



Salt and Light

IMPACT REPORT



THIS IS HOW YOU HELPED
OUR FAMILY OF FAITH BE
SALT AND LIGHT

**OVER 360 MILLION CHRISTIANS
SUFFER PERSECUTION AND
DISCRIMINATION FOR THEIR FAITH.**

**THEY FOLLOW JESUS, NO
MATTER THE COST.**

**WITH YOUR HELP, WE BRING THEM
HOPE BY RAISING AWARENESS,
PRAYER AND SUPPORT FOR THE
WORLDWIDE PERSECUTED CHURCH.**



"You are the
salt of the
earth...You
are the light of
the world..."

MATTHEW 5:13-14



*Thanks to your support,
Nadia's family is able to
remain in Iraq and be salt
and light in their community.
Mimi (on the left) now has a
future in her country.*

You strengthened faith and brought hope

The 2022 Impact Report shows how *you, our Southern African friends*, helped to strengthen our persecuted family's faith and bring them hope in their time of need, so they could continue to be salt and light in their communities. This is how your donations in 2022 contributed to Open Doors serving our persecuted family:



BIBLES & LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles and other Christian literature could be delivered securely to **23 257** persecuted Christians in areas where they are unable to own or access such materials.



TRAINING & DISCIPLESHIP

5 049 Christians were equipped with the skills and Biblical knowledge they need to persevere in the face of persecution through leadership and discipleship, trauma care and persecution survival training.



SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Persecution, unrest and the flow-over from the pandemic all contributed to the loss of employment for many Christians. Thankfully, our field workers and partners could provide economic assistance so **270** believers could start businesses and generate sustainable incomes.



ADVOCACY

Through advocacy support, Open Doors field workers and partners not only speak out for persecuted believers, but also helped **2 814** believers seek justice when they were persecuted or wrongfully accused, as well as educate them on their legal rights so they could defend themselves.



TRAUMA CARE

Of the many believers who were imprisoned in harsh conditions, tortured or subjected to other forms of violence or abuse such as sexual assault because of their beliefs **446** could receive trauma counselling.

A woman wearing a red sari with gold embroidery is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a path.

MEHR, INDIA

Mehr* was viciously attacked in the street near her home in India. Beaten and strangled because she is a Christian. Hospital nurses refused to treat her injuries. Mehr's whole family lost their jobs.

But you were there when it mattered – and Mehr's faith remained unshakeable.

"God sent you as divine helpers. When everything looked dark, your prayers uplifted my family and me," said Mehr. "God's plan for my life is big and I will be used for His glory. Jesus Christ is everything to me."

**Name changed for security reasons.*

Mehr is now well on her way to full recovery. She recently got a new job and continues to attend church and spend time with God.*



Some special projects you supported

IMPACT INDIA: R207 880 RAISED

Through your support of our global Impact India campaign, we could help the Church in India stand strong through things such as urgent aid and relief, legal assistance, income-generating assistance and discipleship training.

CHURCH UNDER ATTACK (SSA): R185 100 RAISED

Thanks to the faithful prayers of God's children and continued courageous evangelism efforts, the Church across sub-Saharan Africa is growing fast. As the Church in this region continues to face increased violent persecution, believers were provided with much needed physical, spiritual and emotional support.

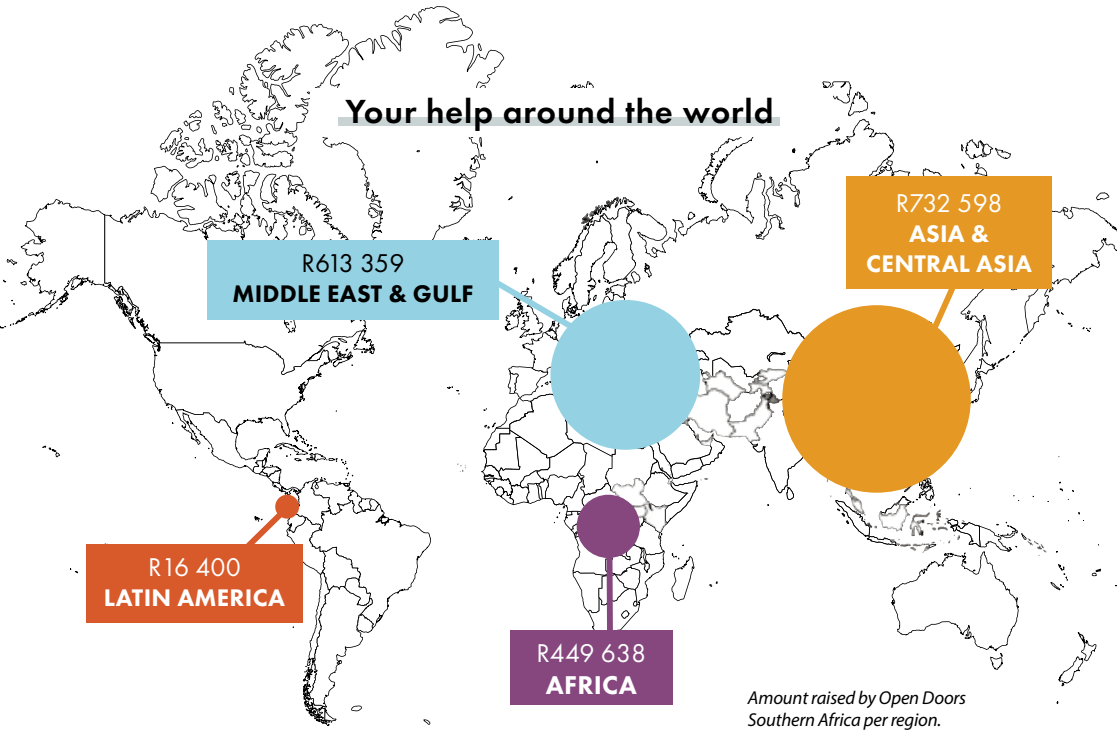
TOP 10 COUNTRIES ON THE WWL: R219 955 RAISED

In the top 10 countries on the World Watch List, living out your faith can mean oppression, discrimination, brutality and shocking acts of violence. Through your support, believers in these countries were able to withstand the impact of persecution so they could continue to shine Christ's light in their countries.

The global impact of your gifts in 2022

When our brothers and sisters are brutally attacked, discriminated against, affected by societal unrest, natural disasters or war, your support means Open Doors field workers and partners can be there to respond to their needs. Thank you!

In 2022, your gifts contributed to a total of R20,3 million granted by our Southern Africa base to our persecuted family. Here is how it impacted the regions:



Your impact where the need is the greatest

R14 870 073 RAISED

Through our *Where the Need is the Greatest* fund, your donations enabled our field workers and partners to respond to our persecuted family's most pressing needs, being on the ground and helping them in their darkest hour.

Your impact in Africa

R449 638 **RAISED**

Violent persecution in sub-Saharan Africa is unprecedented. Christians are being murdered, raped and kidnapped on a scale never seen before. *In this dangerous, volatile region, as a global ministry your support contributed to **reaching 507 588 believers under extreme pressure.***



CHARITY'S STORY

Your support turned Charity's life around after her community was attacked by Boko Haram. Restored through trauma counselling, Charity stayed to rebuild her village. A community rose from the ashes. Now Charity is helping others impacted by persecution.

"You have given us a hope of life in the future."

CHARITY, NIGERIA



32%
increase in
biblical training
compared to
2021

87%
of beneficiaries
strengthened to be
powerful witnesses
for Christ

3x
more people
helped in Ethiopia
compared to 2021

507 588
persecuted
Christians
supported

Your impact in the Middle East & Gulf

R613 359 **RAISED**

Islamic radicalism is not as visible in the Middle East as it was during the ISIS regime, but the Church is yet to recover from the devastation it left behind. Our brothers and sisters in this region remain under pressure – and the Church is reduced. *But in 2022, thanks to your gifts and prayers, our global ministry brought hope to many believers in the region with **52% funding used to remind Christians they are not alone.***



FERIAL'S STORY

Ferial and her family endured war in Syria and experienced severe hardship. But everything changed when she visited the Open Doors Centre of Hope.

"They motivated me to love Jesus – even more than I used to. We didn't feel abandoned, they made us feel loved."

FERIAL, SYRIA



287
Centres of Hope
in Syria



4x
more people
helped in Yemen
compared
to 2021



18
countries brought
youth together
with a Youth-to-
Youth Forum



52%
of funding helped
ensure persecuted
Christians were
not alone

Your impact in Asia & Central Asia

R732 598 **RAISED**

Asia is home to the most dangerous place on earth to follow Jesus. In North Korea, believers face imprisonment, brutal torture and death. But persecution is not confined to this secretive state. Across the region, millions of Christians are under pressure as regimes seek to exert authoritarian control over their populations. *Through our global ministry, your support helped ensure we could **reach 42% more Asian brothers and sisters in 2022 compared to 2021.***



RUSLAN'S STORY

Ruslan meets new believers in secret to worship behind closed doors. And many follow Christ, no matter the cost. Your gifts and prayers provide vital support to these isolated believers.

"Thanks to you, we are able to survive in this hostile environment. You are not ordinary people, but an answer from the Lord."

RUSLAN, A CHURCH LEADER,
CENTRAL ASIA



7 500
Afghan Christian
refugees supported
with relief aid in
Central Asia



50%
more people received
Christian literature in
Asia compared
to 2021



42%
more people
reached in Asia in
2022 compared
to 2021



6
regions in China had
covert congregations
who received persecution
preparedness trainings

Your impact in Latin America

R16 400 **RAISED**

Conditions have worsened for the Church in Latin America, and four countries now rank in the top 50 most dangerous places to be a Christian (Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Nicaragua). *In the midst of persecution, especially in rural areas and among indigenous people, your support made a difference by helping our global ministry to **distribute Bibles and Christian literature to 22 590 believers.***



VALENTINA'S STORY

As a 15-year old Christian daughter of a pastor, Valentina is at high risk of persecution and kidnapping. But because of your support, Valentina has a future. She can attend Open Doors' Children's Centre in Colombia where she's safe and has hope.

"I've always understood that everything in life has a purpose."

VALENTINA, COLOMBIA



4x

increase in believers reached through the distribution of Christian literature in Bolivia



3x

more Christians reached in Venezuela in 2022, compared to 2021

A community of support

Looking back at 2022, and for everything we were able to achieve this past year, we are so thankful to *you*, our community of support.

It is through the relationships with these communities that we can educate and mobilise the body of Christ living in Southern Africa to identify with our threatened and persecuted family and be actively involved in assisting them.

By being a voice, educating the local Church, creating platforms for debate

"I am convinced that we need the persecuted Church much more than they need us."

GAVIN WOOD, chairperson of the ODSA Board

and opportunities, we have seen the "free Church" here in Southern Africa step up and use their gifts to come alongside us, and serve our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for following Jesus.



Church community

We have a vision to see the persecuted Church remembered in every church in Southern Africa. Our Church Engagement team works with churches across Southern Africa and engages and inspires them to help make this vision a reality.

Through our dedicated team of staff members, contractors and volunteers we actively work with churches across denominations to spread the message of the persecuted Church, as well as raise

prayer, awareness and support for our persecuted family. Through speaking engagements, Sunday services, prayer meetings, training and events, we share the plight of our persecuted family while challenging the Church in Southern Africa in their own walk with the Lord.

In 2022, 756 church events and engagements were held across Southern Africa.



Persecution Sunday '22

The first Sunday after Pentecost is known worldwide as Persecution Sunday. Annually on this Sunday, Open Doors Southern Africa joins with churches across Southern Africa to create a day of impact for the persecuted Church.

62 engagements
across Southern Africa

More than **3 190**
attendees

444 new supporters put
their hands up to pray with and
support the persecuted Church

Volunteer community

Open Doors Southern Africa has been actively building our volunteer community since 2021. Here believers in Southern Africa have a space to offer their time, connections and gifts to serve and be a voice for their persecuted family.

Through continuous online training, resources and opportunities, our volunteers are equipped, inspired and ready to proclaim the message of the persecuted Church.



80 active volunteers
18 new volunteers added in 2022

"My faith is growing daily to see the volunteers grow and join with such hearts for the persecuted Church! I'm so grateful to God for each one for their time, energy and resources, and that I can be a part of this work in His kingdom."

SONJA JANSE VAN RENSBURG, Church volunteer coordinator

Online community

Our social media networks continue to grow and offer opportunities to establish an online community that is passionately engaging with the work of Open Doors and the persecuted Church.

By sharing testimonies, prayer requests and news, we see a strong, faithful community that is engaging, commenting, sharing and helping to spread the message of our brothers and sisters suffering for their faith.

“One of the ways we show the heart of persecuted believers is by telling their stories. And seeing so many of our followers and supporters online around the world relating and engaging is a true testament that they will never be alone.”

LUCILIA MOLEKO
Online media officer



FACEBOOK
17 200 followers



TWITTER
9 162 followers



INSTAGRAM
3 400 followers



YOUTUBE
1 420 subscribers

4THEM community

Through our Biblegivers/4THEM community, athletes and sports enthusiasts get the opportunity to use their gifts and do what they love for them – our persecuted family.

Our **125** registered Biblegivers 4THEM athletes take part in various races of their choice around the world while raising funds, support and prayer for their persecuted brothers and sisters. Funds raised, support a variety of our projects including providing, printing and distributing physical, audio or digital Bibles to believers in their own language.



20 events

where athletes participated

250 athletes

participated in events/
races for Open Doors

±5 000km

covered by
4THEM athletes

R353 769

was raised in 2022
by Biblegivers

Travel

Being able to travel to foreign countries is an amazing privilege. Combine this with the opportunity to meet, encourage and pray with your persecuted family – our Presence Ministry is truly a life-changing experience.

From the beginning of the Open Doors ministry, we have been dedicated to go and visit the persecuted Church and offering our supporters the opportunity to also be part of this mission. So, despite the current global economic situation, we are thankful that God has still provided a way for so many travellers to go and be Jesus' hands and feet in 2022.



"They love Jesus more than they love their lives. They serve the Lord with joy amid the persecution they go through every day."

Traveller, MAMAH NINELA, answering what lessons she has learnt from visiting the persecuted Church.



You helped Charity find restoration

Sometimes you may wonder how exactly your prayers and support impact our persecuted family. Hopefully, this Impact Report has helped you better understand how important your prayers and support are for them. For the fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and children of our family of faith, like Charity.

Charity, a single mother and Christian sister in Christ from Guyaku, Northern Nigeria, can testify of this as she continues to stand strong amid deadly persecution in sub-Saharan Africa.

One terrifying evening, Boko Haram attacked her village and set most of the buildings on fire, forcing Charity to flee into the mountains with her three children as militants killed Christians and torched

homes back in her village. During the panic and confusion, two of Charity's children disappeared.

One can only imagine the anxiety and heartache of a mother not knowing where her children are.

"I couldn't even eat food or drink water throughout the day because there was no taste, and I was thinking if I drink this water and eat this food and my children are dead, of what use is the food to me?" Charity shared.

Hope in the darkness

Back in her village, two weeks went by, and Charity had no news about her children, whether they were alive, captured or dead.

But hope rises in the darkest places! Charity's prayers were answered, and her two children were found. "It felt like a new dawn when my children were found. It has given me new hope for the future," she said.

Charity and some of the other people slowly began to rebuild their village. "God resurrected His church in our village and has given us new hope. Now we want to give back and help others impacted by persecution," she testified.

"Your (Open Doors partner) coming brought about new life because we didn't even believe that we would come back and start living in this town. It has given us hope of a life in the future."

A new beginning

Today, Charity is a trauma caregiver, offering support to others who have gone

through the pain of persecution.

"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, thank you for praying for me and supporting my ministry as a trauma caregiver. You have helped me and so many other believers in Nigeria through your support. Thank you for the impact you are making in my life."

Charity's story represents thousands of persecuted Christians across Nigeria who are left to pick up the pieces after violent religious attacks by extremists like Boko Haram. Thankfully, you helped turn around her community and helped them to find true restoration in Jesus.

Your support and prayers are making a difference in the lives of our persecuted family in Nigeria and across sub-Saharan Africa who are facing the most violent persecution for their faith. Thank you!



Thanks to your support – they can be salt and light!

Dear partners and friends



“Since we
are receiving
a kingdom
that cannot
be shaken,
let us be
thankful.”

HEBREWS 12:28

Looking back at 2022 and all we achieved together, I'm thankful for you standing with our ministry to support our persecuted family. With your support, as a global ministry, we could make a difference in the lives of millions of persecuted Christians in 2022, helping not only them to survive and stand strong in their faith but also future generations to grow in their faith.

In a year when persecution increased and intensified in violence, you stood resolutely alongside our brothers and sisters. Globally Open Doors partners reached more than 7 million believers with much-needed spiritual and practical support so they could continue to be salt and light in their communities.

Looking to the end of this year, we desire to invest in expanding the Kingdom of God in dangerous places. With your help, we believe we can accomplish this.

We are trusting God to enable us to help our persecuted family shine the light of Christ in these places by reaching our local goal for 2023, so we can grant more than R19 million this year to support them.

Please continue to stand with us in being Jesus's hands and feet for our family of faith as they risk their very lives for our faith. Together we can faithfully support and impact their lives for the Kingdom. Thank you!

Peace

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Leibach".

Lynette Leibach

Executive director, Open Doors Southern Africa

Thank you for expanding the kingdom of God in dangerous places

"In Christ we, though many,
form one body, and each member
belongs to all the others."

ROMANS 12:5



OpenDoors

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REG # 2004/023397/08

