



**OpenDoors**

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide



# YOUR 2017 IMPACT REPORT

Friends like you made it possible to deliver more than 800 000 signatures with the Million Voices of Hope petition. (See page 4)

## PRESENCE MINISTRY

### You Let the Church Know They're Not Alone

In areas where Christian fellowship is dangerous, it's difficult to reach out to other believers. Yet, it's in these circumstances that it's most important to let believers know they are not alone.

That's what your support did with Open Doors' Presence Ministry in 2017. Letters, cards of encouragement and face-to-face visits provided the physical "touch" that persecuted Christians long for – and which can't be replaced by modern technology.

It was a source of strength for Verlaine in Central African Republic, whose husband was killed for his faith.

Verlaine shared...

*"Two pastors and a woman rotated coming to my house on Sundays. When they visited, I always shed tears because it reminded me of the things that happened. But through time and much counselling, the Word of God touched my heart."*

#### Presence Ministry in 2017

Total number of people reached	8 794
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8 794</b>

Representative image used.



*"Through time and much counselling,  
the Word of God touched my heart."*

– Verlaine, who was visited through Open Doors' Presence Ministry after her husband was killed



## You Empowered the Persecuted Church with God’s Word

The power of God’s Word is undeniable. But when access to biblical teaching is limited, so too is the Church’s ability to grow and thrive.

That’s why the distribution of Bibles and Christian literature is such an important part of Open Doors’ ministry. Your support helped put these resources in the hands of people like Fatima, who lives in Central Asia.

Fatima was a committed Muslim – until an Open Doors partner showed her a movie and gave her a book to read. She knew her life would never be the same.

Fatima says...

*“I’m going to know the Creator more and more, and I believe that my life with God will be absolutely different, much better. Thank you so much for opening my eyes to the truth.”*

*“Thank you so much for opening my eyes to the truth.”*

– Fatima, a new believer thanks to Open Doors’ Bible Distribution in Central Asia

Representative image used.

### Bible and Christian Literature Distribution in 2017

Bibles	195 004
Bible referencing material	43 906
Children's Bibles	128 010
Christian literature	717 630
Equipment to help transmit/ transport the message (eg., IT equipment, vehicle)	8 672
Gospels	33 572
Supporting the running of Christian libraries or bookshops	19 411
Magazines	29 450
Christian music or movies	199 176
New Testaments	71 988
Pre-production (eg., translation and design)	5 707
Study Bibles	13 316
Sunday school materials	58 029
Training materials	386 582
Christian tracts	603 550
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 514 003</b>

### SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



*“Without this project, I would still be unemployed at home.”*

– A father who has hope for his future, thanks to a stone factory in Iraq that Open Doors, through local partners, supported in its start-up phase

## You Equipped the Church with New Opportunities

The reality is persecuted Christians need both spiritual and practical support – including financial and educational opportunities.

While some organisations distribute food and money – which helps only for the short term – you helped to assist families, widows and orphans with literacy training and jobs, so they can provide for themselves long term.

One such opportunity is a stone factory in Iraq that employs Christians fleeing persecution. The steady income means they can stay in Iraq, provide for their families again, and remain a witness.

One man employed by the factory shared...

*“Without this project, I would still be unemployed at home. But now it is better. We hope for better times.”*

### Socioeconomic Development in 2017

Church construction	6 599
Community support	26 253
School construction	1
Community building support	36 868
Microloans	331
Micro enterprise grants	6 640
Livelihood support, loans or grants	24 142
Relief aid (e.g., food & shelter)	638 489
Relief aid (e.g., safe havens)	2 249
Medical or health care support	43 770
Literacy training	24 032
School support or education	22 333
Vocational training	22 656
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>854 363</b>

## You Encouraged the Church with Discipleship

### Discipleship and Training in 2017

Training for increased knowledge and understanding (e.g., Islam Awareness Training)	54 230
Biblical training	130 316
Discipleship	118 167
Development of training materials	134
Morality within the family	38 615
Holistic mandate of the church in society	11 853
Leadership	62 852
Mentoring leaders	3 748
Persecution preparedness (e.g., Standing Strong Through the Storm Seminar)	70 386
Trauma counselling	42 814
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>533 115</b>

We were made for community – to be supported, mentored and disciplined by other members of the body of Christ. Your support in 2017 helped teach thousands of Christian leaders how to equip believers facing difficult circumstances – like Seida\* in Sudan.

Seida left Islam many years ago to follow Christ. She married Peter, also a Christian. But when war broke out in 2011, he joined the army and was later killed.

Seida struggled to raise their children alone, and her family pressured her to return to Islam. Fortunately, Seida’s church leaders were trained in how to support widows like her, and she received the support she needed. They even taught her embroidery, so she can earn a living for her family.

Seida shared...

*“I am grateful to my church leaders who are always by my side. They are doing whatever they can to help me stand on my feet.”*



Representative image used.

*“They are doing whatever they can to help me stand on my feet.”*

– Seida, a widow who can persevere thanks to an Open Doors Discipleship and Training Programme in Sudan

# Your Cry Has Brought Hope for the Middle East

An incredible 808 172 people from 143 countries signed the Million Voices of Hope Petition. The petition forms part of one of Open Doors' global initiatives, Hope for the Middle East, that advocates for Christians in Iraq and Syria to have the right to equal citizenship, dignified living conditions, and a prominent role in reconciling and rebuilding society.

In December 2017, the petition was presented to high-level United Nations officials, UK Prime Minister Theresa May, and USA Vice President Mike Pence, amongst others.

Thanks to your determination and the strength of our collective voice, our cry for hope in the Middle East has been heard!

The United States and the United Nations have jointly

pledged \$55 million (R761 million) to help Christians in Iraq rebuild! Doors have also been opened to continue meeting with high-level officials in the United Nations.

Fr Behnam is an Iraqi church leader who was part of the delegation that presented the petition. He shared of the three and a half years since the Hope for the Middle East campaign began...

*"We discovered that the Church in all the world is with us. It is like St. Paul said in 1 Corinthians: when one suffers, all suffer; when one rejoices, all rejoice. I thank God we proved that Christians in all the world are one family because we have Christ – no matter our denomination."*

Thank you for helping give Christians in Iraq and Syria hope and a future. And thanks to your continued gifts and prayers, this advocacy campaign continues.



Noeh, a 12-year-old Iraqi boy, along with his father (front, second from right) and Fr Behnam (front, second from left), and the Open Doors team presented the Million Voices of Hope Petition to the United Nations in December 2017.

**Thank you for your gifts and prayers throughout 2017, which were such a source of encouragement for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world. Together, we are standing strong as the body of Christ!**

## Open Doors Board of Directors

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