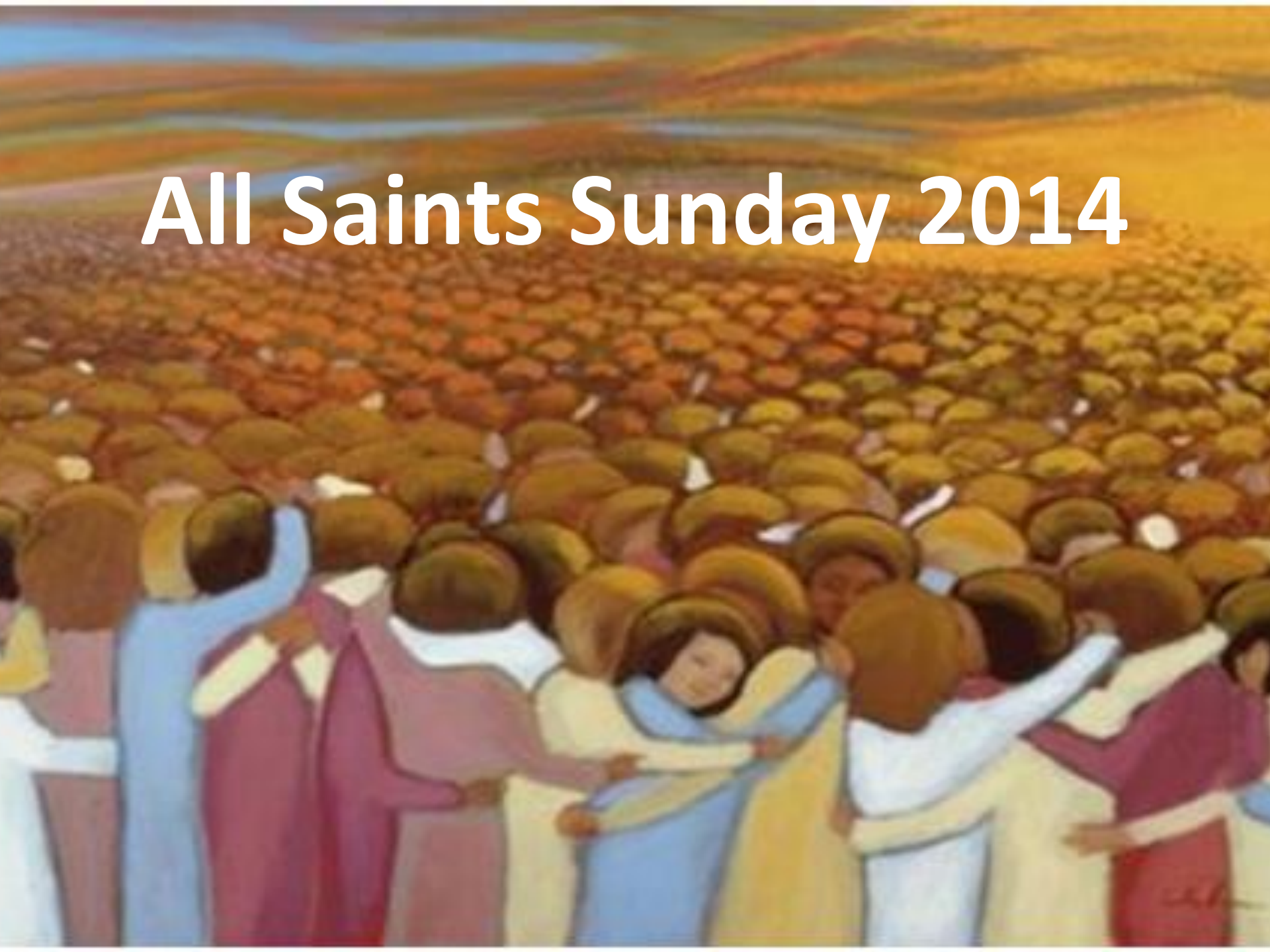


All Saints Sunday 2014



1. What level of discomfort would you be prepared to suffer for being a Christian?

Difficulty finding work/active
discrimination at work

Dangerous to attend church

Cut off from family

Physical threats

Death

Truthfully, none of these

2. Do you know personally any Christian who has suffered any of these?

**In how many countries is there
real persecution for being a
Christian?**

**And how many Christians are
affected?**

Persecution – the facts

- Christian activity severely restricted in at least 50 countries worldwide:



- Affects an estimated 200 million Christians

Persecution – the facts

- It is illegal either to convert to Christianity or to own a bible (or both) in:
 - Afghanistan, Belarus, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, China, Comoros Islands, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Libya, Mauritania, Nepal, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tibet, Yemen
- There are persecutions/restrictions in:
 - Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, India (some states), Indonesia, Iraq, Kosovo, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Nigeria (N. states), Palestine, Philippines, Russia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UAE, Uzbekistan, Vietnam

Really difficult places...



Persecution – the facts

- More Christian martyrs in 20th century than previous 19 centuries combined
 - Currently estimated at c.160k/yr (or c.1 mill every 6 years)
 - On average, this equates to 1/200 chance of being martyred, or 1/50 for church leaders globally

DAILY TRIALS...

Difficulty finding work/active
discrimination at work

Dangerous to attend church

Cut off from family

Physical threats

Death

1. Tell good news



...but God blesses His church!

- Growth in China from c.0.7/mill in 1945 to c.130 mill in 2010
- Estimated 1mill Christians in Iran
- 10 years of greater freedom in Algeria 1995-2006 saw church grow from 10k to 40k
- Internet and radio offers global opportunities
- Organisations which exist to serve the persecuted church: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Open Doors, Barnabas Fund

1. Tell good news

2. Share big...



1. Tell good news
2. Share big love
- 3. Keep strong hearts**



All Saints Sunday 2014

