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GOOD NEWS

E-BIKES PROVE TO BE POPULAR

Cornwall's e-bike hire has seen cyclists cover almost 8,500 miles since its launch last September. Falmouth and Penryn were the first towns, followed by Penzance. More than 1,500 people have signed up to the Beryl app giving them access to the e-bikes at docking bays in and around the towns. The scheme is about to be extended to other towns. Traffic surveys in Falmouth show that almost half of all car journeys to work are less than 5 km. By swapping the car for an e-bike, health and fitness is boosted and congestion and carbon emissions reduced.

LOVELAND

A Falmouth Food Co-op appeal "Come along and grow food and flowers, encourage wildlife and be a part of Penryn's Community Field. Come and join the fun, growing food and community. A place to learn and gather together where everyone is welcome." Falmouth food co-op provides free meals for vulnerable people in their own homes.

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

SPECIAL FOCUS THIS WEEK ON PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Many Christians in our own country are unaware of the widespread persecution of peoples on account of their religious beliefs the majority of whom are Christians in over 80 different countries of the world, who don't have the freedom of expression of belief that we have here. Persecuted Christians are our brothers and sisters, for they are part of the Church of Christ. We are called to act on their behalf, making the injustice of their persecution known to governmental and international bodies and support and help them in prayer and action. One country much in the news at present is NIGERIA, at whose presidential elections last week there were reportedly over 135 critical incidents with ballot snatching and violence. Bishops begged the Independent National Electoral Commission to be careful, judicious and transparent in handling peoples votes. Of the contestants, two were Muslim and one

Christian, Peter Obi, founder of new Labour Party who asked people not to vote on ethnic or religious lines.

On March 11th States were to elect new Governors.

The country is experiencing a sharp escalation of violence, poverty, unemployment. With 214 million people, 4 in 10 live with no electricity, safe drinking water or sanitation.

Oppression is due to Boko Haram, and Islamic and Fulani militants.

On Pentecost Sunday 2022, 40 Christians were killed when insurgents burst, into the church, 70 injured and 50 children lost their parents. Aid to the Church in Need in UK is petitioning our government to demand the Nigerian authorities to bring to justice those responsible.

The country is at a vital point in its history with genocidal and political violence to which the police and security personnel turn a blind eye. The statistics are truly dreadful, in the last 18 months 7,600 Christians have been killed and 5,200 abducted. Kidnapping for ransom is the order of the day.

Other atrocities include rape, torture, villages and homes razed to the ground and a young woman forced to watch her father hacked to death by machete.

Nigeria is close to becoming a failed state.

Our hearts go out to the people of Nigeria, to pastors, aid workers and missionaries and all those standing up for truth and justice.

Other countries experiencing much Christian Persecution include China, Iraq, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Syria, Pakistan, Myanmar.

Agencies in the UK supporting Persecuted Christians include:

- Aid to the Church in Need acnuk.org
- Barnabas Aid www.barnabasaid.org/gb/
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide www.csw.org.uk
- Open Doors www.opendoorsuk.org
- Release International releaseinternational.org/

ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Pray for the persecuted church.

Look up one of the supporting agencies mentioned above and offer your prayer, support.

Through Barnabas Aid write a letter of support to a member or group of people in need of encouragement.