

I don't know if this poor family would still be alive without help," said



one of our project partners this week. She was talking about 33-year-old "Pah" and her children, one of many persecuted Christian families in Myanmar (Burma) who have received food and other basics from Barnabas Fund in the last year.

Killing the men

When the Myanmar military came to Pah's village, the family fled, but soon the soldiers found them. Keeping her husband and brother, they sent away Pah, her children and her disabled mother, warning them they must not look back to see what was happening to their loved ones. Pah heard sounds behind them as if someone was being beaten up. One of her young twins looked around and told Pah that the soldiers were giving his father and uncle a severe beating. Then they heard the sound of gunshots. After a week, news came that the military had burned down the village. Pah went to see, and found her husband's body amongst those who had died in the flames.

All their possessions were destroyed. **Shot and burned on Christmas Eve**

Violence against the mainly Christian ethnic minorities of Myanmar is continuing. At least 23 church buildings were burned or destroyed along with more than 350 civilian homes in Chin State between August and December.

On Christmas Day the charred bodies of at least 35 civilians were found in a village in a predominantly Christian area of Kayah State; they had apparently been shot by the army the day before and then burned.

Pray earnestly for the situation in Myanmar and particularly for the Christians that God would protect His people and miraculously intervene in that Country's situation.

*Information Source:
Barnabasfund Prayer Request 7/1/22*

The atrocities are reported in the global press and it seems things have got totally barbaric. Ask God to intervene!



Minister: Rev Jack Walker.
Secretary: June McCaughren
Treasurer: Laura Ivey
Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley.

Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday January 16th 2022



**CHOSEN
BY GOD**

Many are called, but few are chosen.
Matthew 22:14



No 3 in the series on 1 Peter.
'Licorice all-sorts'. Speaker: Jack Walker

1 Peter 2 v 4-10
Service led through by Rachel Hadley



What's on this week:-

Monday 10.30am Ladies Coffee & Chat
Wednesday 8pm Mid week study group

Please note: From Monday 10th the Hall is being used by the local Brownies Group on a weekly basis, so you will understand if you see the lights on!!

Sunday Jan 23rd No 4 in 1 Peter

'When is it right to protest?'

Sunday Jan 30th 'All Age Service' led by Jack & Jill

Dates for your diary: NEXT SUNDAY

January 23rd 'Churches Together' United Service here at WBC 10.30am. Speaker Jack Walker. This will take the form of an open air service in the Car Park so we can facilitate as many people as possible within the sensible confines of Covid etc.

Thursday Jan 27th 8pm
Church Members Mtg.



Me? Chosen and Special? Umm! Wow!

Join in with a community to read and explore together.

Why not start the year by joining together with your church or other community to read a book that will help you grasp the big story of the Bible?

[The Bible: A Story That Makes Sense of Life, by Andrew Ollerton,](#)

shows how the narratives and themes of the Bible connect to our own lives. It helps us understand that as we make sense of the Bible, the Bible makes sense of us.

The Big Church Read draws people together to read through the same book at the same time, beginning on 24 January. Your church can join with others and watch videos with questions from the author to enhance your experience of reading *The Bible: A Story That Makes Sense of Life*.

ANDOVER FOODBANK IN NEED OF-

Cleaning spray & cleaning wipes.
Toothbrushes.
Ladies Deodorant.
Tinned Potatoes.
Instant Mash.

How the Bible speaks

In April 2018 God gave me Psalm 37.3–4, "Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." I shared this with a friend who said, "How exciting! I wonder what God's got in store for you this year?"

'During May, my husband's already poor mobility suddenly declined further and by June it was obvious we needed to move to a bungalow. The idea of selling and buying at the same time was daunting but God blessed me with great peace.

'We sold very quickly but, before finding a suitable bungalow, we had subsidence in our house that was traced to a neighbour's bamboo. This time what stood out from Psalm 37 was the repeated command "Do not fret"; one of those occasions even ends, "like the grass they will soon wither".

Thankfully my insurance company dealt promptly with the bamboo, then within two hours of them giving me the all clear, I received an email alert for a bungalow that looked perfect.

'When I viewed it the next day, the owner said, "I think you're a Christian. We go to a church in Cambridge and prayed that we'd sell to Christians." I said, "I'm excited, and I think you can be too!"

'On the day the sale was agreed, the chain behind us broke down! This time God highlighted words in Psalm 37 about inheritance (transferring within a family). I felt he was saying we'd still have the bungalow because we were in the same Christian family. Again we sold our house quickly – to another Christian couple!

'My husband is now totally immobile and also has dementia, but the bungalow has a beautiful spacious lounge with room for a hospital bed and all his equipment. Our live-in carer is a lovely Christian and it's such a privilege having her to share my husband's care. Some days I struggle with tiredness and wonder how long I can go on, but then I look around at all God has so wonderfully provided and I know he'll provide the strength too.'



Church Family News Items

Give thanks for the successful operation of Sue Vears in Australia and for Rita Warwick. Rita's surgery was successful and is expecting to come home on Friday!! Do pray for complete healing for both Sue and Rita and for God's 'perfect peace' to be their experience.

For those who remember David and Eleanor Porter, previously members here who moved to Penton near Andover and served the local Parish Church there, are moving to a Retirement Home in Bristol where they will be nearer their son.

Congratulations to Jean and Gordon today as they celebrate their 57th Wedding Anniversary on this day in 1965 Jan 16th! [Yep—in the football season too!!!]