



Serving Christ and His Suffering Church



How long, O Lord?

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, Chair of the Board of Trustees, TBF Trust

The souls of the martyrs cry out for justice. “How long?” they ask from under the altar in heaven. We know that these souls were “slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne” (Revelation 6:9-10). They are longing for our sovereign Lord, holy and true, to put all things right.

We are preparing for Christmas, a celebration of the incarnation of our God, when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). But right from its beginning, the earthly life of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, was enveloped in violence. King Herod, in his jealous rage, had all the baby boys in Bethlehem killed in a fruitless effort to destroy the One “born king of the Jews” (Matthew 2:2). And so, amidst all the thrilling fulfilment of prophecy that Matthew mentions, there is also fulfilment of Jeremiah’s words about lamentation and Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because the children are no more (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18).

There are many mothers who are weeping now. A close friend and colleague of mine in Northern Nigeria spoke to me on the phone recently of a pastor who buries members of his congregation, martyred for their faith, on an almost weekly basis. My friend estimated that 4,000 to 5,000 Nigerian Christians have died for their faith in the last year. Many tears are being shed alongside our eternal hope. Let us remember also the 303 pupils

and 12 teachers kidnapped from a Christian boarding school in Nigeria on 21 November, and the tears of their mothers, unsure whether their children are dead or alive.

Herod’s massacre of the “Holy Innocents” in Bethlehem is traditionally remembered in the Western church on 28 December, just three days after Christmas Day. Even closer to Christmas Day, on 26 December it has been traditional to commemorate Stephen, the first Christian martyr. In the wisdom of church leaders of earlier centuries, believers were to move straight from celebrating the birth of Christ to remembering the first person to die for following Him.

The Word who was made flesh that first Christmas is the Word in whom is life and light, who is indeed the true light which gives light to everyone. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5,9). The life He gives us is life in all its fullness (John 10:10). The love that He embodies is the love as strong as death, the love which overcomes evil with good (Song of Songs 8:6; Romans 12:21).

In many church traditions the weeks before Christmas are set aside to think about the advent (coming) of Christ. But the main focus is not on His first coming, as a weak and helpless baby laid in a manger in Bethlehem. Rather it is on His second coming, in power and glory, to execute Divine judgement. That is what the martyrs in heaven are longing for.

What TBF Trust is doing by God's grace and with your gifts

Displaced Christians displaced by violence in DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Medical care

In the midst of the brutal ongoing violence in north-eastern DRC, TBF Trust has been helping to provide medical care for many Christians displaced by the conflict. The funds we sent were carefully disbursed by local church leaders to cover the costs of medicines, X-rays, scans, physiotherapy, childbirth kits and more. Amongst the beneficiaries were pregnant women, babies, those who had been wounded by bullets or shrapnel, and the elderly.

The medical fund accomplished more than enabling needy believers to get desperately needed medical care. It brought comfort and hope, said the project coordinator, as well as a sense of God's intervention as the beneficiaries witnessed that "Jesus Christ can use people living in distant lands and other continents to help His faithful, the children of God".



▲ Local church leaders praying with the hospital patients

Self-sufficiency for a displaced pastor and his family

Pastor Pierre Mughanza, his wife Ashah and their children are living in a one-bedroom house after fleeing violence in north-east DRC. While Pierre ministers unpaid in a nearby church, Ashah supports the family through a small grocery business, which she set up with a grant from TBF Trust. She sells vegetables, water and juice from a table outside the family home. One of the most popular items is charcoal which Ashah sells in big bags for fuel.

▼ Ashah's grocery store supports the whole family while Pastor Pierre does church ministry



"Thanks to this project, the family finds a daily smile again and the future is promising," says Pastor Pierre. Turn to the back cover to see what Ashah says.

Food that strengthens faith

“Your contribution is not only meeting physical needs but also restoring dignity, strengthening faith, and sharing the love of Christ with suffering communities in Pakistan,” wrote one of TBF Trust’s project partners. Pakistan was afflicted by unusually heavy monsoon rains in 2025, lasting from late June to mid-October. The result was flooding which damaged or destroyed mud houses, as well as their meagre contents and food supplies. With fields under water, there was no work for agricultural labourers and therefore no wages. Small-scale farmers lost their crops and livestock. In the midst of this calamity, your gifts enabled TBF Trust to provide food aid for hundreds of the worst affected Christian families, who were poor before the floods and destitute after them.



▲ A typical food package: rice, lentils, cooking oil, tea, salt, spices etc. and large sack of flour

Sana Bibi said, “During that difficult time the team of TBF Trust ... came to visit us. They listened to our problems and saw the condition of our house. They helped us with food packages and gave us hope when we were struggling. Their support made us feel that we are not alone and that God is taking care of us through them.”



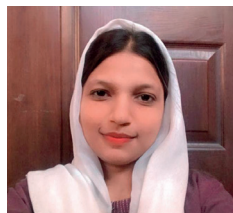
▲ Praying at a distribution of food

Scholarships that give hope for the future

A gift of just £54 can make all the difference to a Christian student from a poor family in Pakistan. That sum helped Janet Shakaiyn, studying anaesthesia, pay her fees for one semester. “Your kindness has not only lifted a burden but has also strengthened my faith and motivation to work harder in my studies,” says Janet.

At the top end, gifts of £135 each contributed to the fees for students of dentistry, accountancy and civil engineering. All the students getting support were selected by the Pakistan Fellowship of Evangelical Students from those who attend their Bible study groups. These amounts would be small to a student in the West but in Pakistan they save the students from having to drop out of their studies.

Carol Arif, studying for a BSc in civil engineering, wrote, “I have seen God’s provision through this support, and it reminded me that He is faithful in all



◀ Engineering student Carol Arif thanks TBF Trust supporters for being “a vessel of God’s grace and encouragement”

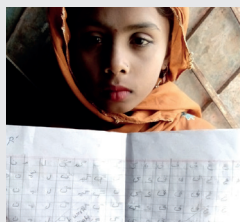
circumstances. The encouragement I received through this gesture has strengthened my resolve to not only pursue academic excellence, but also to grow in my walk with Christ. I now carry a stronger sense of responsibility—not just to succeed, but to one day support other students who may be facing similar challenges. Thank you for investing in my journey and for being a vessel of God’s grace and encouragement.”

Education that breaks the cycle of poverty and illiteracy

“Veronica is the first member of our entire family and relatives to successfully complete the matriculation examination,” said her proud father. Not only is Veronica the first in her family to successfully complete secondary schooling, but also she achieved an A grade in her matric exams. With this result she has got a place in college as the first stage to her goal of becoming a nurse. It is all due to your support for a simple Christian school in Lahore. With financial support from TBF Trust, the school can educate children from poor Christian families, charging low fees which the families can afford. Veronica says, “My knowledge, spiritual life, and confidence have been greatly enhanced at [this] school; our teachers taught us with remarkable passion.”

Many poor Christian children in Pakistan do not go to school at all and a cycle of poverty and illiteracy continues from generation to generation. TBF Trust is supporting 92 Christian schools in Pakistan, providing an education to more than 7,500 children of poor Christian families.

Shanti’s father is a farmer, earning only £32 a month. Shanti (aged 10) always longed to go to school, but the free government school was far from her home, which worried her father



◀ *At last Shanti has her heart’s desire of going to school, and is working very hard to catch up with other pupils*

because of Christian and Hindu girls in the area being kidnapped. Shanti herself feared the corporal punishment at the government school. Probably she also knew that, as a Christian, she was likely to be discriminated against and badly treated by classmates and teachers as she lives in an area where Muslims will not drink from a cup which a Christian has used. But Shanti’s father could not afford to send her to a private school. Now Shanti’s dreams have come true and she attends a Christian school near her home, with kind teachers who do not punish her. She is studying hard to catch up with other students her age and spends a lot of time on her homework. She loves talking about Jesus to the other pupils. Her favourite subject is maths.

These simple schools – some without any furniture – aim to transform and equip the next generation of the Christian community socially, academically, spiritually, and economically. The parents of the pupils mostly have very low paid jobs, some of which are dangerous as well. God willing, when their children grow up they will be able to get decent jobs so they can support their extended family and their local church, thus strengthening the whole Christian community.



▲ *Your gifts support simple Christian schools in Pakistan*

Here is my gift to provide practical help for persecuted Christians.

Title Name

Address

Postcode

Phone Email

TBF Trust will not give your name or contact details to anyone else.

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☐ I have made an online bank transfer of £ on (date)

Account **TBF Trust** / Account no. **57052960** / Sort code **30-92-63**

☐ I would like to make a donation by card.

Amount £ ☐ credit/debit card ☐ CAF card

Card number

Expiry date / CVV Signature

☐ Please send me a Direct Debit form for regular giving.

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☐ I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past to: TBF Trust. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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For your prayers: life as a Christian in Pakistan

Pakistan was created in 1947 as a homeland for the Muslims of South Asia. Its flag is mainly green, the colour of Islam, but it also has a white stripe to represent the presence of non-Muslim minorities such as Hindus, Christians and Sikhs. There is no law against sharing one's faith or converting to another religion.

Christians number over 3 million but are a small percentage of the total population. Many of them are desperately poor and have little or no education. Christians are expected to do the dirty, dangerous and despised jobs such as cleaning sewers. Discrimination in schools and employment makes it difficult for Christians to gain qualifications, even if they have the opportunity to study, and then makes it difficult for them to get work. But there are quotas for Christians at universities and government jobs which somewhat compensates for the discrimination. From time to time there are violent attacks on Christians including the suicide bombing of a church in Peshawar in 2013 which killed 127 men, women and children.

Two severe dangers face Christians in Pakistan. One is the so-called "blasphemy law" with its draconian punishments for desecrating the Quran (life imprisonment) or defiling the name of the Islamic prophet Muhammad (death sentence). There is no penalty for false accusation. This means the law is frequently mis-used with malicious false accusations made against people of all religions. But Christians are especially vulnerable to false accusation. This is

partly because merely stating aspects of the Christian faith can be construed as "blasphemy". Another reason is that the lower courts tend to believe the word of a Muslim over the word of a Christian (in line with the teachings of classical Islam). When a Christian is accused of "blasphemy" in Pakistan, a country where Muslims greatly venerate their prophet, it can result in mob violence against all the Christians in the neighbourhood.

The other regular danger facing Christians is the abduction of girls and young women by Muslim men. Typically



▲ Christian women at a prayer gathering in Jaranwala, after Muslim extremist rioters burned 26 churches in August 2023. The rioting was triggered by a false accusation of desecration of the Quran

the girls are forcibly converted to Islam (in the sense that they are made to sign the relevant paperwork) and then forcibly married to their abductor. In the home of their "husband" they will be treated as a servant or sex-slave, not as a beloved spouse. Often the police will do nothing to rescue the girl. In the last couple of years, Christian boys have also begun to be abducted and forcibly converted to Islam.



“First of all, I would like to thank our Eternal God for his blessings, especially for having willed and acted so that TBF Trust could give us a grant. The latter helped us to raise our heads, to face famine and every failure to the point that life lost all meaning, but TBF Trust allowed me to work and hope again.

Today, I can affirm that God has visited us through TBF Trust. I am sounding a wake-up call to people of good faith:

if you want to support Christians who are suffering from war, natural disasters and other difficult living conditions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, support TBF TRUST. Make a donation to TBF Trust and it will definitely reach its destination.

May God bless the President of the TBF Trust organization as well as the Projects team for the work of assistance and love. May God give you long



life, peace and success and finally may the Eternal God bless TBF TRUST Worldwide.”

*Mrs Ashah Mughanza, Democratic Republic of the Congo, September 2025.
Turn to page 3 to read what TBF Trust did to help her.*

Have you got your TBF Trust prayer diary for December 2025 – January 2026?

Please contact the TBFT office (see page 7) to request your copy or for extra copies to give your Christian friends.



Front cover image:

“We were very worried about how to survive. In that difficult time the team of TBF Trust ... came to our area and supported us. They brought food packages and encouraged us with kind words. Their help gave us hope and strength.” – Razaq Masih and his wife were among hundreds of Pakistani Christians who received food relief from TBF Trust after floods left them with no home, no food, no clean water and also no work and therefore no income.



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