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# BARNABAS FUND

## Charity of the month

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*Barnabas Fund* works to provide hope and aid for the persecuted Church, from Christians, to Christians, through Christians.

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### Suffering Church Action and Awareness Week 2021

Sunday 31 October – Sunday 7 November

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**Extremists in India** are continuing to use anti-conversion laws as a means of harassing church leaders and other Christians. On 28 September a pastor in Himachal Pradesh was arrested on charges of attempting to gain converts to Christianity through force and bribery...

The pastor denied that he had been using force or bribery to gain converts, explaining, *'I only offered the Bible, and I gave it to those who freely accepted the Good News.'* ...

An Indian legal expert has argued that 'a ban on conversion motivated by any sort of gain is in effect a ban on all conversion' which therefore nullifies India's constitutional commitment to freedom of religion.

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**A pastor was killed** and his home, church and mission school burned to the ground following an attack by a Muslim mob in Nigeria's northern Kano State. Pastor Yohanna Shuaibu, chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria in the Sumaila Local Government Area of Kano, was fatally injured at his home in Massu village on 22 September after he was suspected of being involved in the conversion of a local Muslim man.

Pastor Yohanna was involved in a number of community initiatives, including raising funds for boreholes for Christian villages denied access to government-provided water sources. Under his leadership, a faulty water source at a local mosque was refurbished by local Christians.

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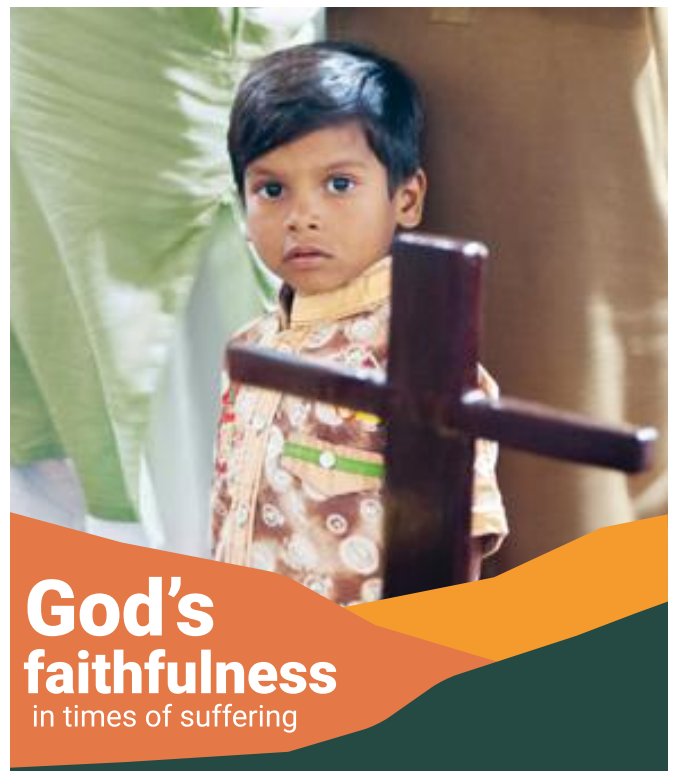
**Fifteen Christians have been re-arrested** in Eritrea and taken to the Mai Serwa maximum security prison in the capital Asmara following raids on their homes. All had been previously imprisoned for their faith. Most had served between five and six years, but some had endured 16 years of incarceration until being freed in September 2020 as part of anti-Covid-19 measures.

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The above are three recent stories of fellow Christians across the world suffering for their faith who are being helped by *Barnabas Fund*.

Can you imagine yourself in any of these situations? *Barnabas Fund* sends financial support to projects which help Christians where they suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith.

The projects aim to strengthen Christian individuals, churches and their communities by providing material and spiritual support



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in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders. Projects vary from help providing food, clean water, education, support for refugees and rescue from debt, to pastor training and Christian literature.

The charity also encourages prayer for suffering Christians, raise awareness and contest injustice.

Their website <https://barnabasfund.org> contains more news items, information and resources to enable you to care for members of our Christian family across the world. They also have a *Facebook* page, printed magazine and prayer diaries to aid prayer.

You can donate to their work through the website. If you allocate your donation to *Barnabas Fund* to a specific need or project, 100% of your donation will be used for that project and its costs. Nothing will be deducted from your donation for *Barnabas Fund's* overheads. The costs of overheads are taken from donations to the general fund.

There will be a presentation about the work of *Barnabas Fund* on Sunday 7 November at the 9:30am service.

**Liz Percival,**  
**Charity**  
**Champion**

