

barnabasprayer

***Barnabas Aid** – bringing hope to suffering Christians*

To help you pray for suffering Christians

November/ December 2025

barnabasaid.org

Thank you for your prayers for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. 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.

November

SATURDAY 1 Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) has ordered that Christians in Africa convert to Islam, accept their status as a subjugated people and pay *jizya* (a tax paid to Islamic conquerors), or prepare to face death. The demand was published in an August edition of *Al Naba*, the online publication of IS, as well as by Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) a week earlier. "Let the Christians of Africa … know, that there will only be peace through Islam or *jizya*," stated ISCAP on social media. Praise the Lord for our brothers and sisters throughout Africa and across the world, who know that true peace is found only in being justified with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

SUNDAY 2 Heavenly Father, we cry out like the psalmist, "O God, do not remain silent … See how your enemies growl, how your foes rear their heads." We pray that You will not remain silent as Islamists slaughter Christian communities across Africa, as oppressive governments seek to silence the Gospel in many parts of the world, as Your people bear shame and suffering for their faith. Thank You that You are the God who cares, the God who hears and the God who acts – we pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (Psalm 83:1-2)

MONDAY 3 The Islamic State demand for Christians to convert or accept subjugation followed an appalling attack in Komanda, Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in which ISCAP fighters slaughtered at least 34 people at a late-night church service. The terrorists set fire to the church building along with houses and shops in the village. Ask the Lord to comfort the bereaved following this act of hate-filled violence. Pray that the faith of our brothers and sisters will not fail despite the fierce trial that they face (Luke 22:32).



Mass burial for victims of the Komanda church attack

TUESDAY 4 Up to 164 more Christians were killed in targeted attacks across Ituri and the neighbouring province of North Kivu in the six weeks following the Komanda church attack. This brought the number of believers reported to have been murdered by ISCAP since Christmas 2024 to around 550. In the worst single incident, as many as 102 died at the hands of the terrorists in North

Kivu's Lubero District. Afterwards, ISCAP claimed that the massacre was a consequence of the Christian community refusing the "options" of converting to Islam or paying *jizya*. Praise God for the faith of our brothers and sisters, who maintained their witness for Christ despite oppression and deadly threats.

WEDNESDAY 5 Barnabas Aid is funding a new pig-farming initiative for a Christian community in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), still suffering the effects of the conflict between the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group and the Congolese armed forces. "Pig farming is well suited to the region," continues our partner. "It requires little land, the pigs reproduce quickly, and it offers high economic returns." Our plan is to provide 55 female pigs and five male pigs, which will be owned collectively by 300 impoverished Christian households. Please pray for the success of this project in providing a sustainable livelihood for our suffering brothers and sisters.

THURSDAY 6 Islamic State Mozambique (IS-M) has claimed the killing of 26 Christians in Cabo Delgado Province in less than two months. In the worst incident in late July, six believers from Ancuabe District were captured and beheaded by the terrorist group. IS-M has also set up roadblocks to prevent the delivery of humanitarian aid to the region. Travellers are being intercepted and, if they are Christians, charged a tax of around £125-£385 ($150-$460; €138-€422) to be allowed to continue their journey unharmed. Another 60,000 people have fled from the region, adding to more than half a million displaced since 2017. Pray that the Lord will strengthen and comfort the bereaved in His grace. Ask Him to bring an end to this insurgency and the hateful ideology that fuels it.

FRIDAY 7 Praise the Lord that Alphonsus Afina, a church minister in Nigeria's north-eastern Borno State, has been released after being held for two months by Boko Haram. Alphonsus was rescued by security forces two months after he was kidnapped on his way to a humanitarian and peacebuilding conference in Maiduguri in April. The militants who carried out the ambush fired shots and threw a grenade at the vehicles, killing one passenger and abducting the others. Give thanks for the rescue of Alphonsus and ten women who were also held. Pray that other kidnapped Nigerian Christians still in captivity will be released, and until they are, that the Lord will provide them with courage and comfort.

SATURDAY 8 Pray for a Christian community in Plateau State in Nigeria's Middle Belt after 12 residents were killed in an attack by suspected Fulani Islamists in mid-August. A four-month-old girl was among the victims as houses were set ablaze and livestock stolen in the assault. Pray that the regular appeals for greater security and protection for these vulnerable Christian communities will not go unheeded. Pray that the Lord will comfort those bereaved and show them that He has not abandoned them even as they grieve. Pray that the perpetrators of these horrendous attacks will be identified and brought to justice.

SUNDAY 9 Lord God, thank You that there is a day of judgement for Your enemies and the persecutors

of Your people. Thank You that one day justice will be done, and the blood of the martyrs avenged. Yet we also praise You that there is grace abounding for sinners of all kinds, even the persecutors of the Church – that the judgement for sin has fallen upon the Lord Jesus Christ on behalf of all who put their faith in Him. Thank You for the knowledge that those who attack and kill our brothers and sisters will one day be brought to judgement or repentance, to the glory of the Judge of all the world, who always does that which is right, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Psalm 83:9–16; Revelation 6:9–10; Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 18:25)

MONDAY 10 As Iraq prepares for parliamentary elections tomorrow (11 November), the country faces political instability, corruption, economic hardship and continuing security threats. Many citizens, especially young people and marginalised communities, feel disillusioned by unemployment, poor services, and mistrust of government, yet they long for leaders of integrity who will promote justice and peace across ethnic and religious divides. Please pray for wisdom and courage for voters, honesty and compassion among candidates, and transparency in the electoral process. Pray too for protection of all citizens, particularly Christians and other vulnerable communities, from violence and intimidation, for reconciliation between divided communities, and for a future marked by stability and hope.

TUESDAY 11 Syria continues to bear the scars of prolonged conflict, with cities in ruins and communities deeply fractured. In September, Christians from six churches in Sweida, southern Syria, were forced to flee as violence and shortages grip the region. Minister Tony Boutros reported that his congregation is sheltering nearly 170 displaced people amid destroyed churches, power cuts, and daily struggle. Ask God to protect His scattered Church in Syria, providing for their daily needs. Pray for local Christians seeking to bring relief and hope at great personal cost, that they may be strengthened in faith. May God's presence bring peace, healing and courage, renewing hope for a future free from fear.

WEDNESDAY 12 Thank the Lord that a planned attack on a church in Tartus, western Syria, was foiled by a counter-terrorism operation. It remains unclear who was behind the plot in early August. The situation demonstrates again the difficult circumstances facing our brothers and sisters in Syria, who have suffered violence at the hands of Islamist terrorist groups, other extremists, and forces aligned with the government. Ask the Lord to protect His people throughout Syria at a time when they face many dangers and threats. Pray that there will be peace in this troubled land.

THURSDAY 13 Lebanon continues to endure deep economic hardship, political instability and the lasting impact of recent crises, leaving many Christian families struggling to meet their daily needs. Churches work tirelessly to care for the vulnerable, yet poverty and uncertainty weigh heavily on believers. Please pray for strength, provision and hope for Lebanon's Christians, that their faith will not falter. Ask God to give wisdom and integrity to leaders, and that

His peace will overcome unrest. May Christ's presence bring comfort, courage and restoration, sustaining His people in these difficult times.

FRIDAY 14 Saudi Arabia is experiencing rapid social and economic change, yet Christians continue to face severe restrictions. Public worship is forbidden, conversion from Islam is punishable, and sharing faith can result in detention or deportation. Most believers are foreign workers who gather in secret, while Saudi converts endure strong social pressure and serious legal risks. Still, small signs of openness appear, such as limited recognition of Christmas in some cities. Please pray for courage and protection for Christians, for wisdom and compassion to touch the hearts of leaders and communities, and for God's presence to bring strength, hope and guidance.

SATURDAY 15 More than 50 Christians were arrested by Iran's Ministry of Intelligence in the days following the conflict with Israel in June. They were accused of involvement in "anti-security" activities and possession of arms. Some of those arrested were detained on returning to Iran after attending a gathering organised in a neighbouring country by a church abroad. Farsi (Persian)-speaking converts from Islam are forbidden from attending Christian worship services in Iran. Pray that the authorities will recognise that Christians pose no threat to national security and that all believers will be released.

SUNDAY 16 Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your faithful servants around the world who are suffering imprisonment for their faith in You. We ask You to reveal to them that they are following a tradition of saints who have gone before them in standing up for the truth, that You are with them in their trials and imprisonment and that their suffering is not in vain. We remember the unjust accusations You experienced and ultimate sacrifice You made. Guide us, Lord, to support those imprisoned for the Gospel in whatever way we can, for we ask in Your precious Name. (Matthew 25:36)

MONDAY 17 Please pray for our brother Maan Masih, a 21-year-old from Lahore, Pakistan, who was detained by police after a spurious allegation of "blasphemy" was made against him. In early September, Maan was accused of pulling down a banner containing the name of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, during a Muslim celebration. Maan was released on bail the day after his arrest. Ask the Lord, our protector (Psalm 91:2), to protect Maan, his family and the wider Christian community from mob reprisals. Pray for the legal representatives, partnered with Barnabas Aid, who are supporting Maan as the case continues.

TUESDAY 18 Lift up in prayer the bereaved family and friends of our brother Nabeel Masih, who has died from liver failure at the age of 24. Nabeel became the youngest person in Pakistan's history to be charged with "blasphemy" at the age of 16, and spent nearly five years in prison before being released on bail in March 2021. Because of continual delays, Nabeel's appeal hearing never took place. It was reported that the prison authorities' refusal to provide proper care worsened Nabeel's health, which may have led ultimately

to his death. Praise God that the Lord Jesus Christ "has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:10). Pray also for others wrongly accused, asking that they will experience the justice that in this life Nabeel was denied.



Nabeel Masih [Image credit: Pakistan Christian Post]

WEDNESDAY 19 Since late June, when Pakistan's monsoon season began, the country has been beset by catastrophic floods caused by heavy rainfall. At the time of writing, four million people have been affected by the floods, with two million displaced and more than 900 dead. In one place a church building was left dangerously overcrowded as villagers who had lost their homes took shelter there. Barnabas Aid project partners are working to provide necessities such as food, water and medical supplies. Pray that our partners will be able to reach many flood-affected Christians who are sometimes overlooked when aid is distributed. Ask God to bring an end to the rains and resultant flooding, and that our brothers and sisters will be able to rebuild their lives in the wake of this disaster.

THURSDAY 20 More than 2,000 people were killed and buildings flattened when a 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck Afghanistan in late August. The earthquake struck some of the most remote and rural areas of the country. Approximately half a million were affected by this disaster – only the Lord knows if any Christians are among them. Pray that all those whose homes have been lost through this disaster will be able to rebuild their lives. Pray especially for any of our brothers and sisters among the survivors. Ask the Lord to comfort those who mourn loved ones, that the injured will be healed, and that survivors are kept strong and safe.

FRIDAY 21 The existence of Christianity in Afghanistan has never been officially recognised, with the result that the Taliban government considers any Christian in Afghanistan a convert from Islam regardless of their background. This means that our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan face the death penalty as apostates if their faith is discovered. Ask the Lord to sustain the faith of these secret believers even amidst the most trying and difficult of circumstances.

SATURDAY 22 Christians are a minority in all the former Soviet republics of Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In these Muslim-majority countries, to varying degrees, restrictions are placed on Christians meeting for worship, including a minimum number of adult members for the church to be registered legally. Such constraints add to the hostility directed towards Christians who have converted from Islam, sometimes resulting in businesses being boycotted and believers facing severe economic difficulties. Pray that the authorities in all these countries will recognise Christians as a force for good and lift or ease such restrictions,

and that the Church will continue to grow despite attempts to suppress it.

SUNDAY 23 **Our Father in heaven, we pray today for our new brothers and sisters, who have found Christ and converted to the true faith. We know that many of them risk persecution and ostracisation for their conversion, and in some places even risk their lives. We thank You for their courage and newfound faith, and ask that You watch over them, guiding them through the challenges they now face. Help them to find other believers, who can teach them the Scriptures and give them a community, so that they will not feel alone. We praise You for all who have sacrificed their earthly safety for the sake of Christ, in whose Name we pray.**

MONDAY 24 The government of Laos introduced the "Law on the Evangelical Church" in 2019, which gives Christians the right to conduct services and preach throughout the country. However, the law is not enforced effectively in rural areas. Instances of Christian families being evicted from their villages have been reported in different regions. Pray that the perception of Christianity as a "foreign" religion will diminish and that the evictions and constant disruptions of meetings will cease. Ask the Lord to strengthen believers who have suffered imprisonment for their faith and enable them to grow in steadfastness and strength as they seek to further His Kingdom in Laos (Isaiah 40:31).

TUESDAY 25 Two children were injured after a group of Muslims attacked a building where a Sunday school class was being held in West Sumatra province, Indonesia, in late July. Video footage captured a group of men entering the building armed with knives and wooden sticks, shouting, "Destroy everything!" The two children, aged 11 and 9, were taken to hospital for treatment. Pray that all the children present, especially those hurt, will fully recover from the trauma of the incident. Pray that Christians in Padang Sarai will draw on the Lord's strength at this unsettling time. Ask that those responsible will be held to account and led to repentance.

WEDNESDAY 26 Christians make up around 7% of Vietnam's population. Although religious freedom is protected in the constitution, recent laws have increased restrictions on places of worship. In some parts of the country, believers are summoned to "criticism sessions" that are aimed at making them publicly deny their faith. Thousands of believers from ethnic minorities have been denied household registration documents or identity cards, leaving them unable to access healthcare or schooling. Pray that the religious freedom of Vietnam's Christians will be protected. Ask the Lord to watch over His people in Vietnam, and pray that those summoned to "criticism sessions" will let the Lord be their strength, never swaying in their faith.

THURSDAY 27 More than four years on from the coup of 2021, the persecution of Christians by Myanmar's military (Tatmadaw) shows no sign of relenting. Christian-majority Chin State has been especially severely hit by airstrikes. Even IDP (internally displaced persons) camps are targeted, forcing displaced believers to flee more than once. Pray

for an end to the Tatmadaw's violence towards Christians and Myanmar's other minorities. Ask the Lord to protect those displaced and that vital supplies will reach those in need. Pray that they will soon be able to return to their communities.

FRIDAY 28 Please pray for 22 Christian orphans from Myanmar being cared for by a Barnabas Aid project partner in Thailand. These children lost their parents in the many attacks on villages and camps for IDPs (internally displaced persons) in Christian-majority areas of Myanmar before seeking refuge across the border. "As these children grow, we are deeply committed to building a safe haven for them," writes our partner, "a secure environment where they can grow, learn and serve God." As part of this vision, pray for the success of a Barnabas-funded project to build a new home for the children, a replacement for their current shelter which is crumbling and dilapidated. Ask also that they will grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).



Christian orphans from Myanmar are being cared for by Barnabas project partners in Thailand

SATURDAY 29 The Maldives claims to have a 100% Muslim population. The constitution states that "a non-Muslim may not become a citizen of the Maldives". Because of this, Maldivian Christians are predominantly secret believers. If discovered, they may be stripped of their citizenship. All non-Muslim worship is forbidden, and owning a Bible is punishable by death. Apostasy is a criminal offence, and any criticism of Islam is illegal. Parliament is constitutionally banned from passing laws contrary to Islam, and foreign Christians are forbidden from sharing their faith with Maldivians. Pray for the secret believers of the Maldives. Ask the Lord to preserve their faith amidst many trials and strengthen them through the Holy Spirit even in their isolation from their brothers and sisters in Christ.

SUNDAY 30 We humbly come before You, Lord Jesus, to thank You for Your saving grace. As we prepare over the coming weeks to mark the start of Your life here on Earth, we bow our heads in humility and gratitude for all that You have done for us. You came down to this world and walked amongst the people You have made, giving us the ultimate example of how to live. Your saving work on the cross redeemed us. Help us, Lord, to live in accordance with Your teachings and to love one another as You loved us. (John 1:10; 1 Peter 2:21; Galatians 3:13; John 13:34)

December

MONDAY 1 "Your compassion reflects the love of Christ." This was the message from Barnabas Aid project partners in Manipur, north-eastern India, after your gifts and prayers ensured that more than 1,500 flood-affected Christians were reached with supplies

including rice, dahl (lentils), tinned fish, potatoes and clean drinking water. "We lost everything in the flood," said one mother, "but your help reminded us that we are not forgotten. Thank you." Praise the Lord for providing for our brothers and sisters "according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

TUESDAY 2 Believers forced to flee their homes in north-eastern India following a surge in anti-Christian violence are being helped to rebuild their lives through sewing and tailoring classes funded by Barnabas. The training offered by our church partners is equipping traumatised and impoverished survivors from Manipur with skills that enable them to earn a living. The classes also provide a safe environment for discipleship. "Your partnership is helping us clothe both bodies and souls with the love of Christ," said our partner. Give thanks to the Lord for the success of the project and pray that we can expand the classes to empower even more families. Pray for an end to hostility against Christians in Manipur.

WEDNESDAY 3 Praise the Lord that the Church in Nepal continues to grow. The country's constitution guarantees freedom of religion, but a 2018 law forbids any attempt to convert a follower of a religion "being practised since ancient times". This protects Hindus and Buddhists but not Nepali Christians, who are first- or second-generation believers. Christians have been arrested in recent years for allegedly attempting to convert people. Pray that unfounded charges of forced conversions will be dismissed by the courts. Ask for a growing awareness in Nepali society that conversion to Christ is a matter of the heart, not of coercion.

THURSDAY 4 The student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh's largest Islamist party, has won landslide victories in elections at two of the country's main public universities. Jamaat-e-Islami had been banned by the previous government of Bangladesh, but this ban was reversed by the new interim government. There are concerns that Islamists could gain power in national elections (currently scheduled for February 2026) and implement elements of sharia (Islamic law), including a "blasphemy" law similar to that of Pakistan. Pray that these plans will come to nothing, that moderates and religious minorities will be able to live in peace, and especially for the protection of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

FRIDAY 5 Sri Lanka's minority Christian community experiences harassment and hostility from extremists in other faith groups, despite constitutional promises of religious freedom. Many struggle to find work because of discrimination and are very poor. Attacks against Christians typically involve verbal abuse, threats against pastors, or demands that churches be closed. Protests are often led by monks from the majority Buddhist community, supported by police and local officials. Pray for courage and strength for Sri Lankan Christians and ask that they stand firm knowing the Lord is with them wherever they go (Joshua 1:9). Pray that Sri Lanka's leaders will work to uphold constitutional guarantees of religious freedom.

SATURDAY 6 Praise God that Barnabas Aid has been able to supply study Bibles in the local languages of Sinhala and Tamil for 250 pastors in rural areas

of Sri Lanka. The Bibles will be "a strategic tool to help these pastors better interpret, teach, and preach the Word of God", says our project partner in Sri Lanka. Barnabas Aid's Projects Manager for South Asia added, "With your help, these pastors are now better prepared to disciple new believers and strengthen the emerging Church in some of Sri Lanka's most spiritually needy communities." Pray that the Church in Sri Lanka will continue to be strengthened through the Word of God, a lamp to their feet and a light to their path (Psalm 119:105).

SUNDAY 7 Lord Jesus, Light of the World, we thank You that the unfolding of Your words gives light. We thank You for the spread of the truth throughout the world, but we realise that there are still many who do not have access to the Scriptures in their own tongue. We pray that obstacles of poverty, access or persecution will be overcome to present the Word of God in the hands of those who seek You. Please enable the safe transport and delivery of Your inspired Word to build up Your Church with Your life-giving truth, for we ask in Your most holy Name. (Psalm 119:130; 2 Timothy 3:16)

MONDAY 8 Barnabas Aid is partnering with a Christian ministry in Ethiopia to provide 4,500 Bibles in the local languages of Amharic, Oromo and Tigrigna. Bibles in these languages are hard to find, and even when they are available, in war-torn and desperately impoverished Ethiopia many of your brothers and sisters simply cannot afford them. The Bibles will "equip believers for maturity in Christ and strengthen the evangelistic and discipleship efforts of local churches", says Barnabas Aid's project partner. Pray that the Holy Spirit, who guides the Lord's people in truth (John 16:13), will apply the Word of God to the followers of Christ.

TUESDAY 9 "In Tanzania, converts from Islam to Christianity face significant challenges, including family and community rejection that often leads to homelessness and loss of social safety nets," says a Barnabas Aid project partner, who works to share the Gospel. Converts in this country often struggle to find stable employment. Barnabas is funding a six-month programme to train Muslim-background believers as welders. The group will also receive discipleship training and take part in Bible studies and prayer meetings, ensuring that they also grow in their new-found faith. Thank the Lord that these new believers have the opportunity to gain practical skills and spiritual strength. Praise God for the successful efforts of our project partner in spreading the Gospel. Pray that converts will live peacefully and joyfully knowing that whatever they face in this life, they have been saved by Christ and will spend eternity with Him.



Barnabas is supporting Christian converts in Tanzania

WEDNESDAY 10 Only the Lord knows how many Christians are in Somalia,

but it is likely that they are very few in number and almost all converts from Islam. These Muslim-background believers (MBBs) are at risk of being killed by their neighbours, former friends or families as retribution for leaving Islam; apostasy is also forbidden by the Somali constitution. Intercede for the Lord's people in Somalia, asking that He will strengthen and uphold them (Isaiah 41:10).

THURSDAY 11 Islamists affiliated to either Al Qaeda or Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) control large parts of the West African Sahel, including 60% of Burkina Faso, where around a third of the population are Christians. Analysts and anti-terrorism experts have raised the possibility that Islamists could become the de facto government of some or all of this region. Pray that the Lord will beat back His enemies (Psalm 78:66) and keep His people across the Sahel in His care.

FRIDAY 12 Suspected Islamist gunmen forced thousands of residents to flee their homes in an attack on the Aye-Twar community in mid-August in predominantly Christian Benue State in Nigeria's Middle Belt. A church building was ruined, and the community remained deserted for fear of repeated attacks. Pray for peace to be restored in the Aye-Twar community and the church building to be rebuilt. Pray that faith in the Lord's sovereign purposes will enable Christians to return to their homes and that they will be protected from any further attacks. Continue to pray for improved security throughout the Middle Belt.

SATURDAY 13 Sewing and tailoring classes funded by Barnabas Aid have helped to empower disadvantaged young Christian women in Uganda. Training was given to women living in a Muslim-majority area, where Christian households experience higher levels of poverty and discrimination. At the end of the training, each of the 22 participants received a sewing machine to enable them to use their new skills to earn a living. During the classes they also received spiritual nourishment to help them grow in their love of the Lord. Praise God that the classes have had a positive impact on the lives of these young Christian women. Pray that they will use their new skills to serve others and strengthen their Christian community for Christ's glory (1 Peter 4:10-11).

SUNDAY 14 O Lord, we pray for Your children in Eritrea, who suffer arbitrary arrest and imprisonment for their faith. Thank You that these believers – who are arrested without charge or trial, and are beaten, starved, tortured and forced into labour – still have not forgotten You. Please stay with them, giving them strength and comfort in these horrible conditions. Change the hearts of the authorities, God, so that these brothers and sisters of ours will be released and live without fear. We ask this in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

MONDAY 15 Sudan's small Christian community, persecuted for decades under Islamist rule, continues to suffer as civil war engulfs the country, creating one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters. Our brothers and sisters are among the millions driven from their homes during more than two years of

conflict that has created widespread hunger. Believers have been attacked, churches burned, looted or occupied as military bases, and congregations scattered. Survivors say that the persecution of Christians is worse now than under the previous brutal Islamist government of Omar al-Bashir. Pray for the Lord's protection over Christians in Sudan, asking that they are neither crushed nor destroyed, despite being hard pressed on every side (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). Pray that the needs of the hungry and displaced will be met.

TUESDAY 16 Soriah, a Christian woman from Sudan, fled to Egypt when her home was destroyed by a bomb. Her husband, a pastor, stayed behind, refusing to leave the church where he was called to minister. Persecution in the Republic of Sudan is worsening, Soriah explained. "They're taking advantage of the civil war … and attacking Christians," she said. Soriah's situation is similar to that of many Sudanese Christians; many of the country's believers have fled the ongoing civil war and now face the challenge of setting up lives in new lands. Ask God to protect those believers who still remain in the war-torn country, and to guide those who have chosen to leave. Pray for healing of physical and mental wounds, that families separated by the conflict will be reunited, and ultimately for peace.



Soriah is among many believers who have fled violence and persecution in Sudan

WEDNESDAY 17 Christianity in Egypt is among the world's oldest traditions, with Coptic Christians forming around 10% of the population, alongside other Christian communities. Although the constitution guarantees freedom of religion, many Christians experience social and legal discrimination, face restrictions on church construction, and suffer occasional violence. Migrant and ethnic minority Christians, particularly sub-Saharan Africans, are especially vulnerable. Yet the Church continues to witness faithfully through discipleship, evangelism, education, healthcare and social ministries. Please pray for protection, unity and spiritual strength for Egyptian Christians; for courage and perseverance in the face of pressure; and for peaceful relations with Muslim neighbours.

THURSDAY 18 A Barnabas-funded literacy project in Egypt helps adults and children who have recently learned to read and write maintain and develop their skills, using the Bible as a textbook. It strengthens children's education where schools often fall short, encourages independent learning and spiritual growth, builds confidence and communication skills, and encourages church involvement. The programme serves 4,000-5,000 Christians, mostly women and children in underserved communities, supported by 250–350 volunteer facilitators and 21 supervisors. Ask the Lord to bless every learner, teacher and their families. Pray for the growth of literacy and faith, as well as the transformation of communities.

FRIDAY 19 Earlier this year a court in Tripoli sentenced 11 Christians – ten Libyans and one Pakistani – to prison terms of three to 15 years for allegedly

"insulting Islam". They had been arrested in 2023 on charges of apostasy and evangelism and reportedly subjected to torture. Human rights experts state that no evidence was presented during the trial, raising serious concerns about justice and due process. Please pray for these believers, that they will experience God's protection, strength and comfort in prison, that their families will be sustained, and that wisdom and justice will prevail in Libya.

SATURDAY 20 Among the countries of the North African Maghreb, Algeria has the largest indigenous Christian community. Many of these are Muslim-background believers (MBBs). Christians face significant legal and social obstacles, including harassment and state intimidation. While the constitution guarantees freedom of worship and conversion, the government balances projecting a tolerant image internationally with pressure from conservative and extremist Muslims, who view the growth of an indigenous church as shameful. Despite official recognition, several churches have been forcibly closed in recent years. Please pray for protection, wisdom for leaders, courage for believers, and that the Church may bring hope and practical support in a hostile environment.

SUNDAY 21 Heavenly Father, we pray for Christians around the world who face severe legal restrictions in practising their faith. We ask for those deprived of a building to find ways to meet for fellowship, worship and teaching from Your Word. We ask You to give wisdom to church leaders to respond to severe demands that make formal expression of their faith harder to achieve. Please direct them to obey governing authorities wherever possible, but to have the discernment to know when to obey God rather than man. We ask in the Name of the One in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 13:1; Acts 5:29; Colossians 2:3)

MONDAY 22 Churches in communist China are kept under close watch. "House churches" (that is, unregistered churches) may be forcibly closed and their members arrested. China's official Protestant church, the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), is closely monitored and regulated. There are laws prohibiting foreign Christians from evangelising or preaching, and forcing religious groups to abide by the affirmation that "the state is greater than religion, and the state law is greater than religious rules". Church leaders must be those who "love the motherland, support the leadership of the Communist Party of China, [and] practise the core values of socialism". Pray that Chinese Christians will have the wisdom to navigate this difficult environment, and that the Lord will continue to guide them in their faith.



A worship service in Yunnan Province [Image credit: China Christian Daily]

TUESDAY 23 "Unbelievers in this city are more resistant to the Gospel than before," says a pastor in Wenzhou, in China's eastern Zhejiang Province. "The younger generation is very resistant to the Gospel. If you evangelise them, they might immediately call the police, saying you are illegally proselytising." The pastor adds that Christians in the city can come under pressure to downplay or hide their faith in the workplace. Pray that our brothers and sisters in Wenzhou and across China will be helped by the Holy Spirit to continue sharing the Good News despite opposition, knowing that Christ is with them until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

WEDNESDAY 24 The Church in Nicaragua has been enduring an increasing crackdown on religious freedom. The government of President Daniel Ortega has arbitrarily arrested, imprisoned and exiled religious leaders and adherents, cancelled the legal status of religious organisations, and harassed and intimidated worshippers. All activities in churches are monitored, and some church ministers are placed under "precautionary measures", meaning they must regularly inform the police of all plans for services. Ministers have also had their bank accounts frozen or emptied. At the time of writing, there are concerns that restrictions on religious celebrations that occurred in recent years over Christmas and Easter may be reinstated this Christmas. Pray that Christians in Nicaragua will be free to worship this Christmas. Pray that church ministers will not be penalised for holding Christmas celebrations and that all believers will be unafraid to profess their faith in the incarnate God, our Saviour Jesus Christ (John 1:14).

THURSDAY 25 As we give thanks for our Saviour's birth, pray that His presence will be known to His people at worship services throughout the world, including in countries where Christians are a persecuted minority. Pray that the reality of the incarnation will shine forth brilliantly wherever the wondrous story is told and that many will be drawn to faith today. Pray for the Lord's protection in countries where Christmas is seen as a time to attack a "foreign" faith. Pray that any with malevolent intentions will be thwarted and that the light of Christ will shine especially brightly this day and cause His Kingdom to advance.

FRIDAY 26 Today we lift up the Middle East and the Holy Land before the Lord, a land sacred to many, yet scarred by generations of conflict, division and pain. Pray for God's peace to break through where hostility and mistrust prevail, softening hearts and opening paths of reconciliation, justice and true understanding. Ask the Lord to shelter and sustain those living under threat, oppression or deep uncertainty, and to grant hope, courage and daily provision to the most vulnerable. Pray that the Church will shine as a living witness of Christ's love, wisdom and faith, bringing light into darkness and healing into brokenness. Intercede for leaders, that they may be guided by integrity, compassion and vision, working not for power but for the flourishing of all.

SATURDAY 27 Myanmar's military government has announced plans to hold a general election on 28 December. The election would be the first since the 2021 military coup, which overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's democratically

elected government. The military has repeatedly delayed the election amid the ongoing civil war. Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy Party will not be allowed to contest this election, the legitimacy of which has been widely questioned by foreign observers. Pray for the security of Myanmar at this tense moment and that God will use this process, however flawed, to place people of integrity in positions of influence.

SUNDAY 28 **Sovereign Lord, we bring before You the multitude of refugees who have fled their country and those displaced within their own lands. We pray that You will comfort them and lead them to places of safety, whether they be fleeing war, persecution, famine or natural disasters. We ask that those who profess faith in the Lord Jesus, who was Himself a refugee in Egypt, will especially know Your guidance and provision as they adjust to these circumstances. We ask You to mobilise Your people to support those in need in imitation of our Saviour, in whose Name we pray. (Matthew 2:13-15)**

MONDAY 29 Christians in North Korea endure terrible persecution by the state. Believers must keep their faith secret, even from their own children who are encouraged at school to report on parents who pray or read the Bible. Owning a Bible can result in execution. Believers who gather for worship risk being sent to a labour camp, where they would be starved, tortured or worked to death. Christians often suffer the worst forms of treatment. Suspected Christians are interrogated or tortured for longer periods, to try to force them to name other Christians. Pray that the Lord will be with the secret believers of North Korea. Ask that they will be protected from the authorities. Pray that those in labour camps will find their strength in the Lord and be comforted by His loving presence.

TUESDAY 30 In some parts of the world, Western New Year is sometimes wrongly considered by non-Christians to be a Christian festival, much like Christmas or Easter. As such this period of the year can be dangerous for believers, who face the increased risk of attack associated with both of those days in the Church calendar. Lift up in prayer our brothers and sisters, asking the Lord to restrain the hand of any who plan to do them harm in the days ahead. Pray that believers everywhere will have the opportunity of reflecting upon the Lord's faithfulness as another year draws to an end.

WEDNESDAY 31 As 2025 draws to a close, it is a time for reflection on all the wonderful things God has done this year. Thank Him for the global Church, living in Christ's footsteps and serving as an example to the rest of the world. Praise Him for the new converts, who have given their lives to Christ despite the challenges this brings them. Give thanks for Barnabas Aid's supporters, who have enabled us to help so many persecuted Christians; and for our project partners, who ensure that aid gets to suffering believers, even at great risk to themselves. Praise God for all that He has done in each of our lives: for our families, for our safety and our faith – for every good gift comes from our unchanging Father in heaven (James 1:17).

barnabasaid

bringing hope to suffering Christians

Barnabas Aid International Office
3 Apple Walk, Kembrey Park, Swindon
SN2 8BL, UK **Telephone** 01672 564938
Email info@barnabasaid.org

Barnabas Aid International is incorporated in Virginia, USA (SCC ID: 07920663) and a 501(c)3 non-profit organisation recognised by the IRS (EIN 47-4235863). It is also registered with Companies House in the United Kingdom as a foreign company (FC037864) and has a local establishment in the UK (BR022955).

Barnabas Aid Limited UK office
Unit 23, Ash Industrial Estate, Kembrey Park, Swindon SN2 8UN
Telephone 01793 744557 **Email** info@barnabasaid.org

Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland
123c Front Road, Drumbo, Lisburn BT27 5JY Please send post to our UK office address. **Telephone** 02892 280005
Email ireland@barnabasaid.org

To donate by credit/debit card, please visit the website www.barnabasaid.org or phone 0800 587 4006 (from outside the UK phone +44 1793 744557).

Registered charity number 1092935
Company registered in England number 04029536

Barnabas Outreach SA NPC
Appletree House, No 6 Paul Kruger Street, Stellenbosch 7600
Telephone +27 21 137 6495
Email southafrica@barnabasaid.org

Non-profit registered in South Africa 2025/687666/08

Malaysia
Supporters in Malaysia can make donations to:
Beneficiary: Barnabas Aid (Malaysia) Bhd
Bank: Maybank Bhd
Bank Account No: 5122-2290-1480
Swift Code: MBBEMYKL

Company registration number 200001032405 (535012-X)

© Barnabas Aid 2025

Front Cover: One of the beneficiaries of Barnabas' literacy project supporting Christian refugees in Egypt.

barnabasaid.org