. The other two are Poland and the Czech Republic.

New building for Christian School in Bethlehem

Barnabas Fund is enabling the construction of a new secondary school building for the growing Christian School in Bethlehem that we have supported since it began in 2004. The school provides quality education for even the poorest Christian children, with Barnabas supporting its running costs. The new building will meet a pressing need, with the existing junior school building struggling to accommodate several classes of older students alongside kindergarten and junior pupils.

Barnabas has financed the purchase of land and is committed to covering all costs associated with phase 1 of construction (foundations, basement and first two floors). This first phase will provide ten new classrooms and is due for completion in August 2016, in time for the new academic year. Further phases are planned to increase the building to five storeys eventually.

One of the five petrol generators provided through the generosity of Barnabas Fund supporters

£1,860 to provide 30 fan heaters, 5 petrol generators and 180 food parcels for believers in Ukraine ($2,640, €2,420)

Project reference 96-1196

£3,980 to help cover transport costs for Michael and his family as well as basic living costs after arrival ($5,650, €5,160)

Project reference 00-1199
Operation Safe Havens

£88,100 to cover the first instalment of construction for phase 1 of the new secondary school in Bethlehem ($125,000, €112,650)

Project reference 65-251

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Michael will now be able to get the treatment he desperately needs that is not available in his war-ravaged homeland.

The new building will house classrooms for secondary school students
Learning to pray

“Lord, teach us to pray,” the disciples asked Jesus (Luke 11:1). Last year, a similar request was made by “Shan”, a young boy attending a Home for Boys, Khipro, in Pakistan. Coming from a rural village where there are no churches to attend and perplexed by what was happening in the devotional meetings, Shan asked one of the leaders to teach him to pray.

After taking a “Talking with God” course, Shan now prays confidently at devotionals and encourages the other children to join him. Barnabas Fund helps finance the home’s running costs, which provides quality education, together with spiritual, social and leadership development, for 40 boys from marginalised communities. Term-time board and lodging is also supplied. Past students are now in influential roles of community and church leadership.

Empowering Nepalese believers

“Shanti” was a committed Hindu, steadfast in her beliefs and practices. Then one day she walked into a church and heard a message that penetrated her heart. After finding out more, Shanti gave her life to Jesus. “My way of thinking changed,” she writes, “my innermost being was changed.”

Keen to disciple other new Christians, Shanti was last year one of 59 people to enrol in a tutor training course run by a ministry which disciples Nepalese believers at locations across India. The tutor training equips people like Shanti to lead them.

Barnabas Fund’s latest grant supported not only the tutor training but also other programmes the ministry provides such as pastoral support and workshops on marriage.

“Rahim”, a convert from Islam, was working as a church leader in Afghanistan when he found out he was on a list of targets the Taliban and security services wanted to kill. This troubling discovery meant it was no longer safe for Rahim, his wife and two children to remain in the country.

A place of safety was found for the family in Tajikistan. Barnabas Fund helped finance the family’s flight tickets and visa registration, together with food and a month’s rent to help them settle into their new home.

The family have got involved with a local church who are providing them with ongoing support, as well as opportunities for them to share their experiences living in Afghanistan. Rahim has yet to find a job but his wife is working to support the family.

Saving the lives of an Afghan family

£3,560 to help finance the running of a Home for Boys, Khipro, in Pakistan for a year ($5,050, €4,620)

£5,770 for training for Nepalese Christians in India ($8,150, €7,530)

£420 to help finance transportation of a family fleeing violence in Afghanistan ($600, €550)
Remembering those in prison

“It was great to be part of the celebrations of families who had been reunited with their relatives, mothers and wives.” These are the joyous words of a local church leader after a grant of £6,000 from Barnabas Fund to a prison ministry in Khartoum, Sudan, was used to pay the fines of 24 imprisoned Christian women, resulting in their release.

The prison currently holds around 900-1000 Christian women, along with 145 of their children, the majority arrested for infringing sharia law – for example, not covering themselves completely or going out of the house without a close male relative to accompany them. Our contribution also helped cover aftercare for the released prisoners, as well as relief aid and chaplaincy support for the women still in prison.

Joy for flood victims

“The joys are huge and many,” writes our project partner in northern Cameroon following Barnabas Fund’s provision of aid to 902 Christian families affected by the floods of September and October last year. “Several victims felt the presence of God in their rescue. Many have just lost everything in the floods. Many lacked words to express their joy.”

After purchasing supplies in the regional capital, Maroua, Cameroonian project workers transported them to four devastated areas, often in very difficult conditions. Local churches identified the families most affected and volunteers helped to distribute clothing, grain, food, mosquito nets, cleaning/hygiene materials, and blankets.

Our contact tells us that the needs of the region are ongoing, as it will take time for people to rebuild their lives.

Letters of hope

“After completing my education I would like to be a journalist so that I can introduce people to stop early forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and child labour”, writes 16-year-old Gloria in one of 19 letters penned to Barnabas Fund by girls at Cana Girls’ Rescue Home in Kenya.

The letters were written expressing their gratitude for our ongoing financial support, made possible by the generous giving of Barnabas Fund supporters.

Some of the other girls expressed their hopes of becoming doctors, lawyers and engineers.

The rescue home currently provides care and formal education in a loving Christian environment for 66 girls who were at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM), child labour, early forced marriage and child abuse. Additional activities include Bible studies, football and singing.
Barnabas Fund supporters call for action on genocide in the Middle East

Sign our petition to the UN and our governments

Christian communities have lived among their neighbours in the Middle East for 2,000 years, albeit despised and discriminated against in Islamic contexts. But now Christians and other minorities in Syria and Iraq are being killed, forcibly converted to Islam, or driven from their homes by Islamic State (IS). Women and girls have been taken into sexual slavery. Hundreds of hostages have been seized, some of them murdered. Those released have been told to leave IS territory and never return to their homes on pain of death. Churches, monasteries and historic cultural buildings are being razed to the ground as IS seeks to eradicate all trace of those who do not follow its ideology. These actions, openly flaunted by IS in their videos and publications, constitute genocide under Article 2 of the United Nations 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

There is a rising tide of demands for governments and international authorities around the world to declare these abhorrent actions of IS against Christians and other minorities as amounting to a genocide according to international law. At the time of writing, the issue is being debated by a number of national and international bodies:

On 27 January 2016 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution (#2091) condemning the actions of IS against Christians and other minorities as amounting to a genocide according to international law. The resolution instructs that “States should act on the presumption that Da’ish [IS] commits genocide and should be aware that this entails action under the 1948 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.”

On 15 March the United States House of Representatives voted through unanimously an advisory resolution designating the actions of IS as genocide. The Speaker of the House, Senator Paul Ryan, said, “What is happening in Iraq and Syria is a deliberate, systematic targeting of religious and ethnic minorities.” Two days later, Secretary of State John Kerry announced to Congress that the Obama administration conclusively recognised that genocide is taking place. In a press conference at the State Department he said, “In my judgment, [IS] is responsible for genocide against groups in areas under its control including Yazidis, Christians and Shiite Muslims.”

On 21 March the House of Lords in the UK rejected an amendment to the Immigration Bill which would have asked a Supreme Court judge to determine whether IS actions constitute genocide. This is disappointing, but continuing pressure on the British Government, including from Barnabas supporters, means the issue will not fade away.

Barnabas Fund’s current petition calls upon the United Nations and national governments to recognise the genocide being perpetrated by IS in the Middle East against Christians and other religious minorities; to take the appropriate actions under international law; to take all possible measures to assist victims of genocide and war crimes, and channel aid directly to minority communities under threat, displaced persons and refugees; and to offer humanitarian asylum places to victims.

Please join us by signing the enclosed petition sheet and ask family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and church members to do likewise. Feel free to photocopy or download more copies from our website at www.barnabasfund.org/genocide-petition and return them to the address given on the form. We would also encourage you to contact your local elected representative and to raise your concerns on this issue.
The final group of Christians abducted from their villages in the Khabur river area of north-eastern Syria last February, were released on 22 February 2016. This group comprised of 43 of the original 253 believers kidnapped last year. Just two teenage girls from the original 253 are still held at the time of writing. Other Syrian Christians are also held by Islamists, however, including at least 37 from Aleppo (including two archbishops) and 179 kidnapped from Qaryatain last August.

Mr Pandayya and his wife Seethamma were murdered after elders in the village of K. Kamuduvalasa, Andhra Pradesh state, falsely accused the Christian couple of having murdered a young boy in the village by black magic. The boy had died following a leg wound that did not heal. The village elders hired men to come to the village, who beat the couple with sticks and burned them to death on 13 January.

The Egyptian army is in the process of repairing and rebuilding churches and Christian homes destroyed by anti-Christian violence. The work began just two days after President al-Sisi pledged in a Christmas message in Cairo, “We have taken too long to fix and renovate churches that were burned ... God willing, by next year there won’t be a single church or house that is not restored.”

Five Christians were killed when Al-Shabaab militants raided a mainly Christian area of the Maporomoko village in coastal Kenya on 31 January. The Islamists torched houses, trapping some inside, shot dead at least two believers and beheaded another. A further six people were abducted. Hundreds of people in nearby areas fled their homes.
You have seven new messages of hope from the persecuted Church
The messages of hope on these pages are a testimony to the faithful prayers and generosity of Barnabas Fund supporters who recognise that “if one part (of the Church) suffers, every part suffers with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26). But with attacks and pressure on Christians continuing to grow - children and young people included - so much more needs to be done. This is where we need your help. Barnabas Fund passionately wants to see the young generation join with thousands of others and become an integral part of our Chain of Hope, each link making a vital difference to the lives of our suffering brothers and sisters. Will you join us?

From: Jean (Central African Republic)
I had no hope of daily survival. I was living in economic trouble because my previous taxi bike was taken back by Muslims because I became a Christian. Now my hope of life is restored. I declare much blessings to every donor to whom I am grateful. I am sure this taxi bike will help me get food and meet other needs.

Project ref. 00-113 (Convert Fund)

From: Peter (Tajikistan)
This school has helped converts to become strong Christians and recognise how they can serve the living God in this world.

Project ref. 00-430 (Leadership Training Fund)

From: Samir (Azerbaijan)
During the day we had times of prayer and worship, Bible lessons, sporting events, walking tours, and evening worship gatherings with sermons for children. We had three general meals a day and a night snack.

Project ref. 03-1249

Employment
Jean was one of twelve recently converted Christians in the Central African Republic (CAR) to receive a taxi bike purchased using a grant from Barnabas Fund. They have made a big difference, helping the believers support themselves financially. The practical love shown by the church to the new converts through the project has also led to other Muslims giving their lives to Jesus!

Project ref. 00-113 (Convert Fund)

Spiritual Development
A network of churches in Tajikistan was struggling to find sufficient time, resources and finance to disciple a group of 22 recent converts. Amongst the group were former Muslims and individuals who had suffered from drug and alcohol addiction. With support from Barnabas Fund, the network held a six-month training school. The content included teaching on the key Christian doctrines, the relationship between the Christian faith and the world, and the development of practical skills for income-generation e.g. biscuit-making. (Many of the group struggled to get work because of their backgrounds.) All those who attended are now actively involved in church ministry.

Project ref. 00-430 (Leadership Training Fund)

Youth
In Azerbaijan, one network of house groups was struggling to find the resources to teach and equip its children who are at risk of discrimination at school and on the streets because of their parents’ faith. Last year Barnabas Fund helped finance a six-day summer camp for 25 children. During the event leaders explained the context of persecution and why they faced hostility. They encouraged the children to stand firm and, like their parents, develop their own faith in God.

Project ref. 03-1249
**From: Gorja (Nigeria)**

You saved us. I do not know what words to use to tell you how many times we are grateful. But what have we done to be in such a deplorable situation? Forced to flee and leave everything to save our lives? Oh 😞 😞 You who come from far away to help us, God bless you, bless the donors.

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**Physical Needs**

Gorja’s family is one of the 472 Christian families now living in refugee camps in Niger who received essential food and other items paid for by Barnabas Fund. The families fled their homes in Nigeria because of the violent insurgency of the Islamist group Boko Haram.

*Project ref. 00-345 (Victims of Violence Fund)*

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**From: Eduard (Kyrgyzstan)**

Before in the very strong winter church members had to sit in their overcoats during church services because it was very cold. Some families with little children didn’t visit church service for this reason. Today it is very warm in the church building, and brothers and sisters are very happy 😊

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**Energy**

The heating system was not working in one Kyrgyzstan church. Even when it worked, parts of the building still remained cold because of its large size and the long bitterly cold winters. Barnabas Fund provided money to not only repair the existing system, but also install a brand new underfloor heating system. The work has had a dramatic impact. Believers can now worship together in the warmth, and the church can now host conferences, seminars and additional services that were previously not possible.

*Project ref. 26-895*

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**From: Mother of student (Egypt)**

This school is the only hope for our kids to gain an education. At the Sudanese Displaced Children’s Learning Centre (SDCLC), there is love among teachers and parents. We consider the school to be one big family 😊😊😊

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**Education**

The SDCLC in Egypt provides an education for Sudanese refugee children who have fled religious persecution, civil unrest and war in Sudan. During the 2014-15 academic year, 321 children studied at the centre, the majority Christian. Barnabas Fund assists with the SDCLC’s running costs, sending just over £19,000 ($27,000, €24,000) (30% of all the centre’s income) for the current 2015-16 academic year.

*Project ref. 11-1203*

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**From: Pastor (Central Asia)**

Dear friends, I would like to give thanks for assistance in payment for my operation. It was a success and the doctors saved me. Thank you for your participation in my life, it gives me strength.

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**Medical**

Pressure and persecution from police and the local community can be so relentless for pastors and their families in one central Asian country that their health suffers, in some cases leaving them in critical need of care. The majority struggle to get treated because they minister in remote locations where medical care is poor and a lack of finance makes it difficult to access care in the more populated regions. Last year Barnabas Fund helped pay for the vital medical treatment of 64 pastors and members of their families. Amongst those treated was the pastor with stomach problems who sent this message.

*Project ref. 57-1197*
How can **you** be a link in the chain of hope?

### Pray

James says in his letter, “The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with” (James 5:16). How exciting! Our prayers – your prayers – can make an enormous difference...

- Commit to a week of prayer for the persecuted Church, spending one day focusing on each of the seven stories provided in this insert.
- Use our daily prayer requests as a guide. These can be accessed via our Facebook and Twitter pages, as well as our free app, website and the *Barnabas Prayer* insert in our bi-monthly magazine.

### Proclaim

One the biggest roles you can play in supporting our persecuted brothers and sisters is to tell others about their suffering. Your words could be the prompt for others to pray, give and in turn tell even more people...

- Use social media to make your family and friends aware of the plight of Christians throughout the world, such as sharing news stories that highlight their suffering.
- Discuss with your church or youth leader ways to raise awareness in your own church or fellowship of the challenges facing persecuted Christians.
- Sign the petition on our website that calls upon the United Nations and national governments to recognise and appropriately address the genocide of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East. This can be accessed at www.barnabasfund.org/genocide-petition.

### Practice

A creative and effective way of identifying with the persecuted Church is to practice what life for them as a Christian involves. This can help you become more aware of the challenges they face and more appreciative of the freedoms we enjoy. This in turn can prompt and inform a deeper level of support and prayer...

- Arrange a church, youth or home group meeting where the day, time and location is kept secret until the last minute. Make sure people arrive at different times, and speak, pray and worship only in whispers. This kind of scheduling and approach is crucial in countries where Christian gatherings are heavily monitored.

### Provide

Between December 2014 and November 2015, Barnabas Fund made 487 payments to 338 projects in 68 countries. This included food for 125,504 Christians and places for at least 8,300 children at Christian schools. In the coming year, can you help us provide even more aid to our persecuted brothers and sisters?

- Get creative. Could you use your expertise in activities such as photography, film-making, baking, painting, drawing, music and crafts to raise funds and help increase awareness for the persecuted Church?
- Take on a sponsored activity, like running, cycling or fasting from social media.

Get in touch!

We would love to hear how you are getting on – either with the ideas suggested above or any of your own – so do send in your stories. It would be great to put a selection of these in our magazine for our supporters to see what young people are doing to raise support and awareness for the persecuted Church. We can’t wait to hear from you!
Christians in Sri Lanka seem beset on all sides – floods, poverty, after-effects of civil war, discrimination and attacks. In these distressing situations, Barnabas Fund is bringing hope and transformation.

Over 35,000 flood-affected Christians helped

“Today I received a new Sinhala Bible. Now I can read it and study the Living Word of God,” Nilusha, a teenage girl, joyfully told our project partner last year.

She was one of 5,000 Christians who received a Bible from Barnabas Fund after their homes were flooded and damaged earlier that year. Another 195 churches received hymn books and prayer books. And school bags packed with school supplies were given to 5,200 Christian children.

Last year Barnabas Fund also provided livelihood support for 40 flood-affected Christian families. Moreover, we helped to build or repair homes for 20 Christian families affected by the same floods, and 25 war-affected families in north and east Sri Lanka.

In 2014, Barnabas Fund provided 230 Christian families, many of whom work in extreme poverty on the slopes of tea plantations, with grants to repair their damaged homes. Twelve church buildings were also repaired.

Another 5,135 flood-affected Christian families in north and eastern Sri Lanka received food parcels from Barnabas Fund in 2013.

Uniting war-torn Christian communities

The civil war which ended in 2009 brought devastation to the north and east of Sri Lanka. Many Christian communities were dispersed and at least 100 churches destroyed.

Barnabas Fund plans to replace as many of these destroyed buildings as possible with new places of worship; 18 churches and two temporary ones have already been completed, and another 50 new churches are in the process of being built in the north and east. We are also building some churches in the tea plantation districts and the south where Christians encounter pressure and hostility from extreme Buddhist groups.

By establishing churches for these remote Christian communities, many of which live surrounded by hostile Hindus or majority Buddhists, Barnabas Fund is enabling each fellowship to be bound together again as one Body.

We have also provided 231 Christian war widows in the north-east with training and the tools to start their own businesses. Many had been denied assistance by village leaders and local government officers, an example of the discrimination that Christians in Sri Lanka undergo time and again because of their faith.

Holiday camps for persecuted Christian children

Hundreds of persecuted Christian children and young people, whose families converted from Buddhism, could attend Christian camps thanks to Barnabas Fund.

“Ezra,” one of the participants, was hospitalised after his church was attacked by Buddhist extremists and his family forced to leave their home following a mob attack in 2013. At the camp, Ezra shared his struggles with new friends who have gone through similar situations. “He feels much better now,” his mother wrote.

In the last three years in Sri Lanka, we also funded theological courses for 584 Christian workers, enabled Christian children in at least 80 state schools to receive instruction in Christianity, built a well for 15 war-affected Christian families, and paid school fees for ten children of pastors who suffered persecution from Buddhist extremists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chain of Hope</th>
<th>Barnabas Fund activities in Sri Lanka</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Medical costs for sick pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>School fees; extra tuition; school bags; strengthening Christian education in state schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Skills training and tools; livelihoods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>Christian camps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Development</td>
<td>Bible school sponsorship; theological courses; churches, Bibles, hymn books and prayer mats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Needs</td>
<td>Houses; well; food parcels; three-wheeler for taxi business, bikes, motor bikes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The majority of Ugandans are Christians. Muslims represent some 15% of the population. Yet the Muslim world considers Uganda to be an Islamic country. This is mostly because President Idi Amin, the brutal 1970s dictator, declared Uganda to be a Muslim country. Muslims are therefore doing all they can to Islamise the country, for example, through business, finance, politics and law.

Uganda has the largest mosque in Africa, and mosques are built two to three kilometres apart on most national roads. Recently, especially in the north of Uganda, Muslims are building mosques on church property. When church leaders oppose this they are threatened with death. Christians are often attacked and persecuted, especially those who are converts from Islam. One partner of Barnabas Fund, a former Muslim now a Christian pastor, has had twelve attempts on his life. Other Barnabas partners have been poisoned and their houses set alight.

Barnabas Fund has helped tens of thousands of Ugandan Christians in many ways.

In the south, where thousands of Muslims have come to know the Lord, in just one project in 2016 Barnabas has provided discipleship and vocational training, as well as business start-up kits, to 800 destitute converts. Some cried with joy when they received these kits.

Many people Barnabas Fund helps go on to have very successful industries. In 2010, nine Christian converts from Islam set up a bee-keeping business with support from Barnabas Fund. This has now grown into a national business which employs more than 80 Muslim-background believers.

in the south-west of the country. The only school in the area is a Muslim school 20 kilometres away. Now Christian children have hope of a better future as they are provided with an opportunity of education for the first time.

Barnabas Fund also supports university students who lack family support because of their decision to follow Christ. When Vivian was a child she, her mother and three siblings converted from Islam to Christianity. Her Muslim father disowned them and they had to flee from their house for fear of attack. Barnabas Fund has helped with Vivian’s schooling and tertiary education. She is now studying to be an electrician which is a scarce skill in Uganda. She says, “It has been good to be a Christian. God has looked after me so much and I am so happy for all He has done for me. He has surrounded me with so many good people. I am so thankful to Barnabas Fund for helping me.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chain of Hope</th>
<th>Barnabas Fund activities in Uganda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Medical care for attacked converts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Building of school; school fees; uniforms; feeding of children; scholarships for tertiary education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Vocational training; start-up kits; micro-finance; seed capital; agricultural training; agribusiness inputs such as equipment, infrastructure, livestock, seed and fertiliser; building of training centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual</td>
<td>Support for pastors and evangelists; building of churches; outreaches; convert care; discipleship; training; Bibles; literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Needs</td>
<td>Boreholes; wells; irrigation schemes; famine and flood relief; support for victims of violence; rehabilitation of child soldiers; trauma counselling; advocacy; building of safe houses; obtaining title deeds for Christian-owned land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The civil war in Syria has seen immense suffering for the whole population in a prolonged and complex struggle for power and territory. On top of this, Christians and other minorities have suffered cruel persecution, particularly from the Islamic State group whose actions have been recognised as genocide by the Council of Europe and the US House of Representatives.

Throughout the bitter conflict Barnabas Fund has continued to bring hope and aid to beleaguered Christian communities. In the past year alone, Barnabas has sent more than £2.7 million ($3.9m, €3.4m) to bring help and hope to Syrian Christians in the direst of circumstances.

“In this context of violence, privation, desolation, suffering and despair, we continue, as Christian humanitarian committees in Aleppo and all over Syria, through our presence, our resistance, our support, our aid and our solidarity to be there for the people, a glimmer of hope in the darkness that surrounds us,” said a Christian leader in Aleppo, about aid provided by Barnabas.

**LIFE-SUSTAINING PROGRAMMES**

Barnabas supporters have enabled local Syrian churches and Christian groups to purchase food, hygiene items and medical aid for thousands of Christian families impacted by the war. For example, almost 170,000 food parcels were distributed among the neediest in the past year. In Aleppo, where many sections of the city have been cut off in a siege, 23 wells have been dug or restored on Christian premises to provide access to safe drinking water for up to 200,000 people, at a cost of over £50,000 ($72,200, €63,600).

Barnabas also responds quickly to specific attacks such as Hassake, Maaloula, Qaryatain, Saddad and Haffar, helping the Christians who have fled their homes. We have helped 131 released hostages with individual practical and medical assistance following their ordeal. We have funded training in how to counsel traumatised children and teenagers who are profoundly distressed by what they have experienced. Over recent winters we have provided over £200,000 ($289,000, €255,000) for paraffin heaters and blankets to help those struggling to keep warm without electricity or fuel.

**SUPPORT FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES**

Hundreds of thousands of Christians have fled their homes, some displaced within Syria, others now refugees in neighbouring countries. Barnabas has been supporting them in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Albania.

**OPERATION SAFE HAVENS**

In some cases, as a last resort, Syrian Christians decide they must escape their homeland for good and settle in a safer region. Then Barnabas Fund’s Operation Safe Havens enables them to make the journey safely and helps with their practical needs on arrival. At the time of writing, we have helped 167 Syrian Christians to re-settle in Poland or Canada.

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**Chain of Hope in Action in Syria**

**Barnabas Fund activities in Syria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chain of Hope</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Clinic support and individual medical care (examinations, surgery and medicines)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Girls’ Hostel for university students; kindergarten premises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Feeding programmes provide jobs in distribution; vocational training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Purchase of heaters &amp; fuel in winter months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>Trauma counselling for children and teenagers; small Christmas presents; support for orphans; eye tests and glasses for children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Development</td>
<td>Contribution to construction of church ministry buildings in Damascus; support for church workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Needs</td>
<td>Feeding programme; blankets; wells to secure potable water supplies; temporary accommodation; travel and resettlement in safe countries (Operation Safe Havens)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hope throughout the world

Physical Needs

- Angola
- Armenia
- Austria*
- Bangladesh
- Bulgaria
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic (CAR)
- China
- Czech Republic*
- DR Congo
- Egypt
- Holy Land
- India
- Indonesia
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Moldova
- Myanmar (Burma)
- Nepal
- Niger
- Nigeria
- North Korea
- Pakistan
- Poland*
- Romania
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- Spain*
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom*
- Zimbabwe

*European countries where in 2015 Barnabas Fund sent grants to projects that are supporting Christians from other countries affected by pressure and persecution, such as refugees fleeing the Middle East.
To highlight the extent to which your generous support is bringing hope to persecuted Christians throughout the world, we have shown on these four pages the countries across Europe, Africa and Asia where Christians received support from Barnabas Fund in 2015, through projects that link us together in the Chain of Hope.

**Health**
- Egypt
- Holy Land
- India
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Liberia
- Myanmar (Burma)
- Nepal
- Niger
- Pakistan
- South Sudan
- Spain*
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tanzania
- Ukraine

**Education**
- Algeria
- Bangladesh
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- France*
- Holy Land
- India
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Malaysia
- Myanmar (Burma)
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Uganda

Barnabas supports the Christian school in Pakistan where this boy studies and 50 other Christian schools there as well.

A child in South Sudan receiving medical care through one of our projects.
Hope throughout the world

Spiritual Development

- Albania
- Algeria
- Austria*
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Bulgaria
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Chad
- China
- Cyprus*
- DR Congo
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Germany*
- Holy Land
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Italy*
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Mozambique
- Myanmar (Burma)
- Nepal
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Sweden*
- Syria
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom*
- Uzbekistan
- Zimbabwe

Each tent in Sawra Village, now home to Iraqi refugees, has a power supply and is fitted with air conditioning to manage temperature levels.

Uganda is one of the 50 countries to benefit from projects which support the spiritual development of believers.

*European countries where in 2015 Barnabas Fund sent grants to projects that are supporting Christians from other countries affected by pressure and persecution, such as refugees fleeing the Middle East.
A young Christian orphan from Myanmar (Burma) who stays at one of the Children’s Homes supported by Barnabas Fund.

The Foundations for Farming initiative in Zimbabwe for poor Christians enables them to generate an income.
The young people may have changed the title of the fairy tale slightly but nevertheless most of the characters in the story were in attendance in Holy Trinity Church, Spital, Wirral, UK on Saturday 5th March. Visitors, friends, and whole families were delighted as they entered the church building splendidly transformed by the youngsters.

There was Belle in a beautiful yellow dress together with the pampered prince who had been changed into the ugly Beast because of his unloving heart. He could only become a handsome prince again when he learned to love and woo Belle before the last petal of the enchanted rose fell: of course he does so, quite touchingly as they dance together! All the other young people were dressed appropriately as supporting characters.

And the Feast? Well, that also exceeded all expectations. The church family provided scrummy mars-bar cakes, creamy scones, delicious chocolate gateau, decorated cup-cakes and a great multitude of other luscious fare.

The young people had decided that money raised should be divided between two of our charity links, one being Barnabas Fund - and there were displays showing their work.

Everyone agreed at the end of the afternoon that great fun had been had by all - and that raising money (£675 was sent to Barnabas Fund) can be a great joy especially when it is to help fellow Christians, some their own age, whose sufferings are beyond our imagination.

Jenny Summersby
Barnabas Fund, 9 Priory Row, Coventry CV1 5EX

Title .................................. Full Name .................................................................
Address .............................................................................................................
...........................................................................................................................  
Postcode .................... Telephone .................................................................
Email ...................................

**PLEASE USE MY GIFT FOR**

☐ Wherever the need is the greatest (General Fund)
☐ Other ................................................................................................. (give reference number of project to be supported)

**HERE IS MY SINGLE GIFT OF £ .............** ........................................................

☐ I enclose a cheque/voucher payable to “Barnabas Fund” OR

Please debit my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Maestro ☐ CAF card/other charity card

Card Number ............................... Maestro issue number ..............................
Expiry Date ................................ Signature ...........................................

☐ I do not require an acknowledgement of this gift

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Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer, please fill in the white box at the top of the page.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ .....................and any donations I make in that year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Date .................................

Please notify the charity if you:

• want to cancel this declaration
• change your name or home address
• no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return this form to Barnabas Fund at your national office or to the UK office.

Address(es) are on the inside front cover. Barnabas Fund will not give your address, telephone number or email to anyone else.

Supporters in Germany: please turn to inside front cover for how to send gifts to Barnabas Fund.

Phone 0800 587 4006 or visit our website at barnabasfund.org to make a donation by Direct Debit, credit or debit card.

From outside UK phone +44 24 7623 1923.

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT CARD**

If you would like to make a donation as an alternative gift for a friend or relative, we can supply you with an attractive “Thank you” card, which you can send to the person for whom you have made the donation. Please contact your local office to order one.

**FUNDRAISING**

Barnabas works hard to be ethical in the way we raise funds and in the ways we contact supporters.

We raise funds from:

• appeals through our own literature such as the magazine, which is sent to people on our mailing list
• appeals via emails sent to people on our email list
• appeal leaflets in other Christian publications
• appeals on our website and social media

We never:

• cold call people
• have street collections
• use external fundraising organisations

If you ask us to stop mailing you we will take you off the mailing list as soon as we receive your request. Please note that you may still receive some printed material if the mailing list has been used by our printer to create a mailing shortly before we removed you from the list.

If the project chosen is sufficiently funded, we reserve the right to use designated gifts either for another project of a similar type or for another project in the same country.

Registered Charity number 1092935 Company registered in England number 4029536

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This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits. If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Barnabas Fund will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Barnabas Fund to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request. If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by Barnabas Fund or your bank or building society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Barnabas Fund asks you to. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.
“Please put security measures in place. Do not get caught thinking that this only happens in other places, in big places.”

Pastor John Johnson III, Corinth Missionary Baptist Church, Bullard, Texas, USA

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Patrick Sookdeo

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