



Serving Christ and His Suffering Church



Conscience and Love

The late Dr Patrick Sookhdeo had hoped to write about Christian conscience in his next editorial for the TBF Trust Newsletter. He was reading a book on the subject just the day before his sudden Homecall on 18 May 2026. He addressed the subject on 8 May 2026 when he spoke by Zoom at a conference in Kenya co-sponsored by the Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life (OCRPL)-Africa and the Pan Africa Christian University in Nairobi. He also discussed the subject informally several times during the last weeks of his earthly life. The article below, compiled from these sources, endeavours to reflect his thoughts about conscience.

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

— Hebrews 5:14

Conscience is very important for us as Christians, being the inner awareness that enables us to discern right from wrong.

Conscience is not mentioned in the Old Testament, where the nearest equivalent is the word “heart” (sometimes translated “conscience” in certain Bible versions). The New Testament has 31 occurrences of *syneidesis*, the Greek word for “conscience”. None of these are in the Gospels.

If conscience is important, we may wonder why it has not been developed more fully in the Scriptures. I have been thinking of conscience and decision-making, of telling what is right from what is wrong. I have imagined a typical grass-roots pastor in Africa, leading a little flock of believers,

needing to help them discern right from wrong in the daily issues of life, in a society perhaps dominated by African Traditional Religions. Where does he find the answer?

Conscience is mentioned more in 1 Corinthians than in any other book of the Bible, and especially in chapters 8 and 10. It is a letter to a New Testament church facing many problems: division, conflict, questions about how Christians should behave in a pagan society. The Apostle Paul tells these first-generation Christians that the key to conscience is love, introducing this theme in 1 Corinthians 8:1. Love in our hearts will guide us to what is truly right.

If conscience is the voice of God in the heart of a man, woman or child, what is the mainspring of that voice? Where is it rooted? It is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

If we have the mind of Christ (Romans 12:2) and if we have the love of Christ in our hearts, then we will know what is right and what is wrong, because He is love and it is love that will guide us to what is wholesome and good. It is love that will tell us how to live a Christ-like life in the community.

Thank you for your messages and prayers

We would like to express our deep gratitude for the many cards and kind messages of condolence by email or letter that have arrived at the TBF Trust office since Dr Patrick Sookhdeo was taken Home to glory on 18 May 2026. Thank you also to all who have posted tributes on rememberingpatricksookhdeo.org

Your messages have brought great comfort to Rosemary and the family and also to TBF Trust staff and trustees. Our hearts have been warmed by your memories of Patrick, some of them going back many decades. Your words of spiritual encouragement have built us up. Your prayers are sustaining us in this time of grief.

Please join us for a Thanksgiving Service for Patrick's life and ministry on Wednesday 2nd September in Oxford. If you cannot come in person, there is an option to watch by livestream. More details are on the back cover of this newsletter.

“ It was our great privilege to welcome Rev. Prof. Patrick Sookhdeo virtually to the OCRPL-Africa Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 6–9 May 2026. During the conference, he delivered a thought-provoking address on the importance of conscience in Christian life and witness. His reflections demonstrated the clarity of thought, spiritual depth, and moral conviction that have characterized his ministry for decades...

In recognition of his exceptional service, OCRPL-Africa conferred upon him the Distinguished Leadership Award in Global Theological Engagement on 8 May 2026. Looking back, we are deeply grateful for the opportunity to express our appreciation to him publicly and to celebrate a legacy that has significantly strengthened Christian scholarship and ministry worldwide.

The news of his passing, only days after the conference, has made that moment especially meaningful to us. We now treasure his participation in Nairobi as one of his final public engagements and as a lasting gift to the African Church.

Rev. Dr. Godwin Adeboye, for OCRPL-Africa on behalf of Ven. Dr. Julius Adekoya, Bishop Calisto Odede and Rt Rev. Dr. Francis Omondi

“ Patrick was uniquely gifted to simultaneously engage with the academic world and arrange distribution of relief among persecuted Christians. If his mind was occupied with complex intellectual ideas, his heart would be burning with sheer compassion for the persecuted church...

Through his words and actions, he expressed resolute solidarity with the majority world Christians who were hated for no reason except for their faith in Christ. He led initiatives in providing food, housing, education, legal aid, and other forms of support to suffering brothers and sisters all over the world. These acts of compassion and support were performed irrespective of a Christian community's denominational background. That is why he was much loved and appreciated by Christian leaders in Asia whether Anglican, Orthodox, Brethren, or Pentecostal. His courage, determination, and encouragement for the suffering members of the body of Christ won him great admirers among the majority world Christian leaders.

Rev. Tariq Waris, Co-Principal of the Full Gospel Assemblies Theological Seminary, Spokesman for the Full Gospel Assemblies of Pakistan

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

Beehives support Central Asian missionaries

"Of course, all our church members face persecution from their own families," wrote Pastor S. who leads a church of converts from Islam in a city in Central Asia. Persecution is the norm for converts in this Muslim-majority nation. In this context, TBF Trust has provided beehives, bee swarms and equipment for a convert missionary family, sent out by Pastor S.'s church to minister in a rural area.

Pastor S.'s church has 20 baptised adult members and others attend who are very close to committing their lives to the Lord Jesus. All the church members are active in sharing the Gospel with their Muslim friends and relatives as a basic part of being a Christian. But one church family – parents and their son – have moved to live in a village specifically for ministry.

It is difficult to get work in rural areas of this country, especially for Christians. But a one-off grant from TBF Trust has provided this family with ten beehives (£25 per hive), each with a swarm of bees (£85 per swarm), and other necessary equipment.

Bee products are in great demand in the region. Honey is easily sold locally, while foreign companies purchase royal jelly, propolis, wax, bee venom (for apitherapy) and many other bee products. Bee-keeping is not too time-consuming for the missionary family and leaves them plenty of time for ministry.

The family already have experience in bee-keeping, having had one hive for a year, but Pastor S. has five years' experience and is guiding and helping them as they learn more.



Pastor S. (in the foreground) gives expert help to the local missionary family as they learn to support themselves by bee-keeping

Goats for church workers in Uganda

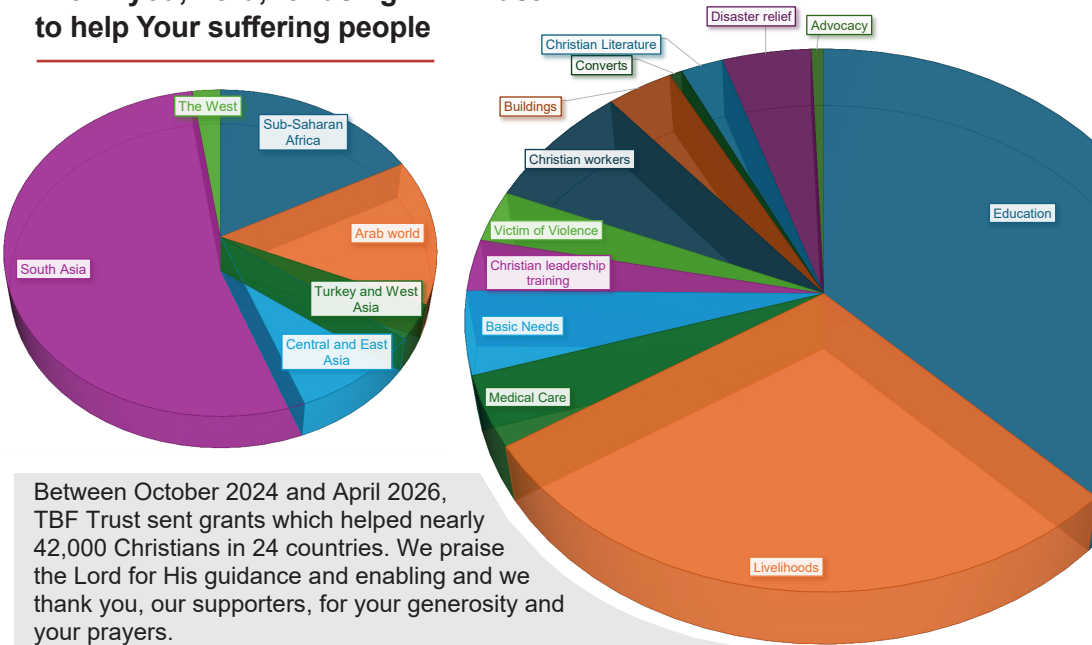
Fifty church workers in south-west Uganda in rural and hard to reach areas have each received a female goat (costing £50). Most of them are serving with newly planted churches. They are unpaid and try to support themselves by farming. But unpredictable weather and small land holdings mean that many face economic hardship. A small herd of goats will provide a much-needed boost to the family income, increasing household resilience. Each beneficiary will give the first female kid their goat produces to another church worker without goats.

Sadrance Kabugho (aged 38) was one of the church workers who received a goat. She had previously found it difficult to provide for her family. Sadrance says, “Receiving this goat has given me great hope. I will take good care of it so that it multiplies and supports my family through milk, manure, and future sales. This project has restored my dignity and strengthened my commitment to continue serving God faithfully. I am also ready to pass on the first offspring to another person, so that others can benefit as well.”



Sadrance’s goat will help her provide for her family while she ministers at her local church

Thank you, Lord, for using TBF Trust to help Your suffering people



Between October 2024 and April 2026, TBF Trust sent grants which helped nearly 42,000 Christians in 24 countries. We praise the Lord for His guidance and enabling and we thank you, our supporters, for your generosity and your prayers.

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.

☐ I enclose a cheque payable to "TBF Trust" for £

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

Account **TBF Trust** / Account no. **20046159** / Sort code **20-26-46**

☐ I would like to make a donation by card.

Amount £ ☐ credit/debit card

Card number

Expiry date / CVV Signature

☐ I do not require an acknowledgement of this gift.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

(APPLICABLE TO UK TAXPAYERS ONLY)

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Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer: please fill this in below if different from the details above.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must mark the box below:

☐ 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.

Title Name

Address

Postcode

Please notify TBF Trust if your circumstances change.

If you pay income tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your gift donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return this form to

**TBF Trust, Unit 4, Fordbrook Business Centre,
Marlborough Road, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5NU**

For your prayers: India

Freedom of religion laws

Twelve Indian states have Freedom of Religion laws. The first state to pass such a law was Odisha in 1967 and the most recent is Maharashtra in 2026. Widely known as “anti-conversion laws”, they aim to prevent Hindus converting to other religions. Generally the laws forbid conversion by “force, fraud or allurement” but are often mis-used against Christians who are simply sharing their faith. The laws have also become a pretext for physical attacks on Christians by extremists. Civil society groups warn that such laws could criminalise charitable and educational work. Several Christian groups and civil society organisations have lodged petitions with the Supreme Court of India to challenge the laws on the grounds that they violate the rights to freedom of religion and personal liberty guaranteed by the Constitution. A three-judge bench is considering the matter.

Earlier this year Chhattisgarh state passed a stringent new Freedom of Religion law, replacing its earlier, more lenient law. The onus is on the person who “caused the conversion” to prove that they did not use “glorification, misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage, including through digital mode”. If found guilty, there is a punishment of 7-10 years in prison for “unlawfully” converting one person; 10-20 years if the convert is child or woman; 10 years to life imprisonment for mass conversions (defined as two or more converts at a single ceremony). Groups

and individuals must submit annual reports giving the name, address, age and gender of all the people they have converted during the year. Individuals seeking to change their faith must apply to secular authorities 30 days in advance of the ceremony. These applications are published, to allow objections to be made during the 30 days.

Funding from overseas

According to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) must obtain an FCRA licence if they want to receive funding from outside India. In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to get or keep these licences. It is reported that 21,933 organisations had lost their FCRA licences by March 2026. Christian organisations are particularly affected: 70% of NGOs whose FCRA licences expired or were revoked in recent years were Christian-affiliated. On 22 June 2026 a raft of amendments to the FCRA law came into force, making compliance even more onerous and expensive.

A proposed new law would authorise the Indian government to take over an organisation and to seize and liquidate any of its assets that were created partly or wholly with foreign funds. It could be applied to schools, hospitals and church buildings even if they were created hundreds of years ago. The trigger for such takeovers would be the organisation losing its FCRA licence. Losing a licence could occur if the Indian government accused the organisation of converting Hindus to Christianity by fraud, force or allurement; engaging in religious liberty or human rights advocacy; or failing the strict administration and compliance rules.

invite you to a

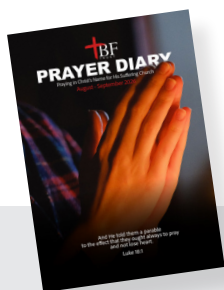
SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

*for the Life and Ministry of
Dr Patrick Sookhdeo (1947 – 2026)*

at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday 2nd September 2026
at the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church
New Inn Hall Street, Oxford OX1 2DH

Please contact the TBFT Trust office (see page 7)
if you would like details of how to reach the church by various forms of transport.

RSVP to adminsa@ocrpl.org to help estimate numbers.
If you cannot attend but would like to watch by **livestream**,
please let us know.



Have you got your TBF Trust prayer diary for August-September 2026?

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

Front cover image: TBFT Trust provided ten bee hives with swarms for this Central Asian missionary so he can support himself while ministering in a rural part of his country. Turn to page 3 to read more.

For projects and donations, please visit our website
www.tbfttrust.org

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