



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)



INDIA

Our menu suggestion: curry

Why? Well, what else would you eat? Curry is, of course, the staple diet of India. Open Doors partners in the country help persecuted Christians with seeds and livestock, such as goats and chickens, so that they can grow their own food and gain more independence. So maybe a nice vegetable curry. Or even some goat...



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. (For more on this series see p. 4.) In this issue we are focussing on India. Since the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party came into power, persecution against Christians has increased in this country that used to be an example of religious freedom and tolerance. Hindunisation of India is the main reason for this increase. According to UCF, the number of violent attacks against Christians rose to 486 during the year from 279 in 2020.

THE MENU

1. Serve the meal

Share a beautiful curry. Visit www.opendoors.org.za/fast-food for some recipe ideas.

2. Chew it over

Reflect on your last **Fast Food** challenge (Issue Four). How did it go? What did you find difficult? What did you find easy? How did God speak to you through the experience? How has it helped in your understanding of the persecuted Church?

3. Feast your eyes

Show the video. This week's video tells a story of the bravery and faith of persecuted Christians in India. Find the video on our website at www.opendoors.org.za/fast-food.

4. Food for thought

Talk about persecution in India. Find out facts from the website at www.opendoors.org.za/india. Use the Bite Size facts opposite. Share the stories on the placemats. Take the "Know Your Place(Mat)" quiz (www.opendoors.org.za/fast-food).

5. Pray

Pray for believers in India. (Use the Bite Size section and Prayer section to help you pray.)

6. Take up the challenge!

THE CHALLENGE

YOU ARE GOING TO FAST FROM... MONEY

Persecuted Christians in India are typically from the poorer castes. And many pastors earn a meagre income. According to the UN, some 270 million Indians live below the poverty line of \$1.90 per person per day. That would be approximately R33. So how little could you live on each day? What would you have to give up? Challenge yourself this week to set a target daily amount and then live on it.

GO LARGE

At the end of the week, ask yourself how much money you have saved from your weekly budget. Could you donate that money to help struggling Christians in India and elsewhere? Visit www.opendoors.org.za/my-online-gift to assist.





BITE
SIZE

FAST FACTS ABOUT PERSECUTION IN INDIA

- Persecution in India is extremely violent – and the violence is increasing.
- Attacks mainly come from Hindu extremists, who particularly target believers who have converted from Hinduism; these believers face daily harassment and have been beaten, hospitalised and even killed.
- Christians also face increasing pressure on a national level. Five states have implemented anti-conversion laws and the ruling Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party have made no secret of their desire to implement these laws nationwide.
- Open Doors supports the church through local partners in India in many ways, including distributing Bibles and Christian books, social economic development projects such as providing Christian and vocational training, as well as mobilising Rapid Action Teams to help the victims of violent persecution.

***"Whatever happens, whether we live or die, I will never stop believing in Jesus Christ."* –Kusum*, Indian believer**

*Name changed for security reasons.

PRAYER

- Pray for protection for Christians – especially those who are active in sharing the Gospel and who have converted from Hinduism; they are frequently targeted.
- Pray for religious freedom in India – many states have introduced anti-conversion laws, and many politicians would like to introduce these on a national level.
- Pray for Open Doors partners supporting persecuted believers with urgent relief aid as well as long-term community development projects.





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 each issue you do three things...

1 FEAST

Share a meal with family, friends, your youth 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 SHARE

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

3 CHALLENGE

Be challenged to "fast" from something or to give something up for maybe a few days, a week or even 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 you a taste of what life is like for persecuted Christians around the world. 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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