

SO IN CHRIST WE, THOUGH MANY, FORM ONE BODY,
AND EACH MEMBER BELONGS TO ALL THE OTHERS.

ROMANS 12:5



OpenDoors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

Geopende Deure - Open Doors (Association Incorporated under Section 21)
Reg. Nr: 2004/023397/08 - PBO Nr: 930011129



STARTER - WORLD

Know Your Place (Mat) Quiz

- Where would you find pancakes described in the following way:
A) Injera B) Atayef C) Dosa D) Cachapa?
- How many countries on the Open Doors *World Watch List 2018* are in Africa?
- Which region of the world is seeing the greatest increase in persecution?

The answers are provided at the bottom of this page.

Secret Christian in Somalia

"We are experiencing horrible things here every day. It appears that I live in hell on earth. I wish I could just stand inside a church and cry out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

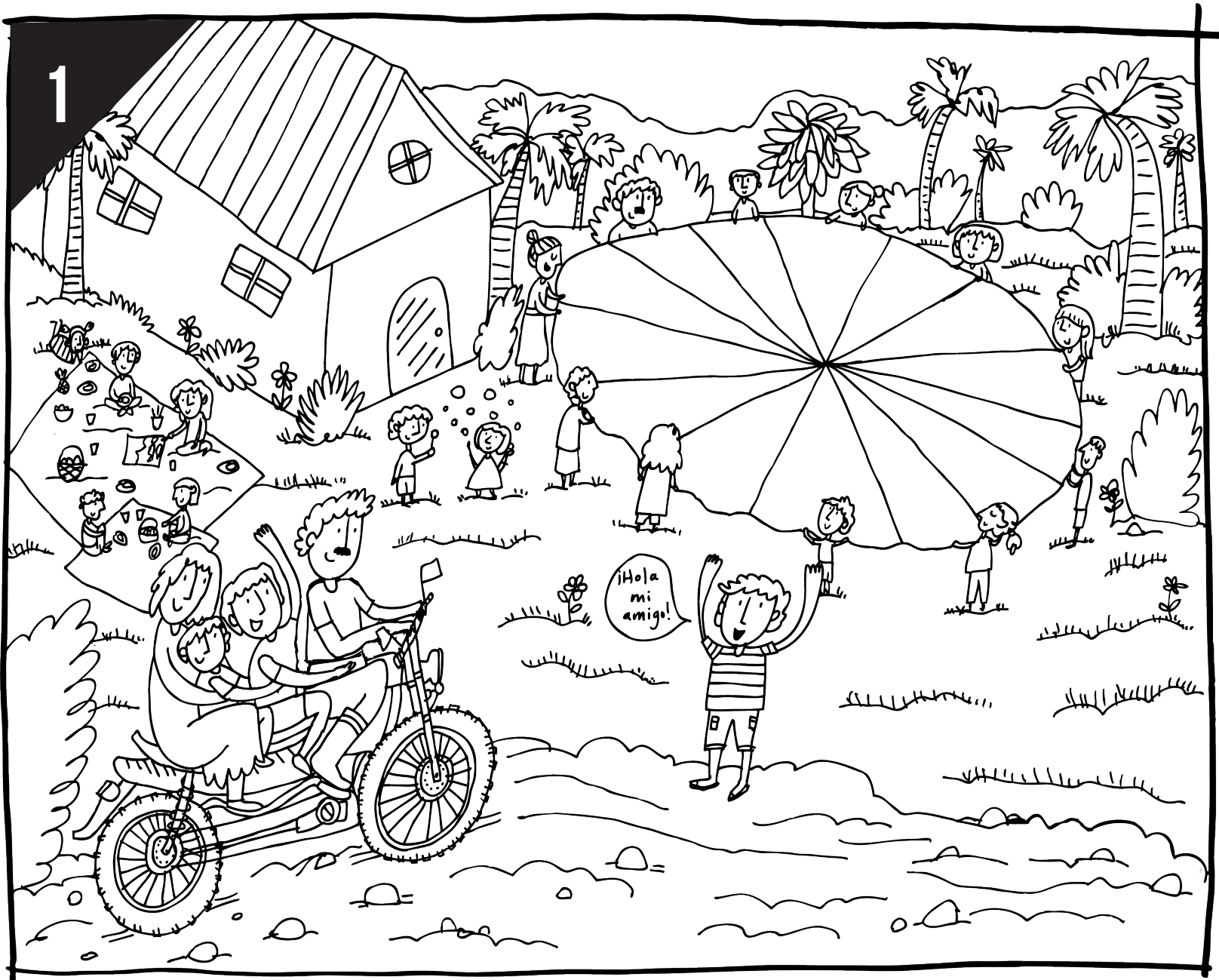
It seems a simple wish, to stand in a church. But it is completely impossible for this believer in Somalia, where even being suspected of being a Christian can lead to instant execution. At least 12 suspected converts were killed in 2016. The militant Islamist group Al-Shabaab has stated publicly that it 'wants Somalia free of all Christians', and is able to persecute believers with impunity as the state is basically lawless. These militants have intensified their hunt for Christian leaders this year.

Christians must keep their faith completely secret. Even a positive response to a Christian post on social media can have serious consequences. They meet in small underground groups constantly changing locations to avoid monitoring by Al-Shabaab militants or community leaders. Nevertheless, people are becoming Christians - through radio programmes broadcast by partners of Open Doors.

Food for thought: How can we show solidarity with the persecuted Church?

Answers 1. A) Ethiopia/Erithrea B) Syria C) India D) Colombia 2. 14: Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, Libya, Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Mali, Central African Republic, Algeria, Djibouti, Mauritania. 3. Southeast Asia

1



STARTER WORLD

Around the world, there are lots of countries where it's difficult to be a Christian.

The Open Doors *World Watch Map* shows the top 50, from North Korea at number 1 to Djibouti at number 50.

The man on the bike is a Colombian church leader, a dangerous job in this country. He's not popular with some people. Rebel soldiers tell him to close his church. They threaten his life.

This happens to lots of church leaders in Colombia. That's why they and their families meet in secret to encourage one another. There are lots of tears and prayers – but also lots of fun. It's good to relax for a few days and be part of a bigger family that cares for one another.

Prayer Thank you, Lord, that I am part of a huge family around the world that loves you. Please let your children in Colombia know they are not forgotten.

Question: How can you help children and families who are being persecuted?

