



barnabasprayer

BARNABAS AID – HOPE AND RELIEF AGENCY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

To help you
pray for the
persecuted
Church

MAY/JUNE 2019

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.

May

WEDNESDAY 1 When an Uzbek Muslim woman started going to church and asked a friend for a Bible, her husband was furious. He banned “Umida” from attending church, locked her in the house, and took away their two-year-old son. Umida’s parents rescued her and took her into their home, from which she could go to church. Her husband continued to threaten her so Umida made plans to escape to Turkey. But at Tashkent Airport, her husband caught up with her, forced her into a car and slit her throat. Pray for the little boy, whose mother is dead and whose father will be in prison for many years for murder, that he and his grandparents may come to know the Lord Jesus.

THURSDAY 2 Shukrat Safarov was fined for giving an Uzbek-language New Testament to a woman. The book was destroyed, by order of the court. Using a New Testament for “missionary purposes” is a crime

in Uzbekistan, according to the government’s Committee for Religious Affairs. Pray for Shukrat that he will not be discouraged from sharing his faith. Pray for the woman who received the New Testament that she will have another opportunity to read the Word of God. Pray also for Begzod, the police officer dealing with the case, that he may become curious to know what is in the book that the law considers so dangerous to Muslims.

FRIDAY 3 Christians in Tajikistan were invited to watch while officials burned a delivery of 5,000 calendars for 2019 with Bible verses on them in the Tajik language, spoken by the Muslim majority of the population. The calendars had been sent from Germany. “We know that God rules everything!” wrote Tajik Christians to Barnabas. “And we have entrusted this question and the people who ordered and executed this burning into the hands of God. We continue to pray for them.” They also asked prayer for wisdom and God’s guidance. Pray with and for our Tajik brothers and sisters, who have so few resources and so little Christian literature.



Calendars burned at the city dump on Jan. 16

SATURDAY 4 A Kyrgyz Christian couple ministering among Muslims in China ask Barnabas supporters to pray for “James.” He is one of about 60 Muslims who have found Christ when they came to take music lessons from the wife, who teaches a stringed instrument called the komuz. Soon after his conversion in spring 2016, James became very active in evangelism. But in July he had to leave the city and return to his distant mountain village, because the Chinese authorities require everyone in Xinjiang province to report to the police in their place of registration every three months. In his village, James led several more people to Christ, but in October was falsely accused, arrested, beaten, and tortured. His Bible and other Christian literature were confiscated. In 2017 he was sentenced to 16 years in prison. We are asked to pray for James and other believers imprisoned with him that God will give them strength to remain faithful and use them for His glory.

SUNDAY 5 **Our Father in heaven, we remember the terrible attack on defenceless Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand, on March 15, which demonstrated the extremism that is developing in many parts of the world as people who feel alienated resort to killing and maiming innocents. Please turn the hearts of such individuals away from violence, and give wisdom to those in authority so that Your people and others may live quiet and peaceable lives. We know that this is right and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, in whose Name we pray. (1 Timothy 2:2-3)**

MONDAY 6 “Show your happiness, show we are brave, and we have to tell

the people how to be calm. Because already, we have had that experience. So, we have to guide people to tell them.” These were the words of the minister of an Iraqi congregation in Auckland, New Zealand, after the attack in Christchurch. Many of his flock have survived terrible violence in their homeland before fleeing to New Zealand. One woman had seen her son beheaded, and the minister himself had been kidnapped for nine days and shot in the leg. Pray that Iraqi Christian survivors of terrorism and genocide may, through their personal experience of suffering, be a blessing to others in New Zealand as the country comes to terms with the horrific attack.

TUESDAY 7 Yesterday was the first day of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan. This period is a time when Muslims are often more committed in their religious practices, so for extremists this can mean they are more active in attacking Christians and other non-Muslims, believing that this is pleasing to Allah. Ask the Lord to protect vulnerable minorities in Muslim-majority contexts over the next 29 days, especially in the last ten days of the month, when religious devotion and spiritual powers become more intense.

WEDNESDAY 8 Praise God that the Supreme Court of Pakistan dismissed a petition seeking to review its decision to acquit Aasia Bibi, the Christian woman who spent almost eight years on death row falsely accused of “blasphemy.” The judges reaffirmed the court’s original verdict of October 31, 2018 when they had dismissed the accusations against Aasia as a “concoction” and described

her accusers as untrustworthy. Pray for the protection of Aasia and her family.

THURSDAY 9 Twenty people were killed and at least 100 injured when a cathedral in the south of the Philippines was bombed on January 27. Pray for those who mourn that they will be comforted. The attack in Jolo, capital of Sulu province, came six days after Sulu voters rejected the inclusion of Sulu in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, which voters in the larger region approved. Bangsamoro will be ruled by *sharia* and is part of an effort to find a political solution to end decades of violence by jihadist groups in the south, where Islam is strong. There is great concern that *sharia* will be applied to non-Muslims, and that they will be treated as second-class citizens under Islamic rule.

FRIDAY 10 The north of Myanmar (Burma) is still scattered with landmines planted by the army in civilian areas. Kachin, as the northernmost state in Myanmar, is badly affected and Kachin people (nearly all Christians) continue to suffer life-changing injuries. Two Kachin men, who had left the camp for internally displaced people where they live and gone to search for food in the forest, were severely injured earlier this year. One of them had to have both his legs amputated. Pray that they may find strength and hope in the Lord, especially the amputee, who is the father of two young daughters.

SATURDAY 11 Hundreds of Kachin women are trafficked every year to China, sold as wives to Chinese men, then raped until they get pregnant.

After giving birth, some are allowed back to Myanmar (Burma) but must leave their babies in China. This situation is a result of China's former one-child policy. Many families used abortion or infanticide to ensure that their one child was a boy, so now there is a gender imbalance and millions of Chinese men cannot find a wife. Kachin women who seek help from the Chinese authorities often find themselves in jail for immigration violations. Pray that the authorities in China and Myanmar will exert themselves to help these vulnerable women, who are mainly Christians, and that survivors will find emotional healing in the Lord Jesus.

SUNDAY 12 O Lord God, we ask for **Your protection over church ministers and pastors in places where Christian leaders are specially targeted for anti-Christian violence. May they never waver in their service to You, counting it a privilege to face danger for the sake of Christ. May they be faithful unto death, if need be, setting an example to their flock and a challenge to their persecutors. We pray for the families and congregations of those recently martyred, including Pastor Tun, kidnapped and killed in Myanmar, and Pastor Anthony, kidnapped and killed in Nigeria. In Jesus' mighty Name we pray.**

MONDAY 13 Nearly 300 Christians were killed in Nigeria in attacks by Fulani militia on at least seven predominantly Christian villages in February and March. In Karamai village, 41 died, nearly all women and children plus a few elderly and blind men who could not flee. In Kajuru district there were mass burials of about 73 women and 101 children ranging in age from babies on their

mothers' backs to ten years old. Pray that Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari, a Fulani Muslim, who was re-elected in February, will take decisive action to end the attacks.

TUESDAY 14 When Boko Haram militants attacked a group of 500 Nigerian Christian converts from Islam, 76 Christians were captured. Four male leaders among the 76 were asked to return to Islam or be shot. They refused and were killed. Then their four widows were asked to return to Islam or their children would be executed. While the women were agonizing, their children ran in saying that Jesus had appeared and told them all would be well. Then Jesus appeared to the whole group of 72, telling them not to fear, not to renounce Him, and He would protect them. The following day, the militants lined up the children, and, when their mothers refused to deny Christ, took aim. But before any child had been shot, the gunmen started grabbing at their own heads, screaming "Snakes!" and fleeing from the scene. Some dropped dead. A Christian man picked up the gun of a dead militant, but a little girl stopped him using the weapon, saying, "You don't need to do that. Can't you see the men in white fighting for us?" Praise God for this miraculous intervention and pray that the surviving militants will turn to Christ.

WEDNESDAY 15 A Christian mother was snatched from her home in Pakistan on February 25, tortured, forced to convert to Islam and then forced to marry a Muslim. Saima's Christian husband, Naveed, reported the matter to the police but they did not act until he threatened to set himself on fire. Her kidnapper,

Muhammad Khalid Sati, was arrested on March 5 and Saima was then reunited with Naveed and their children (aged 4, 8 and 13). Praise God that she is back home, but legally Saima remains a Muslim and married to Muhammad. Naveed is challenging this in court – pray that the legal case will succeed.

THURSDAY 16 Stephen Masih (38) was charged under Pakistan's "blasphemy" law on March 11, after a severe beating by angry local Muslims who claimed he had used bad language to their womenfolk and spoken against Muhammad. Stephen, a Christian, suffered permanent brain damage when he had typhoid fever at the age of ten, and his family is too poor to buy the medicine he needs to control the fits and vocal outbursts of bad language caused by his mental disability. He lives with his sister and their bedridden mother. Ask the Lord to provide someone to speak up for this vulnerable man (Proverbs 31:8-9). Pray that the Lord will bring him peace and calm as he waits in custody and will keep watch over the door of his mouth. (Psalm 141:3).

FRIDAY 17 Christians in Pakistan are often called "sweepers," a term of contempt which refers to the fact that many of them work in the lowliest and dirtiest jobs, such as sweeping streets or cleaning sewers. This attitude was made official earlier this year by Swabi district council in the north-western province, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The council unanimously adopted a resolution that all hospital sweepers must be Christians. Pray for a change in attitude by society at large towards

the Christian minority in Pakistan, that they may be respected as equals.

SATURDAY 18 A Pakistani imam who left Islam to follow Christ was granted asylum in Germany because Muslims had attacked him in Pakistan. But the same thing has happened again in Germany, where he was stabbed by four Urdu-speaking men while out jogging. His family still wants to kill him, as relatives of converts from Islam often do, feeling that the convert has brought shame on the whole family. Pray for “Haroon” and for other converts from Islam who have sought safety in the West only to find themselves at risk there too.

SUNDAY 19 **Our Father in heaven, we pray today for Christians in Saudi Arabia who cannot meet together to worship You except in secret. Please encourage them and build them up in their faith, especially those who have put their very lives in danger by leaving Islam to follow Christ. Protect them all from the religious police who are ready to punish them severely for any indication that they love and follow Your Son. May the police themselves come to know the power of Your saving love through Jesus, in whose Name we pray.**

MONDAY 20 Only 11% of the people who live in the United Arab Emirates are citizens; the rest are mostly migrant workers of a variety of religions. There are thought to be about 800,000 who would call themselves Christian, with 700 active congregations and 45 official church buildings, including a new cathedral and 16 new churches. This is a staggering amount of freedom

for Christians in the Arabian Peninsula. Pray that this trend may continue and spread to other countries in the region.

TUESDAY 21 “You have three options: convert to Islam and get your properties back, leave the Islamic State for good and your properties will be owned by the Islamic State, or be killed.” This phone call came to “Rashel” (59) in August 2014, as the Islamic State fighters in Iraq entered the small town to which she and her family had fled. Refusing to deny Christ, the family fled to Kurdistan. But there they still faced discrimination and hostility. They moved to Turkey, and finally in April 2019 flew to Australia, helped by Barnabas Aid’s Operation Safe Havens. Thank the Lord for the generosity of the Australian government in giving asylum to many persecuted Christians. Pray that Operations Safe Havens may be used by the Lord to help those for whom it is His will that they move out of the Middle East to a part of the world where they can live safely and freely as Christians.

WEDNESDAY 22 Praise God for the generosity of the government of Iraqi Kurdistan, which is donating land and paying construction costs to provide church buildings for the many tens of thousands of Christians who have fled there. Pray that displaced Christians, who fled from a situation of anti-Christian threats, violence, kidnapping, and killing, and whose future is now so uncertain, may find peace, joy and stability as they gather together to worship the Lord.

THURSDAY 23 The Christians of Koum al-Raheb, near Samalout, Egypt, had to hold a funeral service in the village streets in February because their church building remained sealed by the police. The church had been closed down on the very day it first opened for worship, December 9, 2018, because it was not officially licensed. The Egyptian government has put measures in place to license all church buildings, but progress is slow and many Muslims are implacably opposed to Christians having places of worship. Pray for the church licensing to progress quickly so that police have no reason to close church buildings. Pray also for more Egyptian Muslims to support the Christian minority, like those who gathered in the streets of Koum al-Raheb to mourn with the Christians during the funeral.

FRIDAY 24 A brand new eco-city called New Alamein was inaugurated last year on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. It will eventually have 3 million inhabitants, 16 hotels, three universities, an opera house and museum. It will also have a church, on the personal orders of Egyptian President Sisi who allocated land for a church and directed that all new cities should have churches as well as mosques. Construction work began on the site earlier this year. Thank the Lord for President Sisi's continuing efforts to ensure that Christians have sufficient places of worship. As Christians constitute about 10% of the Egyptian population, more church buildings will be needed in New Alamein as the city grows to its intended final size. Pray that these can be built without hindrance or violent attack.

SATURDAY 25 Egyptian Christian girls and young women are frequently kidnapped by Muslims, raped, and often forced to convert to Islam. Many of the victims vanish and are never seen again. Some manage to escape or are rescued, but their lives are permanently blighted in a society that highly values virginity. Some kidnappings are carefully planned, on the orders of Islamist consortiums who are reported to pay the kidnappers as much as \$3,000 per girl. Pray to "the God who sees" (Genesis 16:13) for the protection of our sisters in Egypt. Pray for healing – emotional, mental, and physical – for those who have been through this ordeal, and above all pray for strength, hope and faith for those still captive.

SUNDAY 26 *Loving heavenly Father, we ask Your blessing on Christians who live as despised minorities, facing in daily life the constant message, spoken or unspoken, that they are worthless, even "unclean." May they be assured beyond all doubt in their hearts that they are precious and honoured in Your sight, as well as loved by the King of kings and Lord of lords. May they draw encouragement from remembering that their Savior, too, in whose Name we pray, was despised and rejected in this world. (Isaiah 43:4; 53:3).*

MONDAY 27 Three Christians were seriously injured when a mob of about 25 extremists attacked a prayer meeting at a pastor's home in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh on February 7. Attacking men and women alike, the mob beat them with sticks. The police refused to register a complaint against the attackers.

Pray for Rakesh, Mukesh and Bhanu as they recover from their injuries, and for all the prayer group that this incident will not cause them to become fearful.

TUESDAY 28 According to the Evangelical Fellowship of India, the number of incidents of intimidation, harassment and targeted violence against Christians in Uttar Pradesh state almost tripled in 2018 compared with 2017. Thankfully the figure for India as a whole was slightly down in 2018, but still – at 325 – averaged almost one incident a day. Uttar Pradesh has the largest population of any Indian state but fewer than 0.2% are Christians, compared with about 3.8% Christians across India as a whole. Pray that 2019 will see a decrease in anti-Christian violence in India, especially in Uttar Pradesh.

WEDNESDAY 29 Six-year-old Purno was asleep at home in Odisha state, India, when he was woken by three men knocking at the door and shouting for his father. On gaining entry, the men tied his father's hands and dragged him from the house. Purno ran crying behind them until they told him not to follow, bundled his father into a car, and sped off. Purno's father, 40-year-old Anant, was later found lying on a road, beheaded. Anant had converted to Christianity in 2018, and a few months later been baptized. The murder is believed to have been carried out by Maoist Naxalites, at the request of local extremists. Pray for Purno, his four sisters and their mother (who were out when Anant was taken away) that the Lord will comfort, protect and provide for them.

THURSDAY 30 Many persecuted Christians are isolated and alone, especially those who have left other religions to follow Jesus. Perhaps no other believer is even aware of their existence. But the risen and ascended Christ Himself is interceding for them above the heavens (Hebrews 7:25-26). Pray that this fact may bring our lonely brothers and sisters comfort and joy. Pray also that the Holy Spirit will guide us in our prayers as we lift to the Lord all those whom He has called and chosen to be His own, whether known or unknown to us.

FRIDAY 31 “You are finish” said the graffiti, in English and Arabic, sprayed on to an Armenian Church in Istanbul, Turkey, on February 23. This threat is far from trivial in a country where over 1.5 million Armenian Christians were killed in a state-sanctioned genocide a century ago, along with more than 2 million other Christians. Pray that the Lord will keep from fear the tiny remaining Armenian community in Turkey and will be their strength and shield (Psalm 28:7).

June

SATURDAY 1 Turkey's President Erdogan has suggested in a TV interview that Hagia Sophia in Istanbul could be changed back to being a mosque. Hagia Sophia was built as a Christian church in 537 AD. It replaced two earlier church buildings, which had each in turn been burnt down. The construction of the first was ordered by Emperor Constantius in 360. The current building was converted into a mosque

in 1453 when the Muslim Ottomans conquered Istanbul, and then in 1935 became a museum under the secularist Turkish government. Changing it from a museum to a mosque would be a highly significant action within Erdogan's program of Islamization, sending a message of Islamic dominance over Christians. Pray that this will not happen.

SUNDAY 2 We pray today for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world, enduring poverty, hostility, threats, violence, injustice, loss of their earthly possessions or earthly family, imprisonment, torture or even facing martyrdom. May they stand firm in the faith. May they know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to sustain and strengthen them in all that they are enduring for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and their Saviour, our Lord and their Lord, in whose Name we pray.

MONDAY 3 Sometimes non-Christians are sent to attend Christian worship services to listen for any "illegal" statements and report them to the authorities. This can be secretly as spies, for example in Iran, or openly as state officials, for example in Laos. Pray for these individuals, hearing the Word of God preached and believers singing, praying and giving testimony to what He has done in their lives. Ask that the Holy Spirit will touch them and lead many to their own personal faith in Jesus.

TUESDAY 4 Today is the last day of Ramadan, the month when Muslims abstain from food and water from dawn to dusk. Many do so not just to keep the rules of their religion but

also because they hope to draw near to Allah. Pray that those who long for a close and loving relationship with their Creator and the assurance that their sins are forgiven may come to know Jesus, who is called Emmanuel (God with us).

WEDNESDAY 5 The earthquake and tsunami in Sulawesi, Indonesia last September caused massive destruction including many church buildings. Mr. Gojang Sonda, a church elder, described how his congregation of 98 families met the following Sunday in tents, but there was not enough space for everyone. "After the service, we held a meeting to discuss the situation. As a result, some church members donated materials to rebuild the church building. We managed to collect 72 pieces of roof material, wood, and cement." This was a very sacrificial offering, given the great losses caused by the natural disaster. Next day the church members started to erect a wooden structure as an emergency meeting place, but it was very temporary and had no walls. Great was their joy when they learned that Barnabas would give them a multi-purpose hall to provide safe shelter for the whole congregation when they gathered to worship. This was just one of many halls that Barnabas is providing to replace damaged churches in Sulawesi. Pray that they will enable Christians to keep meeting together, to build each other up in the faith and praise God in the midst of their suffering.

THURSDAY 6 Prayers have been answered for Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, often called "Ahok"

but now preferring to be known as “BTP.” The Christian former governor of Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, was released early from a two-year jail term he was serving for blasphemy. The accusation was so clearly concocted that the prosecutors had dropped their case against him and even complained that the sentence was too harsh. But BTP says that his time in prison was a valuable period of self-discipline and study and prevented him from becoming arrogant, rough and hurtful as would have happened if he had been re-elected. Pray for God to guide this very prominent Christian figure in the world’s most populous Muslim nation and to use him for His purposes.

FRIDAY 7 Another natural disaster afflicted Indonesia in March 2019 when heavy rains caused land-slips and flooding in Papua, a poor and mainly Christian province where the Indonesian government has been working hard to advance Islam. At least 113 people died and over 11,000 had to be evacuated from their villages. Hundreds of homes were damaged, as well as schools and churches. Pray that our brothers and sisters will be strong

in the Lord, as this natural disaster is added to the ongoing challenges of poverty and Islamization. Barnabas sent medical relief.

SATURDAY 8 “All the news from Lake Chad is that Boko Haram is on the offensive,” came a message to Barnabas Aid from a Chadian church leader in March, with a request for prayer. Lake Chad is the point where the countries of Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, and Chad meet. The Islamist terrorist group Boko Haram, who consider Christians one of their main targets, are launching more and more frequent attacks in Cameroon and Chad. In Nigeria they were able to take advantage of election chaos in February to launch new offensives, while continuing to remain active in Niger. Pray that Boko Haram’s plans to terrify, kill and destroy will fail.

SUNDAY 9 **Father God, there are many of Your people who live as vulnerable minorities, despised by society as weak, foolish and insignificant, just like the earliest followers of our Lord Jesus. Pour out Your grace on them, that they may remember they are chosen and loved by You. Empower them by Your Holy Spirit to be Your witnesses in hard and hostile places.**



Papuan Christians worshipping from canoes brought into their flooded church building

May He give them the words they must speak, words of wisdom and love to confound their persecutors. We ask this in the Name and for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

MONDAY 10 Following many street protests against his continuing rule, Algeria's President Bouteflika announced on April 1 that he would resign by the end of the month, after 20 years in office. During his rule, the Algerian Church (almost all Muslim converts) has grown dramatically and some of the time has enjoyed considerable freedom. But earlier the same month, al-Anabi, the leader of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, had called on Muslims of Algeria (99% of the population) to unite to ensure that Algeria is ruled by Islam alone. He described the conditions that would lead to the formation of an Islamic emirate governed by *sharia*. Pray that Algeria will not return to a situation of civil war between government and Islamists as happened in the 1990's, when at least 100,000 people died and Christians were an underground Church in great danger.

TUESDAY 11 The Christians of Azaghar village in Algeria had to start worshipping in a tent, after the authorities sealed their church building. Then police forced them out of the tent, which the congregation of 300 had erected in the church grounds. The church is very active in outreach to Muslims, which is probably what has irked the authorities, although the official reasons given for the closure were to do with fire extinguishers, emergency exits, foreign visitors and

the fact that the church building is registered as a poultry farm. Pray that the Azaghar Christians will be wise as serpents and innocent as doves so that the authorities will have no pretext to hinder their ministry. (Matthew 10:16)

WEDNESDAY 12 The king of Morocco is active in interfaith and has also abolished in his kingdom the Islamic apostasy law that specifies death for those who leave Islam. But Moroccan Christians (who are converts from Islam and their children) can still only meet secretly in homes, not in church buildings like expatriate Christians. They must remain invisible to society at large. Pray for changes that will fully recognize the existence of Moroccan Christians and allow them to worship freely and openly as well as to share their faith with others.

THURSDAY 13 Western Sahara is a country of sand, war, rich phosphate deposits and fishing. It was a Spanish colony from about 1884 to 1976, and is now three-quarters controlled by Morocco. The remaining quarter is called the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic. Sunni Muslims form the overwhelming majority of Western Sahara's population, but their Islam is unusual in that it has traditionally functioned without mosques (because the people were nomads) and women have considerable respect and power. There is a tiny Christian presence of foreigners (including Moroccans), but only the Lord Jesus knows if there are believers among the Saharawi themselves. Pray that He will protect and encourage His own

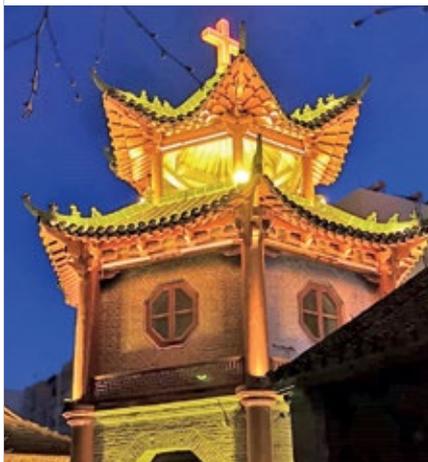
and that the harshness and ongoing conflict will cause people to turn to the One who offers life in all its fullness. (John 10:10,14)

FRIDAY 14 “How do we leave these brothers and sisters and their children in this misery, without their possessions, without food, without clothes?” This was the message that came from Cameroonian church leaders to Barnabas Aid after four Christian villages were attacked by Boko Haram militants in a single month, leaving more than 2,000 believers destitute. Thanks to the generosity of Barnabas supporters, we were able to send food, blankets and soap, but pray that the Islamist militants will stop wreaking havoc on Christians in northern Cameroon. The UN estimates that over 170,000 Cameroonians, mainly Christians, have been forced to flee by Boko Haram.

SATURDAY 15 Christians in Burkina Faso are being targeted by several different jihadist groups. The armed militants will arrive by motorbike at a village, abduct and kill the leaders, steal livestock and ambulances, stop animal vaccination campaigns, burn schools and businesses, forbid women to socialise or to trade at the market, and forbid marriages and baptisms. Pray that Christians will not give way to fear, but will remember that God is with them to strengthen, help and uphold them. (Isaiah 41:10)

SUNDAY 16 We praise You, heavenly Father, for the wonderful growth of the Church in China. We thank You that, in many parts of that vast country,

Christians are given considerable freedom by the communist authorities. We bless You for the Christ-like lives of our Chinese brothers and sisters which have brought the Church favor, especially for their care of the poor and needy in society. We rejoice in the paradox that the Chinese authorities welcome Christian theology as a bulwark against extreme sects. We ask that You will continue to nurture and nourish Chinese followers of Christ, in whose Name we pray.



A church in Anhui province, China, is able to display a cross on top, but in Henan province 4,000 have reportedly been removed in the last year

MONDAY 17 Pastor Li Juncai and three members of his congregation, including a pregnant woman, were arrested by police in China as they protested against the forced removal of a cross from the roof of their church in Xinxiang, Henan province on February 20. Others (mainly women and elderly), who had gathered at the gate to block the access of two cranes, were beaten and dragged away. The pastor was charged with “disrupting public

service” after he challenged the arrival of police-escorted demolition crews. About 4,000 crosses have reportedly been removed from churches in Henan in the last year. Pray that the authorities in Henan province will ease off their harassment of Christians, and allow them to function more freely as in various other parts of China.

TUESDAY 18 Another 44 members of Early Rain Covenant Church, Chengdu, Sichuan province, China, have been arrested, including ten children and a baby. The elderly mother of the church’s imprisoned pastor Wang Yi was viciously attacked at an ATM by two police officers when she refused to tell them her PIN number. Journalist and church deacon Zhang Guoqing reported this incident and was himself arrested. Eight families who attend the church have been evicted from their homes and two fired from their jobs, after police pressured landlords and employers. Please pray for protection and hope for the 23 church members still in detention (at the time of writing), healing for Chen Yaxue, the pastor’s mother, and provision for the homeless and jobless believers.

WEDNESDAY 19 The communist authorities of China have banned the uploading of short videos to the internet if they deem that those videos violate “national religious policies.” Although this is ostensibly intended to restrict “religious extremism” it could easily be used against Christians. Pray that Chinese Christians will be able to continue to worship, evangelize and minister through the use of video media,

which reaches so many online, and that they may be protected from the snares the authorities have laid in their path (Psalm 141:9).

THURSDAY 20 The Chinese city of Guangzhou has announced that it will pay financial rewards to members of the public who report “illegal religious activities.” The highest sums (up to 10,000 yuan (\$1,500)) will be paid for tip-offs leading to the arrest of a foreign religious leader. There will be payments of 3,000 to 5,000 yuan for information leading to the closure of a foreign religious group, and up to 3,000 yuan for information about locally organized gatherings and their (Chinese) leaders. Guangzhou’s unregistered and therefore illegal churches – often called “house churches” – will now be in danger from their neighbors as well as from officials. Pray that ordinary people in Guangzhou will see Christians as helpful and beneficial to society and will choose not to report them to the authorities.



Chinese Christian women’s prayer group

FRIDAY 21 Foreign Christians in China are a main target of the authorities (see example on previous page). Pray that they will take care that they do not accidentally bring down persecution on Chinese believers. Remembering how the Lord used unbelieving King Cyrus to bless His people (Ezra 1), pray that He will use the atheist authorities of China to protect the thriving Chinese Church there from being led astray by unhelpful Christian teaching brought from other parts of the world. Pray that foreign Christians will be open to learning from Chinese Christians.

SATURDAY 22 Roksari Kamberi (65) endured ten days of intensive interrogation by Iranian intelligence officers after she and four other female converts from Islam were arrested in Karaj. She was taken before a prosecutor to answer charges of “acting against national security” and to an Islamic cleric tasked with trying to persuade her to return to Islam. Roksari was extremely distressed by her ordeal. Iranian Christians ask us to pray for her and the four other women, that “God will help all Christians who are arrested and interrogated in Iran to stand firm in the faith.” They also ask for prayer that “those people responsible for the mistreatment of the women and the violations of their rights will repent of their actions.”

SUNDAY 23 Heavenly Father, we lift to You today the country of Iran, as international sanctions increasingly begin to bite and society is in turmoil. We thank You for the wonderful Church growth of recent

years, and the courage of many believers who endure arrest, torture and imprisonment for the sake of Christ. We pray that Your people may be bringers of peace and hope to their anxious, angry and hungry neighbors, and that the suffering of the Iranian population may draw still more to the Lord Jesus, in whose Name we pray.

MONDAY 24 An Iranian convert from Islam to Christianity was refused asylum in the UK because he said that his decision to follow Christ was based on his discovery that Christianity is a peaceful religion. Quoting Bible verses out of context to try to prove that Christianity is a violent religion, the Home Office claimed that this was nonsense and so the man’s conversion could not be genuine. The Home Office argument was condemned by leaders of the Church of England and the National Secular Society, and even the embarrassed Home Office itself later admitted that what had happened was not its normal policy. The Iranian believer is appealing against the decision; pray that he will be granted asylum this time and that the incident will work for good in the long run, resulting in the granting of asylum in the UK to a larger number of persecuted Christians.

TUESDAY 25 Barnabas Aid UK’s petition on “Our Religious Freedom,” which gathered around 90,000 signatures, has been presented to the Home Office. The petition asks for a new British law to guarantee seven fundamental aspects of freedom of religion. The aim is to “turn back the tide”

eroding the religious liberties that previous generations of Christians endured hardship, persecution and even death to achieve. Pray that it will be carefully considered and fully implemented so that religious freedom for all will be preserved.

WEDNESDAY 26 On February 23, police in London arrested a Nigerian street preacher, removed his Bible and led him away in handcuffs. Later – after considerable public comment – the police announced that they had “de-arrested” him. Pray that Olunwole Hesanmi will not be discouraged by this humiliating experience and will continue to proclaim the Gospel. Pray also for an end to the unlawful arrests of Christians preaching or reading aloud from the Bible in British public spaces.

THURSDAY 27 Praise the Lord for answering prayer about a controversial anti-Christian poster campaign in Scotland last year. The billboard posters, which contained messages implying that Christian belief amounted to “hate,” were displayed in all Scottish cities and carried the logos of Police Scotland and the Scottish government. Barnabas Aid made a formal complaint. Police Scotland investigated themselves and concluded that they had no case to answer, but finally, in January 2019, a Scottish government minister stated that the posters would not be re-used.

FRIDAY 28 Many parents in England – Christian, Jewish, Muslim and others – are greatly concerned that their existing right

to take their children out of sex education lessons at school is being challenged on a variety of fronts. As the curriculum of these lessons becomes increasingly liberal, increasingly at odds with the parents’ beliefs, and increasingly taught to younger age-groups, so the parents’ concerns grow. Pray that the parental right to teach their own moral values to their own children and protect them from contrary ideas will be maintained in England.

SATURDAY 29 Cyclone Idai swept across Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi in March causing hundreds of deaths and wreaking terrible damage to homes, church buildings and livelihoods. Working through local churches and Christian organizations, Barnabas Aid provided food, medical supplies, even body bags. Pray that the Christians and all who have suffered so much, many of them already poor, will be able to rebuild their lives.

SUNDAY 30 Gracious Lord, we thank You for the incredible courage of North Korean Christians, as they cling to the Lord Jesus, despite the huge risk that it brings of severe punishment to them and to their whole families if their Christian faith is discovered. We praise You for the grace You have given them to know Him and the power of His resurrection, sharing in His sufferings, and – for some – becoming like Him in His death. May we too have this courage and faith. May we be as willing as them to share in the sufferings of Christ, in whose Name we pray. (Philippians 3:10)

USA

6731 Curran St, McLean, VA 22101
Telephone (703) 288-1681
or toll-free 1-866-936-2525
Fax (703) 288-1682
Email usa@barnabasaid.org

UK

9 Priory Row, Coventry CV1 5EX
Telephone 024 7623 1923
Fax 024 7683 4718
From outside the UK
Telephone +44 24 7623 1923
Fax +44 24 7683 4718
Email info@barnabasfund.org
Registered charity number 1092935
Company registered in England
number 4029536
For a list of all trustees, please
contact Barnabas Fund UK at the
Coventry address above.

Australia

PO BOX 3527,
LOGANHOLME, QLD 4129
Telephone (07) 3806 1076
or 1300 365 799
Fax (07) 3806 4076
Email bfaustralia@barnabasfund.org

Germany

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.
Account holder: Hilfe für Brüder
International e.V.
Account number: 415 600
Bank: Evang Kreditgenossenschaft
Stuttgart
IBAN: DE89520604100000415600
BIC: GENODEF1EK1

New Zealand

PO Box 276018, Manukau City,
Auckland, 2241
Telephone (09) 280 4385
or 0800 008 805
Email office@barnabasfund.org.nz

Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

Office address: Office 113 Russell
Business Centre 40-42 Lisburn Road,
Belfast, BT9 6AA. Please send post to
our UK office address.
Telephone 028 91 455 246
or 07875 539003
Email ireland@barnabasfund.org

Singapore

Cheques in Singapore dollars payable
to "Olive Aid Trust" may be sent to:
Olives Aid Sdn Bhd,
P.O. Box 03124, Subang Jaya, 47507
Selangor, MALAYSIA
Singaporean supporters may send
gifts for Barnabas Fund online via
Olive Aid Trust:
Beneficiary: OLIVE AID TRUST
Bank Name: United Overseas Bank
(Malaysia) Berhad
Swift Code: UOVBMYKL
Location: KUALA LUMPUR
Account Number: 140-901-654-0

South Africa

Office 301, 3rd Floor, Eikestad mall, 43
Andringa Street, Stellenbosch 7599
Telephone +27 21 808 1668
Email bfa@barnabasfund.org

International Headquarters

The Old Rectory,
River Street, Pewsey,
Wiltshire SN9 5DB, UK
Telephone 01672 564938
Fax 01672 565030
From outside UK:
Telephone +44 1672 564938
Fax +44 1672 565030
Email info@barnabasfund.org