



GET FED BY THE FAITH OF
THE PERSECUTED CHURCH



OpenDoors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)



PANCAKE PARTY

Our menu suggestion: pancakes

Why? Because pancakes are universal. In every culture there is a rendition of the pancake. In some regions it's a breakfast in others a midday snack. Some serve savoury pancakes and others as a dessert. Plus, in this introductory session, we're focusing on the worldwide persecuted Church. So it sort of makes sense to focus on something as universal as the pancake.



CHEW ON

Fast Food is a six-part series during which you share a meal with others, serve up stories of the persecuted Church, and take away a fasting challenge. It's a great way for churches, youth groups, families, and friends to show solidarity with persecuted Christians. It allows you to stand in the gap for them through prayer, as well as putting yourself in their shoes through participating in the fasting challenges. (For more on this series see p. 4.)

THE MENU

1. Serve the meal

Pancakes for everyone! To flip, or not to flip? That is the question.

2. Chew it over

Introduce the **Fast Food** idea. Explain what's going to happen. Ask people if they are up for a challenge.

3. Feast your eyes

Show the video, which introduces the work of Open Doors and the challenges facing persecuted Christians around the world.

4. Food for thought

Talk about the causes of Christian persecution in the world. Use the 'Bite Size' information opposite. And on the relevant placemats you'll find stories to share, a quiz about persecution worldwide, Bible readings and a colouring page for children. (www.opendoors.org.za/sgig)

5. Pray

Use the Bite Size section and the Prayer section to help people pray.

6. Take the challenge!



THE CHALLENGE

TO WORSHIP SOMEWHERE IN YOUR HOME

Millions of Christians have no place to meet. For them, 'church' takes place in different locations. Perhaps they are refugees, so they must make their church in a tent or temporary building. In North Korean labour camps, Christians meet for worship in the toilets! In Nigeria, displaced Christians meet in the open, because their church has been burned down. So the challenge this month is to transform a room in your home into a place of worship. Stick up pictures or Bible verses. Put up a cross. Then, each day, pray for the persecuted Church – particularly for those who have been driven from their churches.

Visit www.opendoors.org.za/sgig to find pictures of 'churches' from around the world. You will also be able to download the placemats and find a link to a pancake recipe!

GO LARGE

Wherever you make your 'church', why not take up an offering for those who have no place to meet and are in urgent need of help to survive? Just R230 will keep one Christian in North Korea alive with emergency aid and spiritual support.



BITE SIZE

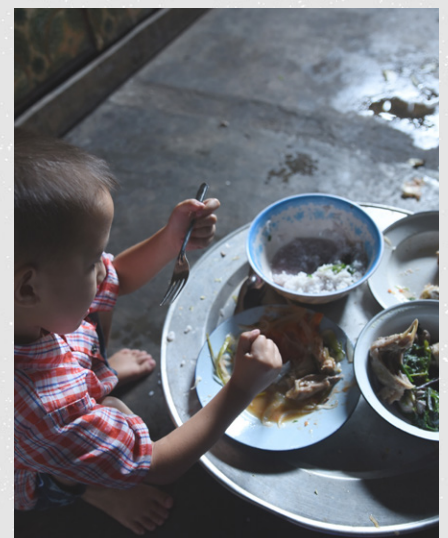
FAST FACTS ABOUT THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Millions of Christians around the world are persecuted because of their faith. But the big picture is made up of millions of individual faces. Here are four representatives of persecuted Christians from around the world who really need your prayers and support:

- **A HOUSE CHURCH CHRISTIAN IN NORTH KOREA**
Christians in North Korea face arrest, torture, imprisonment and even death. They keep their faith secret, hiding their Bibles and not even telling their children, in case their faith is discovered.
- **A CHRISTIAN REFUGEE**
Millions of Christians have been driven from their homes. It is not only happening in Iraq and Syria, it also occurs in Nigeria, Colombia, Afghanistan and many other places. They must recreate their communities far from home.
- **A BELIEVER FROM A MUSLIM BACKGROUND IN AN ISLAMIC STATE**
New converts in places like the Arabian Peninsula or North Africa have to keep their faith secret for fear of reprisals: they often can't even tell their families. They pray in secret, memorise Scripture, keep quiet...
- **A BELIEVER FROM A HINDU BACKGROUND**
Violent attacks on Christians and churches in India are steadily increasing. Schools have been destroyed, pastors beaten, church services attacked by mobs, church buildings burned down.

PRAYER

- Pray for peace and protection for Christians who must meet in secret.
- Pray for Christians who have been displaced by persecution. Pray that one day they will be able to return to their homes and rebuild their communities.
- Pray for courage and strength for Believers from Muslim and Hindu Backgrounds across the world.





HOW IT WORKS

Fast Food is a resource based around several meals. Each meal comes from a different country where Christians are persecuted for their faith. And every second month you do three things...

1 SHARE A MEAL WITH OTHERS

Every two months you share a meal with family, friends, your church group or small group. One time you might have a curry, the next time you might have a tiny, plain bowl of rice. Each meal links to a country where Christians are persecuted.

2 SERVE UP STORIES OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

During the meal, you'll explore the challenges that Christians face in that country. To help you, we've provided six menus, suggesting what food to serve, and giving stories and prayer points about the country. There are also videos, downloadable placemats, and recipes on our website at www.opendoors.org.za/sgig.

3 TAKE AWAY A WEEKLY 'FASTING' CHALLENGE

At the end of the meal you will be challenged to 'fast' from something or to give something up for a month. It might mean 'fasting' from comfort and sleeping on the floor, or giving up money and trying to cope on a very limited budget. You might even be challenged to 'fast' from speaking! Each challenge gives a taste of what life is like for persecuted Christians around the world. Every second month (or whenever you choose) you can reflect on what you have learned, and how God has spoken to you. And then it will be time for another meal – and a different challenge!

Fast Food is family friendly!

One of the best ways to do **Fast Food** is to share the meals and take the challenges as a family. The menus are easily adaptable for family discussions.



Church Leaders

Fast Food is great for churches. Not only is it ideal for home groups, it's a great way for families to be involved. If members of your church are doing **Fast Food**, how about giving them a few minutes in the Sunday service to share what they are doing?

Fast days

All around the world persecuted Christians know the value of fasting and praying. If you wish, you can make the day of the meal a fast day. Participants can abstain from food during the day, and gather together to break their fast in the evening.



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