**April 2020 Caucus for the Persecuted Church newsletter**

# Dear Friends Colleagues and Supporters.

The April 2020 edition of the Caucus for the Persecuted Church newsletter is now available from Dr Russell Blacker <c.v.r.blacker@btinternet.com>. Inevitably, the Covid pandemic hangs over many of the reports concerning religious minorities around the world – especially those who are displaced or refugees and those living under active persecution.

The articles posted here are just a fraction of those which have appeared concerning *China* where the virus emerged - and its appalling human rights record and totalitarian atheist ideology to extinguishing all and any dissent and religious minorities in particular. After the uncovering of the grotesque practise of forced organ harvesting, the internment and enslavement of Uyghars and other religious minorities, the torture and psychiatric incarceration of believers, the disappearance of human rights lawyers advocates and journalists, it is a wonder that the rest of the world is happy to continue doing business with such an appalling regime.

This edition includes appeals from NGOs in the Middle East – *Aid to the Church in Need* and *AMAR –* whilst *Barnabas Fund* (recently commended in Parliament as a ‘best practice’ representative amongst charity organisations) launch a multi-partner pan-continental aid initiative across Africa. This is in the light of the ‘perfect storm’ of drought, famine, massed displacement, terrorism, a plague of locusts and now coronavirus.

Although the focus of this newsletter is persecuted Christians we always include an article or two on other religious minorities who face similar difficulties; this month it is the Sikhs in Afghanistan. Sikhs have been conspicuous for the generosity towards some Christian aid organisations and they continue to provide valued support in Parliament.

Finally, on a smaller scale but illustrative of the often brave and generous work undertaken by Christian NGOs around the world there is a report from India where one organisation is supporting and feeding migrant workers and homeless street people, including sex workers, who are now unable to work/beg because of the lock-down.

Do feel free to pass on this newsletter to friends and colleagues or use the material for presentations, fund-raising, prayer groups, and writing to your political representatives.

Kind regards – and Stay Safe!

# Dr Russell Blacker and colleagues: The Caucus for the Persecuted Church