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## BARNABUS FUND

### Charity of the month

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*“Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail” Lamentations 3:22*

Sunday 5 November is the beginning of *Barnabas Fund's* Suffering Church Action and Awareness Week. It is an opportunity for us to stand alongside our suffering Church family, to make known their situation and demonstrate Christ's love to them in prayer and practical action.

Within our church family at St Michael's, we see many instances of people coming alongside each other at times of need, but do we ever consider that believers across the world are also our family too? They may seem far away, but we must remember them in their suffering. As we read their stories it's hard to imagine what it must be like for them. One day we could face similar challenges, but in the meantime they need our love and support right now.

*“I smeared the blood of my dead colleagues on my mouth, ears and on my head so that the attackers would think I was dead.”*

This was how one school pupil, Julius, survived the massacre of nearly 40 school children by Islamists in a school in western Uganda earlier this year. They were targeted because they were Christians.

Almost the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh – which is 120,000 people – have fled from the Armenian Christian region following an invasion by Azerbaijani soldiers on 19 September. An estimated 30,000 Christian children are among the refugees who have sought safety in Armenia itself from what church leaders have described as 'a scene of war crimes'. Karabakh has been an Armenian land for more than 2,000 years.

Ask the Lord to comfort his traumatised people who have lost their homes and land. Pray that He will provide for those forced to leave everything behind.



*Hia, with her grandchild and friend, thank God that they arrived safely at one of the jungle camps run by our project partners in Myanmar.*

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In Myanmar, churches and Christian villages are regularly and ruthlessly bombed by the national army. Many believers have been displaced to live in the jungle or try to cross the border into neighbouring countries.

In Nigeria, Fulani militants target Christian villages, pastors and churches. The local security forces have failed to protect them. Twenty-three pastors have been killed and more than 200 churches forcibly shut down because of anti-Christian violence within the past four years in Nigeria's Kaduna State alone.

In Iran churches or prayer meetings are regularly targeted, with pastors and whole congregations arrested and imprisoned on what we would consider trumped up charges and in Pakistan the blasphemy laws are used

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to settle disputes against Christians or to stir up hatred leading to violent rampages like that carried out in the city of Jaranwala.



*"Thanks be to God, whose hand was on us today. Though we've lost our possessions, we still have our lives thanks to Him"*  
Fayaz, Pakistan.

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Less reported are the ways in which Christians are often ignored when aid is handed out in certain countries when disaster strikes.

Did you know that among the Rohinja people at Cox's Bazaar refugee camp are around 60 Christian families. Having fled Myanmar, they now have to face violent attacks from extremist elements among the Muslim refugees as they eke out their precarious existence.

This is just a sample of what Christians are facing across the world right now. *Barnabas Fund* provides food, training, healthcare, escape from bonded servitude, support for martyrs widows and so much more. Working through local partners on the ground.

If you would like to pray for persecuted Christians or donate money to help them, you can find out more at *Barnabas Aid*:

[www.barnabasaid.org](http://www.barnabasaid.org)

**Liz Percival, Charity Champion**

