


# 2020 IMPACT REPORT

**“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?”**

**1 Thessalonians 3:9**

Representative image used.

Persecuted  But never alone.

**SEE HOW YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS  
ENCOURAGED PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN 2020!**

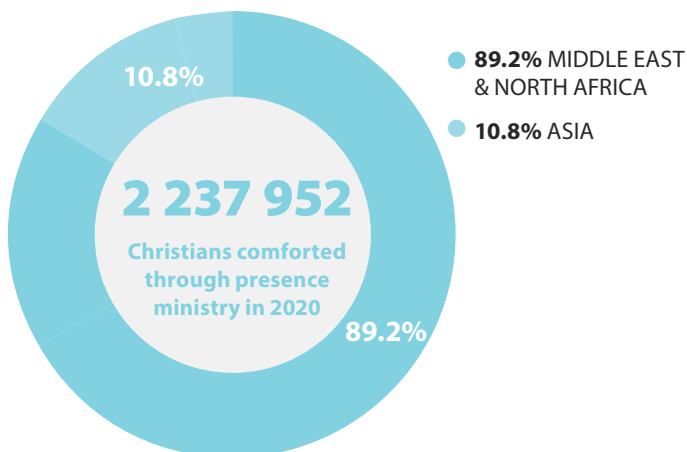
## Presence ministry

# YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US TO BE PRESENT FOR THE LONG TERM

In many of the closed countries where Christians are persecuted for their faith, community is very important for survival as people are dependent on one another for resources within those communities.

Being present in many of those persecuted Christians' lives is a long-term commitment as they have to rebuild their lives from scratch and, in some cases, are fighting drawn-out court cases. It can be very discouraging to face this alone.

For three years now Open Doors has been able to walk alongside a group of Christian families in Mexico after they were expelled from their ethnic communities because of their faith. "Open Doors has been a blessing for us since three years ago when our expulsion happened. We bless you all for supporting us," said one of the families.



\*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic our Presence Ministry was restricted in some regions.



**"The visits we received from our brothers and sisters encouraged us to continue in our faith without wavering." – Family expelled from their community, Mexico**

## Advocacy

# YOUR ADVOCACY HELPED JUSTICE TO PREVAIL



**"I thank Open Doors for standing with us and helping us in court." – Leah, Kenya**

In many countries, believers are persecuted by the government and their communities – but you generate campaigns to help expose religious oppression and related crimes.

You also advocated for believers like Leah\* and Hubba\* with urgently needed legal assistance to defend their freedom and faith.

Leah lives with her elderly husband and six children in rural northern Kenya. Her family is the only Christian family in their vicinity.

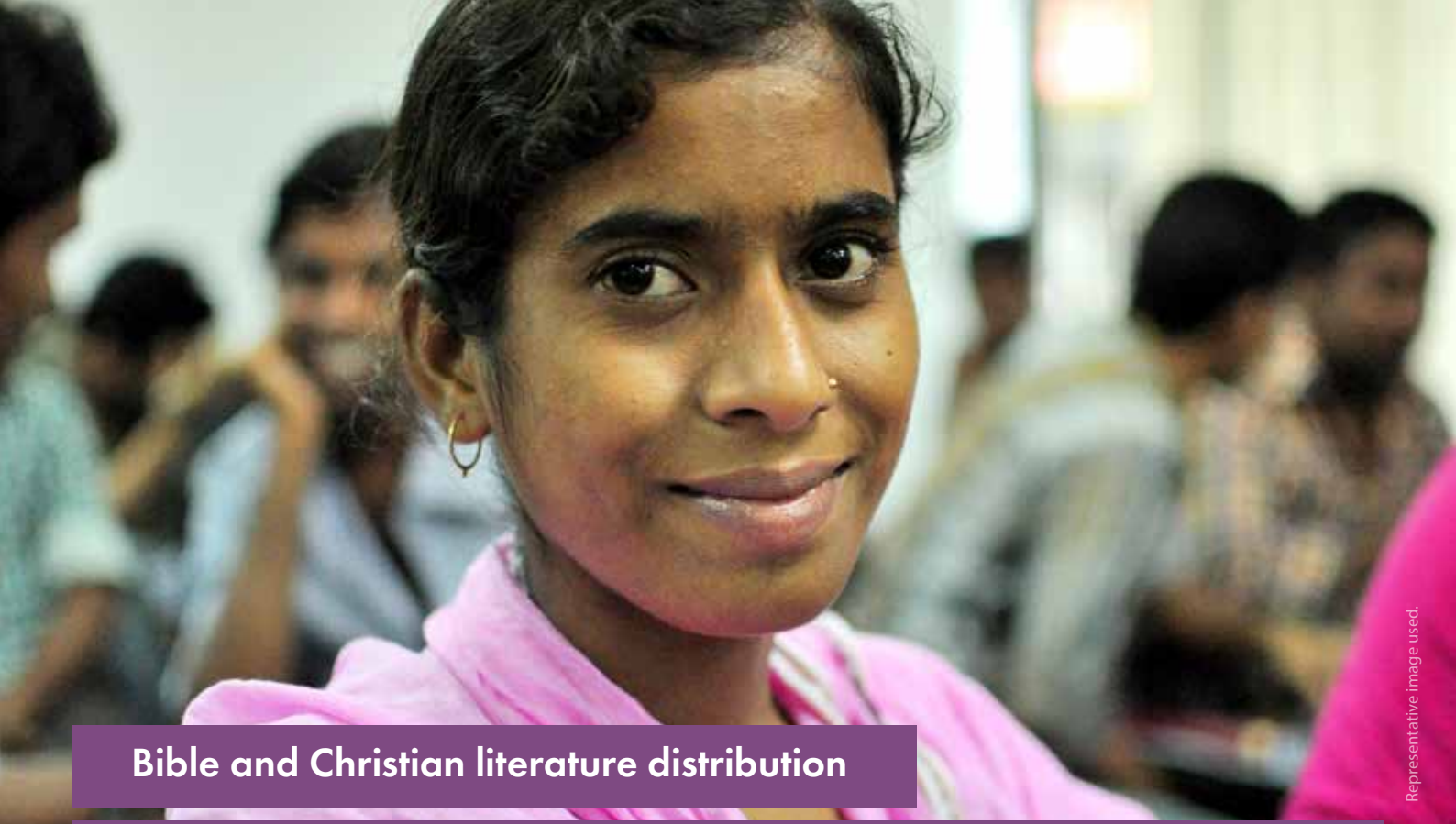
Last year Leah's teenage daughter, Hubba, was raped during an important Muslim celebration. Afterwards, community elders wanted Hubba to marry the perpetrator, but Leah refused.

Thanks to your support, the case was reported to the police, and the culprit was arrested. He is now awaiting trial. Open Doors has provided legal support and helped broker emotional support to Hubba, who is still on the road to recovery.

\*Names changed for security reasons.

**86 201**  
**Christians supported through advocacy in 2020**





Representative image used.

## Bible and Christian literature distribution

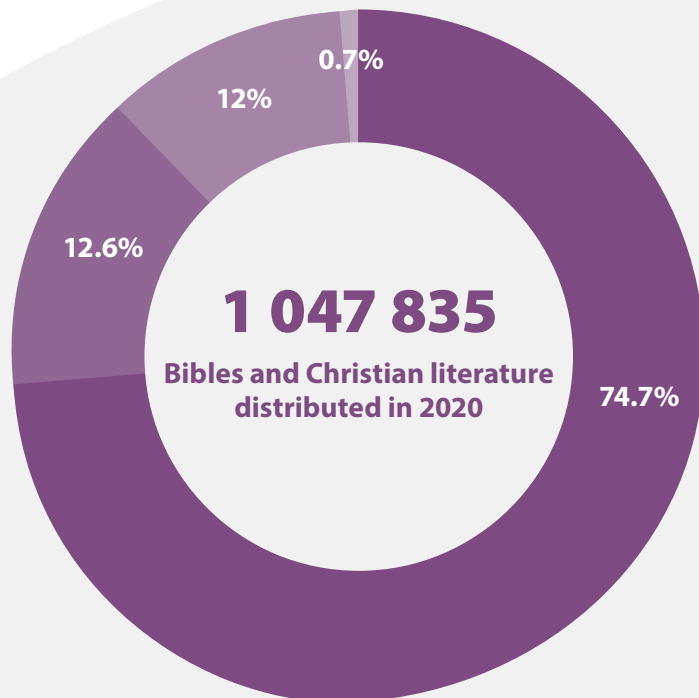
# YOU HELPED BELIEVERS ACCESS THE WORD OF GOD

Many believers have to be discreet when they read their Bibles, while others are illiterate and are unable to read the Bible because of it.

In places like India, digital Bibles are helping believers in some of the most remote villages access the Word of God, and it has become a great encouragement to many of them. *“These digital Bibles are encouraging believers to stand firm in their faith since there are several interesting videos and testimonies [on it],”* shared Kadam\*, a church leader in India.

Thanks to your support, even amid lockdowns believers could access God’s Word safely through digital Bibles. Those who are illiterate are able to listen to the Word, and through it, be strengthened in their faith!

\*Names changed for security reasons.



**“I’m so glad to receive this digital Bible. I’m really blessed because of this, since I can’t read properly... I can easily listen to the Word of God whenever I want, wherever I am.” – Deepa\*, India**

- 74.7% ASIA
- 12.6% MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
- 12% AFRICA
- 0.7% LATIN AMERICA

# YOUR GIFT ENABLED DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING TO CONTINUE

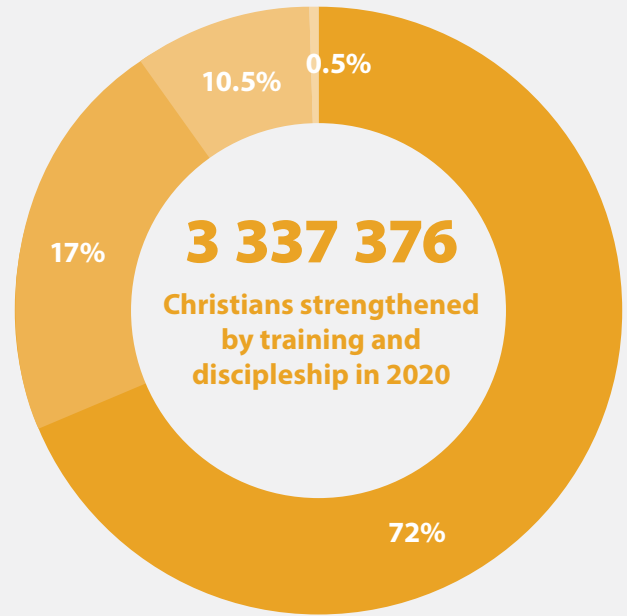
Your gift ensured that discipleship training in North Africa could not only continue but thrive during Covid-19-related travel restrictions. Kabil\* was used to travelling all around North Africa but was subsequently pushed toward online training.

*"Everything seems to have stopped. But our relationships have deepened,"* says Kabil.

Even though the pandemic caused a radically unexpected change, the training that Kabil gives to discipleship leaders didn't stop.

Kabil has not been discouraged: *"It's a blessing, an opportunity to strengthen communion and to take full advantage of these courses and communion. As the word of God says: 'All things work together for the good of those who love God.'"*

\*Name changed for security reasons.



- 72% MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
- 17% AFRICA
- 10.5% ASIA
- 0.5% LATIN AMERICA



**"If this training didn't exist, the Church wouldn't last over time."  
– Kabil, North Africa**

## Socioeconomic development projects

# YOUR SUPPORT ENSURED BELIEVERS COULD SURVIVE

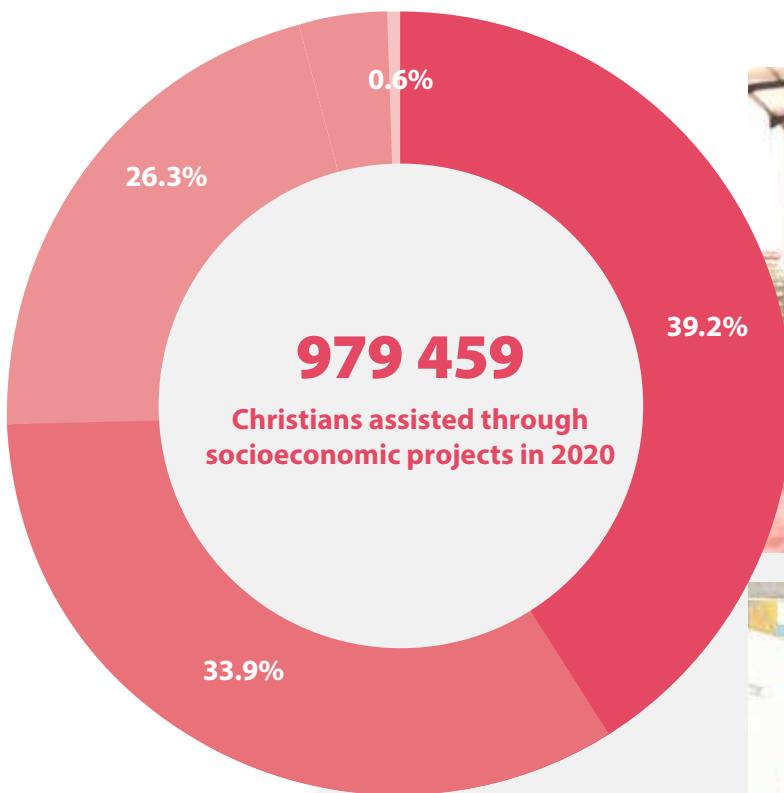
Last year, the Covid-19 pandemic created an extra layer of discrimination and persecution against Christians.

In some places, Christians were refused relief aid while, in others, Christian healthcare workers were denied protective gear. Through your prayers and support, Open Doors was able to assist those Christians by launching a Covid relief aid fund.

In a time when many were struggling to survive, a local Christian told one of our partners about a lady who was crying as she had no food to feed her children. *“Right at that moment, the local Christian rang the doorbell to deliver a food package. The lady was so thankful!”* shares Steve\*, a local partner in the Middle East.

Thanks to your support believers could survive amid the pandemic. They thank the Lord for your giving hearts!

\*Name changed for security reasons.



- 39.2% ASIA
- 33.9% MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
- 26.3% AFRICA
- 0.6% LATIN AMERICA



**“Right at that moment, the local Christian rang the doorbell to deliver a food package. The lady was so thankful!”**  
– Steve, a local partner in the Middle East.



## FROM JAN TO YOU

Dear friend

Looking back at the past year, no one will deny that 2020 was one of the most difficult years not only for the persecuted Church but for the worldwide Body of Christ because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thousands of people have been impacted by the pandemic. Some lost their livelihoods while others lost their loved ones and their own lives. Many are still reeling from the fallout from the pandemic and how that continues to affect their lives.

Many believers in closed countries were left without a means to survive and take care of their families. And to make matters worse, they were overlooked by the government when it came to relief aid, adding another dimension to the persecution they already experience.

Thankfully in a time of isolation and lockdowns, your love

and support helped remind those believers that they're never alone. It also helped strengthen them to continue to be salt and light in their countries and to survive a year that was rough for all of us.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your open-handedness in standing as one with our persecuted family in Christ through your prayers and gifts. Your love and concern for them show them that while they may be persecuted, they're deeply cared for by God through the worldwide Body of Christ.

Together in His service



Jan Gouws, Executive Director  
Open Doors Southern Africa



### Covid-19 relief

## AMID PERSECUTION AND THE PANDEMIC YOU BROUGHT HOPE

The Covid-19 pandemic hit the most vulnerable people the hardest. It amplified the persecution endured by Christians around the world. Thanks to your generous support, despite your own unique challenges, believers could receive vital help when they needed it the most. Your generosity kept the persecuted Church alive. Thank you!

Your support helped more than **500 000** persecuted Christians survive the pandemic last year.

**“What we were able to achieve last year was impossible. God opened the doors miraculously and used you to do the impossible.”**  
-Field worker, Asia

Representative image used.



**OpenDoors**

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide



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