

FRONTLINE FAITH



**See what fills
Adel with joy!**

**Give a 'GIFT
OF HOPE'!**

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Persecuted  But never alone.

**OCTOBER
2019**

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Adel gets a Bible that fills him with joy!

Thanks to you helping to send God's Word to 200 children in Algeria

One day after 14-year-old Adel returned home from attending the youth group at his church in Algeria, his heart was greatly troubled.

The leader had spoken about the importance of reading the Bible on your own. But Adel struggled to read it, as it was difficult for him to understand.

One of Adel's youth group friends showed his Action Bible to Adel and shared how the stories come to life through wonderful, colourful illustrations. Adel knew he needed his own copy of an illustrated Bible like this, so he could take in God's Word for himself.

Before he went to sleep that night, Adel prayed to God.

And one of the things he asked the Lord is, *"Please, Lord, help me to get such a Bible. It would be so helpful for me to really read the Bible."*

Sadly, Adel's parents couldn't afford such a Bible, and the man who had given his friend the Action Bible for free didn't have any more copies.

Adel was so upset when he heard this news. But once he realised his attitude was

wrong, he prayed, *"Lord, help me to believe that You will help me."*


Some days later, Adel attended a youth event where all the participants were given a gift. As soon as he realised what it was, Adel's face shone with enthusiasm as the colourful cover of the Action Bible laid in his hands.

He said to his parents, *"Look ... Jesus has given [the Bible] to me today!"* He could hardly get the words out because of his joy. *"I'm so happy that He has given me what I have desired for a long time."*

**"I thank you for
your contribution
to spread the
Kingdom of God."**

That day a total of 200 children received their very own Action Bible, all thanks to generous friends like you!

The Open Doors partner who distributed these Bibles on your behalf, says, *"I thank you for your contribution to spread the Kingdom of God. On behalf of the children, I wish that the grace of the Lord be with you. Thank you so much for your marvellous present to the children in Algeria."*

Thank you for making the Bible more accessible, not only to these 200 young people in Algeria, but also to many persecuted Christians worldwide! 

See how you can give hope to believers like Adel through Bibles and other practical support. Visit www.OpenDoors.org.za/goh

Ayaan is grateful for you:

'I am sure your prayers saved my life during the attacks'

Ayaan*, a Somali believer from the Horn of Africa, met the Lord when she was just 19.

When Ayaan's mother found out about her faith, she threw a cup of hot tea at Ayaan. As the hot liquid trickled down Ayaan's shocked face, it was not so much the sting of the liquid that broke her, but the look of utter contempt on her mother's face as she shouted at Ayaan, "You're not a part of me anymore!"

Ayaan was in danger and had nowhere to go: "My family forced me to leave. My brother told me that my faith is 'haram' – deserving of death. They searched for me many times to kill me."

Ayaan cried many tears over her family's rejection. During her ordeal, she attended Bible study and a discipleship class for Believers from a Muslim Background, provided by friends like you through Open Doors. This reminded her that the Lord provides for His people.

Later, ethnic violence broke out in her hometown, which forced her to seek refuge in another town. Thankfully, your support helped provide emergency relief through Open Doors to Ayaan and other victims of the violence.

Ayaan believes your prayers and support saved her life:

"It feels like someone is right beside me. The Bible says, 'The prayer of the righteous does great in its work'. I am sure your prayers saved my life during the attacks! God has caused me to move here safely. ... May God bless everyone who has been praying for me."

Your prayers and gifts are changing many lives like Ayaan's. Thank you!

*Name changed for security reasons.



Representative image used.



IN THE TRENCHES

A Muslim convert says: 'I experienced God's protection'

Eldos (pictured right), a young Believer from a Muslim Background, was terribly beaten up by three radical Muslim men in an attempt to force him to return to Islam. He sustained multiple injuries, including a concussion, and had to undergo several surgeries.

He was emotionally broken and frustrated. The relatives of the attackers also threatened Eldos' family to dissuade them from going to the police to lay charges. Unfortunately, the police also tried to silence the situation.

But thanks to your support, Open Doors was able to assist Eldos and his family during his recovery. It was impossible for him to live in his village because of the media attention his case received. So he hid in one of Open Doors' safe houses. He then moved to Kazakhstan, but it was also unsafe there. So with your help, Open Doors took him to another safe house.

Sadly, Eldos had to leave his homeland due to the dangers. In June, an Open Doors team met with Eldos and his uncle, Nurbek (pictured left), and he shared with them about the attack...

"I didn't feel anger when they attacked me; I just wanted them to leave. I felt protected even during the beatings. I experienced God's protection. The attackers tried to hit [me] hard in [my] head, but they missed most of [my] head, [except my] teeth."

Today, Eldos lives in an undisclosed country where he is being cared for by Christians.

Please continue to pray for Eldos as he adjusts to life in a foreign country. Pray also for many other Christians who are forced to leave their homes or countries because of their faith.

And may God bless you as you give so generously to meet their practical needs and bring them hope!

**Give a 'GIFT
OF HOPE'!**

See how you can help persecuted Christians like Eldos by providing safe houses and a whole range of much-needed practical support. Choose your *Gift of Hope* from the new catalogue at www.OpenDoors.org.za/goh

ALGERIA

RANKING **#22** | WWL SCORE **70**

Region North Africa

2019 World Watch List Position

#22 out of top 50

Population 42 008 000

(0.3% are Christians)

Main Religion Islam

Government Republic

Source of Persecution Islamic oppression

PRAY

- + Pray that the government will be more open towards Christians and acknowledge their rights
- + Pray for God's protection over Christians who are persecuted by their families, and that He'll help embattled believers to love and forgive
- + Praise God that the Algerian Church continues to grow. Pray that new believers who enter the Church will grow spiritually



WORLD WATCH LIST

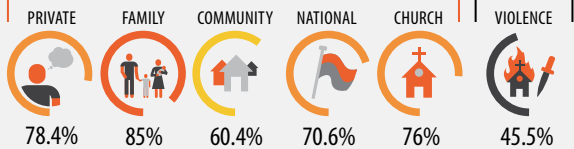
www.opendoors.org.za/wwl



Pressure



Violence



Christians in Algeria are unable to share their faith openly due to strict blasphemy laws. Believers from a Muslim Background face pressure from their families and communities, making it difficult to live out their faith. The state adds to this pressure by restricting freedom of religion through laws which regulate non-Muslim worship and ban conversion from Islam. The pressure and dangers Christians face here are particularly high in the rural and more conservative parts of the country.



'PLEASE PRAY FOR US!'

See how your prayers strengthen your brothers and sisters

When we ask our persecuted family what we can do for them – their number one request is “Please pray for us!” So let’s continue standing together in prayer for your persecuted brothers and sisters. You’re making a difference as you lift them up to the Lord!

Here’s how your prayers are a huge source of comfort and strength to many believers in spiritual battles...



“To our prayer supporters ... I want to say that this meant a lot to us. ... We are really the Body of Jesus Christ, and we feel for each other and we support each other. ... The Lord answered your prayers. We’re still in Syria by the power of those prayers and your support, and we still [need] your prayers for the future as well.”
– Pastor Edward, Syria



“Tell the people who pray for us that we feel their prayers. Sometimes when I’m in a difficult situation, I think: ‘This is the end’. But suddenly I feel someone takes care of me. And I know that at that moment, someone is praying for me.” – Azamat, Underground Church Leader in Uzbekistan



“Dear brothers and sisters who pray for us all over the world Thank you for your sacrifice to pray for us, that you took our burden ... for being so sensitive to our pain and suffering! ... Your attitude, love and prayers changed my heart and became a great example of how to be open to others’ suffering, how to follow and imitate Christ!”
– Nurbek, Kyrgyzstan



“One thing I observed about Open Doors is that this organisation loves to pray. They prayed about everything, and I know God answers all their prayers.... and how they can intervene.... God bless and continue to uplift Open Doors, the staff and everyone working tirelessly to support the persecuted Body of Christ.”
– Naomi*, Nigeria



“I had no idea so many people were praying for us. Those prayers are really important. They will lead more people to Jesus Christ in North Korea.”
– Eun Hye, Christian who escaped North Korea

*Name changed for security reasons.



CREATIVE WAYS YOU CAN PRAY!

Be inspired by these ideas to pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ, on your own and with others:

Host a prayer meeting

Organise a special event and invite your family, friends and church community to pray for our persecuted family.

Use magazines and newspapers

Cut out stories on countries where Christians are under fire for their faith. Pray for the situation in the country, the leaders and Christians – that in those countries “every knee should bow... and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:10-11).

Light a candle

As you light candles and pray for those on the front lines of the faith, pray that the light of Christ will shine in their lives and countries, and that the darkness will not be able to overpower it (John 1:5).

Create a prayer wall

Ask God to show you how you can pray for your embattled brothers and sisters. Write down those prayers. Create a prayer wall in your home or church to remind you to pray. Add new prayers as God leads you.

Do a prayer walk

Take a walk through a garden, in the bush, or on the beach, and pray for the many persecuted Christians who are imprisoned and in hiding for their faith. Pray that one day they’ll be free to walk boldly in their faith without fear.

Your prayers are powerful!

Brother Andrew once said:

“If we understood the potential power of our prayers, we would be on our knees a hundred times a day asking Him for things that would turn the world upside down.”

Your prayers have the power to change the world not because of the words you speak, but because of to whom you speak them – a mighty and merciful God.

So when you pray on behalf of your persecuted brothers and sisters, you strengthen them more than you may ever know. Thank you for praying!

FROM JAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear partner of the persecuted Church,

Spending time speaking to God is vital for our spiritual well-being. When we pray, we encounter God and learn more about Him. But it's also an opportunity for us to stand in the gap for others, asking God to undertake for them in our lost world.

When I asked a persecuted brother in Africa what we can do for him, as he stood in the ruins of his burnt-down church, I expected him to ask us to help him rebuild his church. But his answer was far from it. He replied: *"Please pray for us, and please pray for [those who] did this."*

Every embattled Christian I meet has the same request: *"Please pray for us."* They ask for prayer because they know the power it holds. They've felt it and experienced it in their lives.

When Helen Berhane, a Gospel singer who'd been locked up in a metal shipping container in Eritrea for more than two years, was released, she shared:

"I [felt] the power, [a] power [that] was beyond our understanding ... somehow I knew that somebody was praying..."

You can rest assured that your prayers for our persecuted family are felt and are powerfully working in their lives. Thank you for being a partner in praying for those who are following Jesus where faith costs the most!

In his book, *Prayer: The Real Battle*, Brother Andrew asks, *"Are you willing to become part of the answer to your prayers?"*

Today, you can become an answer to your own prayers by giving hope to a persecuted Christian through your new *Gifts of Hope* catalogue. I hope you've received your copy! Please ask the Lord what gift you can choose to make a powerful difference in your brothers' and sisters' lives.

Thank you for your prayers, love and generosity for your family under fire on the front lines!

Together in His service,

Jan Gouws
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