



St Michael's Church
Stoke Gifford



Mission Partner of the Month - October 2025



Open Doors supports and advocates for Christians facing persecution and discrimination worldwide. 1 in 7 Christians around the world faces pressure or persecution because they follow Jesus Christ.



Around the world, 380 million Christians face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. For 70 years, ever since Brother Andrew began smuggling Bibles behind the Iron Curtain to Christians suffering under Communist rule, Open Doors has stood alongside our faithful brothers and sisters, strengthening those who risk everything to follow Jesus, with practical, spiritual and emotional support, which includes emergency food and medical aid, trauma care, livelihood support, discipleship and literature distribution.

Pastor Barnabas from northern Nigeria is one of the 380 million Christians for whom your prayers and support are making a difference.

For the last five years Pastor Barnabas and his family have been living in a tent no bigger than a double-bed mattress. They've been there ever since their village was attacked by militants – an attack that tragically killed Pastor Barnabas' brother and sister-in-law. He is now ministering to Christians in the camp.



"Millions of Christians are displaced in the whole of Africa and nobody is talking about it."
Pastor Barnabas, Benue State, Nigeria

Across sub-Saharan Africa, **16.2 million Christians** have been displaced by violent persecution. Churches burned. Families displaced. Lives lost — simply for following Jesus. You can start talking about this and ensure the UK government and others do so too - speak up and sign the Arise Africa petition www.opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica.

INCREASED PRESSURE ON BELIEVERS IN INDIA

Uttarakhand, a state in **Northern India**, has approved amendments to its Freedom of Religion Bill, introducing new harsher punishments for “forced” conversions, up to life imprisonment. In many states, even holding a prayer meeting can be treated as illegal and antagonists often make baseless accusations as a form of persecution.



OTHER PRAYER TOPICS

Of c.4,500 believers killed for their faith worldwide, over 3,000 of these deaths were in **Nigeria**, where violence from Islamic extremist groups is increasing. Manga told Boko Haram militants ready to kill him, “I live as a Christian and I’m ready to die as a Christian”. Miraculously, Manga survived the attack.

In **Afghanistan**, relief efforts following two recent earthquakes have been seriously hampered by heavy rain and landslides. It’s not known how many Christians are caught up in the disaster, if any, as they are forced to live underground. *“Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed”* (Psalm 57:1).

In occupied **Ukraine**, the Russian authorities are raiding places of worship, in particular Baptist churches, as they are considered “unregistered”. A pastor was recently fined more than a month’s wages, even though he is a pensioner.

www.opendoors.org
St Michael’s Link Person: Chris Gane

Other St Micheal’s Mission News

- Pray for Poppy & John, Nicki, Jess (and now Ben!), travelling **now** (4/10 & 5/10) to Yei in South Sudan. Pray for their safety and that what they share with the Christians there will be a great blessing and will help the various Brickworks ventures to thrive.
- Give thanks for the recent successful Mission Trip to Moldova. The team were blessed by being able to take part in a variety of activities in the church in Gotesti and were able to understand what life is like for the people living there.
- We pray for mercy for the people of Gaza and strength and protection for Embrace’s partner, the Caritas Al Ahli Hospital, as the staff try to help people there.
- Luke and the OM Ship Doulos Hope have now arrived in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. He is grateful for the continued support and asks us to pray for the people of Cambodia, which he describes as “a dead society that worships dead gods”.