



OpenDoors

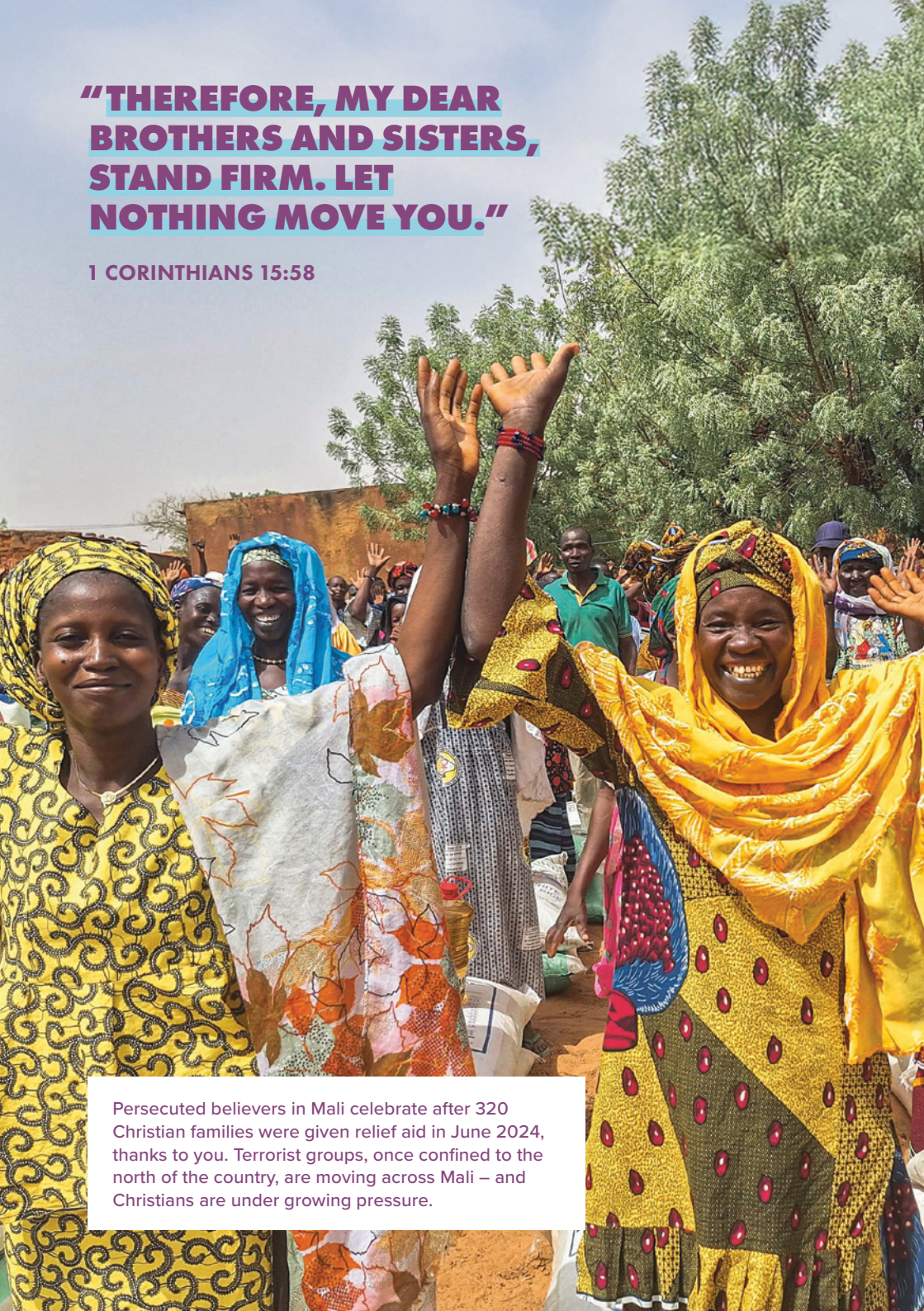
SUPPORTING COURAGEOUS FAITH



2024: A YEAR IN REVIEW

**"THEREFORE, MY DEAR
BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
STAND FIRM. LET
NOTHING MOVE YOU."**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58



Persecuted believers in Mali celebrate after 320 Christian families were given relief aid in June 2024, thanks to you. Terrorist groups, once confined to the north of the country, are moving across Mali – and Christians are under growing pressure.



About Open Doors

“Strengthen what remains and is about to die.”

Those were the words given to a young Dutch missionary 70 years ago – and they’ve shaped a global ministry to the persecuted Church ever since.

It was back in 1955 that Anne van der Bijl went to Communist Poland with a suitcase full of Gospel tracts. Behind the Iron Curtain, he found isolated Christians who thought the world had forgotten them, and churches desperately in need of Bibles.

He prayed, opened his Bible and this is what God said: *“Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die.”* (Revelation 3:2)

That man became known as Brother Andrew, that verse became his mission – and his trip changed the world.

Brother Andrew founded Open Doors and made countless journeys across Europe, smuggling Bibles in his blue VW Beetle. As the ministry grew, other needs emerged. As well as Bibles, persecuted Christians around the world needed leadership, education and practical support.

Now, in 2025, Open Doors is marking a milestone: seven decades of serving the persecuted Church – all thanks to the faithful support of people like you.

Today, we work in more than 70 countries to support Christians who dare to follow Jesus no matter the cost. With your gifts and prayers, millions of persecuted believers know they’re not alone.

Thank you for standing with them.

Rumana and Moryom remembered Jesus' birth with joy, thanks to your support.

The girls, who live in Bangladesh, face daily persecution. Death threats have even been directed at their families. But because of you, they keep following Jesus.

"It's because of Jesus' love that I have survived," says Rumana.



A letter from Lynette

You are such a blessing. In a world where Christian persecution is intensifying, you stand with our brothers and sisters to strengthen their courageous faith and show they are not alone.

Last year, your support reached more than 9,5 million persecuted believers in 70 countries with training, practical support, advocacy and Scripture material.

The words *thank you* don't seem enough...

- Every minute you prayed for your persecuted family made a difference.
- Every kind donation helped someone in desperate need.
- Every time you signed a petition, shared a story or talked to someone in your church about Open Doors, you ensured our suffering brothers and sisters were not forgotten.

And your faithful support is vital.

In 2024, we've seen more nations using sophisticated technology to control Christian activity. Nationalist ideologies, such as those in India, are putting Christians in real danger. Almost 5 000 believers were killed because of their faith around the world, while attacks on churches, Christian schools and hospitals increased sevenfold.

As persecution worsened, your support grew stronger. Because of you, Open Doors reached 19% more Christians than in 2023.

You've offered trauma healing, encouragement and fellowship where it's needed most. You've provided Biblical training, much of it online, to strengthen faith. And you've put millions of Bibles into people's hands, in the most dangerous places to follow Jesus.

In future, I expect religious persecution will increase, driven by political and economic turmoil, violent nationalist ideologies, increased use of surveillance technologies, and the drift towards dictatorships among governments.

But I know you will not forget your brothers and sisters risking everything to follow Jesus. Together, we will stand with Christians facing persecution and discrimination, so their faith remains resilient. **Thank you.**

Peace.



Lynette Leibach
Executive Director, Open Doors Southern Africa

**"IN CHRIST
WE, THOUGH
MANY, FORM
ONE BODY, AND
EACH MEMBER
BELONGS
TO ALL THE
OTHERS."**

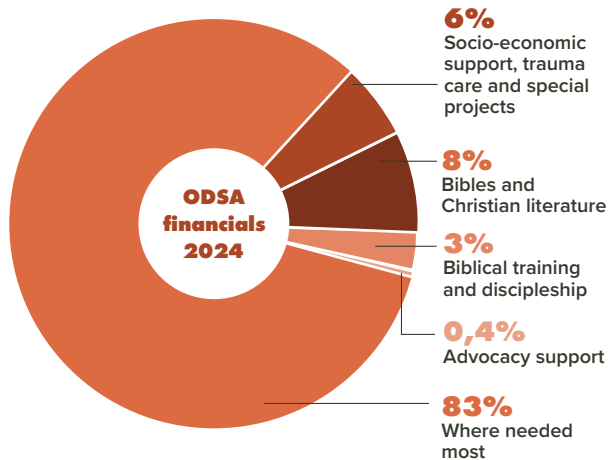
ROMANS 12:5

OD Southern African financials

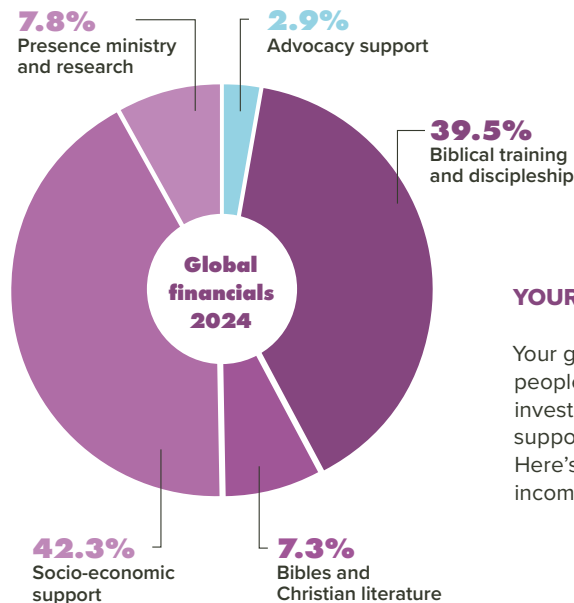
YOUR OPEN DOORS SOUTHERN AFRICA IMPACT

Here in Southern Africa, your generosity was overwhelming.

Thank you for your faithful and steadfast support for persecuted Christians. Here's how your gifts were used...



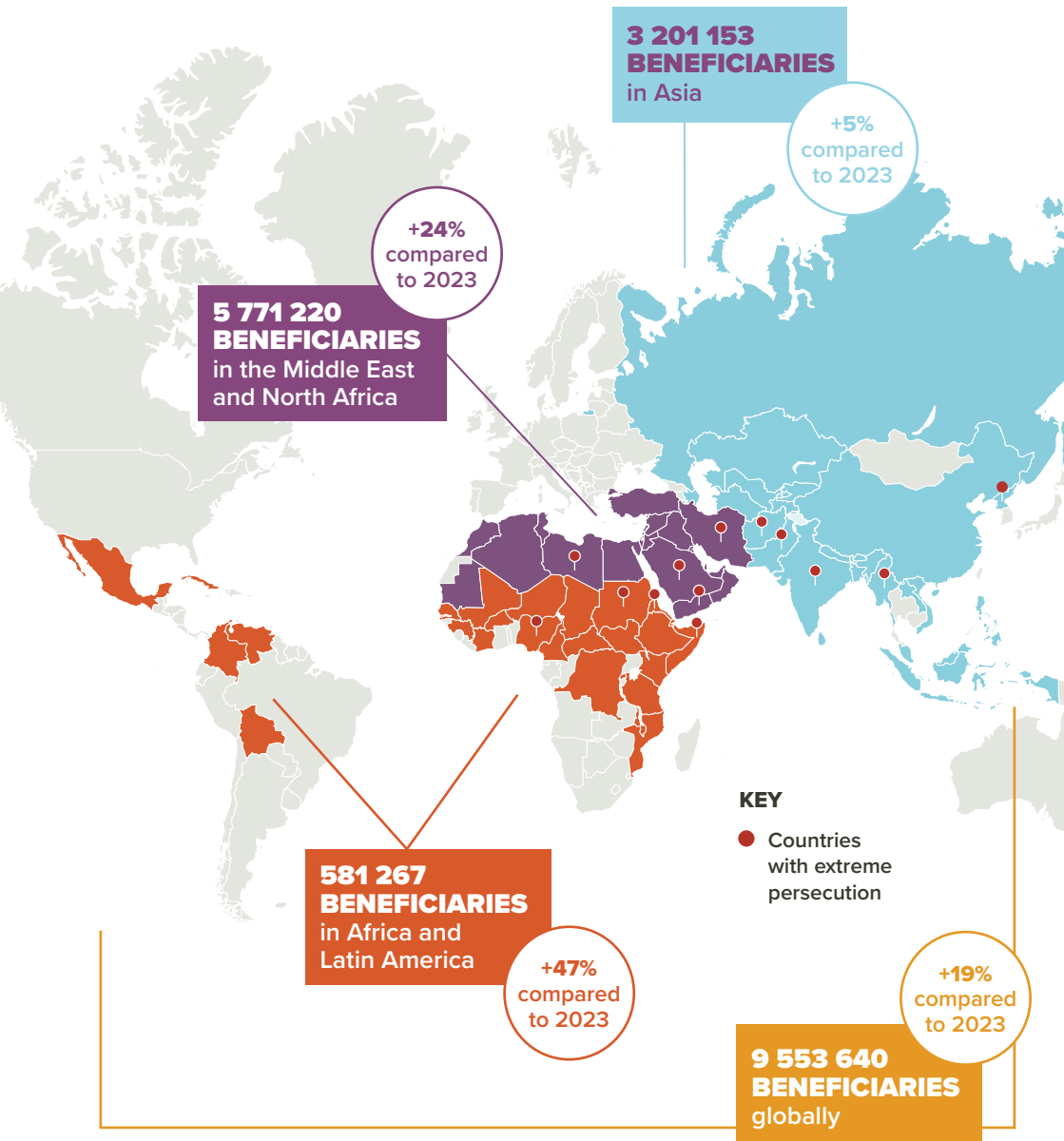
Global financials



YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

Your gifts, along with those of people around the world, were invested wisely and carefully to support the persecuted Church. Here's how Open Doors' global income was spent on ministry...

Open Doors supporters making a difference around the world



Your global impact

More than 380 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. That's one in seven Christians in the world. Your faithful support and prayers make a difference.

Thank you for standing with believers paying the highest cost for following Jesus.



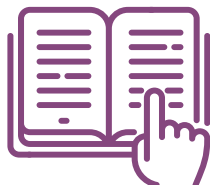
**9.5M+
PEOPLE**

were supported around the world, a 19% increase compared to 2023



**1 IN 3
BELIEVERS**

were supported to be salt and light in their communities



**57%
GROWTH**

in Biblical training, due to an increase in online training



**ALMOST
DOUBLE**

the number of women were supported in 2024 compared to 2023



**2.5M
BIBLES**

and Christian literature were provided, an increase of 36%



**1,6M+ YOUNG
PEOPLE**

were supported in 2024, 42% more than the previous year



5 766 757

people received
Biblical training
and discipleship

GLOBAL IMPACT IN 2024



535 680

people were helped
with socio-economic
support



542 813

people received
advocacy support



176 405

people were supported
through presence
ministry and research



2 531 985

people received
Bibles and
Christian literature

YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

in Africa and Latin America

Africa: home to the largest number of Christians in the world – and the most violent persecution on the planet.

A **total of 95% of believers killed for their faith** in 2024 were killed in sub-Saharan Africa. The region was home to 75% of the world's destroyed, damaged, looted or closed churches.

Meanwhile, in Latin America, violent persecution has increased, and instability in places like Mexico and Venezuela means the future looks uncertain.

**YOUR SUPPORT
REACHED
BELIEVERS
UNDER EXTREME
PRESSURE.**

THROUGH THE GIVING OF OPEN DOORS PARTNERS GLOBALLY...



15 000

believers supported in Sudan, thanks to new “safe zones” for aid distribution



\$11M+

spent on socio-economic development work in this region in 2024



330 000

persecuted Christians were helped in Nigeria, 2,5 times more than 2023



265%

increase in involvement with youth in Africa & Latin America

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2024

Your generous support for the Arise Africa campaign meant almost 50% more persecuted Christians in Africa received help in 2024 than in 2023.

Nigerians account for more than half of all beneficiaries, reflecting the size of the persecuted Church in this nation. Christians who are uprooted and displaced in their own country have been supported with emergency aid and trauma care. Many say without this support, they would be begging – or women would have to sell their bodies – to survive.

In Sudan, amid insecurity and ongoing civil war, we found new ways to reach the persecuted Church, and our work there increased significantly. Thanks to you, more people have also been helped in Burkina Faso, Chad and Tanzania.

In Latin America, the focus was on supporting Christians in Bolivia, Mexico and Nicaragua.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

PASTOR SORÉ'S STORY

Pastor Soré had no choice but to flee his village in Burkina Faso when extremists attacked. Thanks to you, this faithful pastor and his small community of believers are now thriving.

“We bought land with your support, and have taken the decision to settle here,” said Pastor Soré. “We are grateful to the Lord. Our plan now is to acquire more space and build a house.

“Four new converts have been added to our family, and I would like a field for agriculture. All this I put to the Lord who has always provided. I pray God would help me open a church in the neighbourhood.”



YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT in Asia

In North Korea, **believers face torture and death**. In China, Christians are monitored with surveillance technology. In Laos, at least eight house churches have been forced to close.

But it's Myanmar which stands out in 2024. When a country is in political and economic turmoil, **Christians suffer deeply**. Since the outbreak of civil war, persecution of Christians has become persistent and more extreme.

**YOU STOOD
WITH CHRISTIANS
TIGHTLY SQUEEZED
BY PERSECUTION.**



THROUGH OUR SUPPORTERS AROUND THE WORLD...



MORE THAN 40%

of Open Doors' global funding is spent in Asia (\$30m+)



90% MORE

persecuted Christians were helped in the Gulf in 2024



\$10M

was spent on Biblical training and discipleship in Asia

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2024

Your support boosted the provision of Bibles, Christian literature and online training in Asia.

In hard-to-reach places like Afghanistan, digital ministry is growing. In 2024, there were more downloads of digital Scripture and almost twice as many phone calls with people interested in Jesus.

Security issues remain a challenge. But twice as many Christians were supported in China, compared to 2023, and we continue to reach North Korean believers in China. Even amid armed conflict in Myanmar, we helped Christians stand strong.

We saw churches in Laos run social action projects in their communities, repairing village buildings and repaving roads. Women in Vietnam shared the Gospel in parks and markets. And in the Philippines, an isolated group of indigenous believers heard about Open Doors and approached us for help to deal with persecution.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

LAXMAN'S STORY

Laxman* was leading a prayer service in India when police burst in and beat him. He was jailed, tortured and mocked. Hindu extremists destroyed the church, and the believers scattered.

But Laxman has your support – and he will not be held back.

With his church under surveillance, Laxman has started meeting believers in secret. Amazingly, he now runs six small house churches, each with up to 70 members.

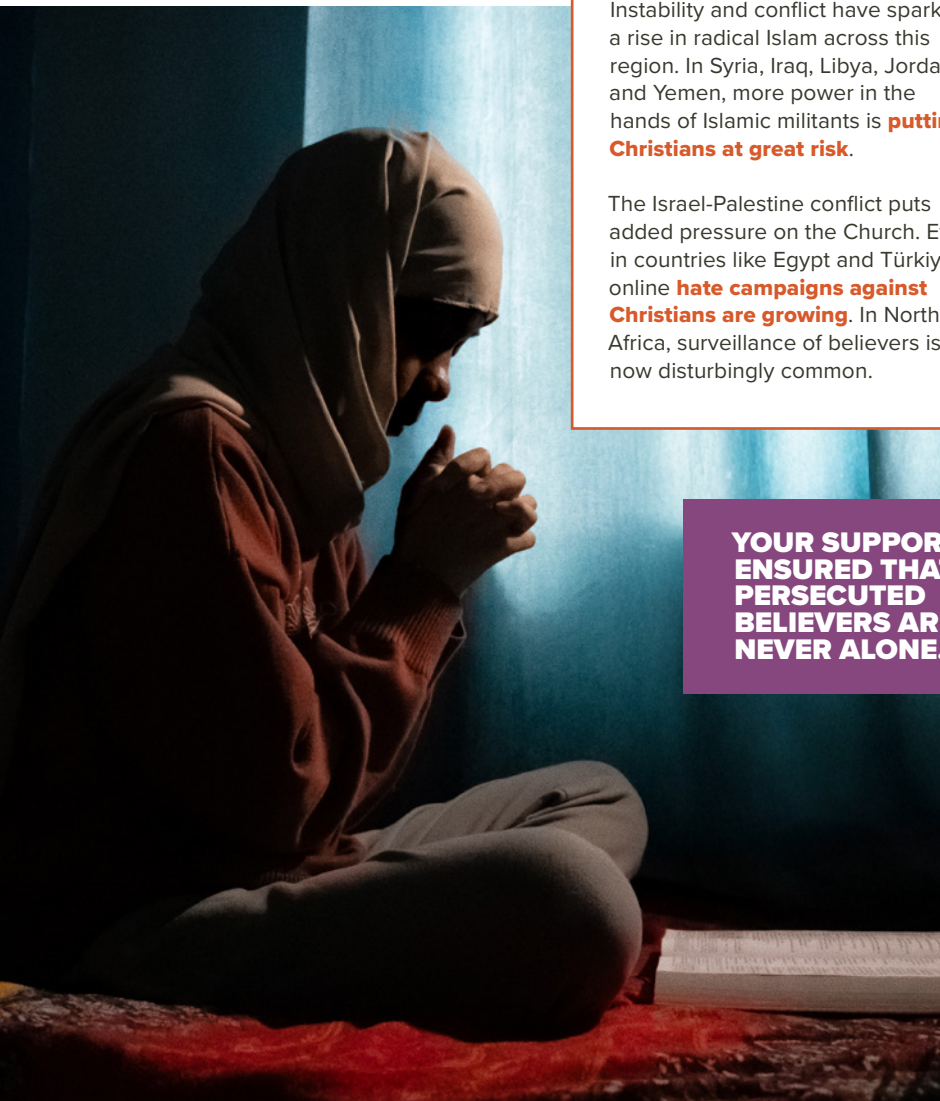
"I am strengthened to serve God in every possible way, and I will continue to praise the Lord in all circumstances, wherever I am," says Laxman today. "What can stop me from fulfilling the purposes of God?"

**Name changed to protect his identity.*



YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

in the Middle East and North Africa



Instability and conflict have sparked a rise in radical Islam across this region. In Syria, Iraq, Libya, Jordan and Yemen, more power in the hands of Islamic militants is **putting Christians at great risk**.

The Israel-Palestine conflict puts added pressure on the Church. Even in countries like Egypt and Türkiye, online **hate campaigns against Christians are growing**. In North Africa, surveillance of believers is now disturbingly common.

**YOUR SUPPORT
ENSURED THAT
PERSECUTED
BELIEVERS ARE
NEVER ALONE.**

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE OPEN DOORS GLOBAL FAMILY ...



24%

more persecuted Christians supported in the Middle East and North Africa



1/3

of Open Doors' global budget was directed to Christians in this region



44%

of global expenditure on Biblical training and discipleship is in this region

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2024

Your support enabled a 50% increase in Biblical training and discipleship in the Middle East and North Africa in 2024. More support was provided in Egypt, which is home to the largest number of Middle Eastern Christians, and the Arabian Peninsula through Open Doors' online presence.

We connected with more local churches to help them become Centres of Hope. Often, these churches are small, with up to 15 members. Your support provided livelihood support, scholarships and practical training, so Christians can positively engage in their workplaces and neighbourhoods.

You helped provide visits, phone calls, online prayers, legal support and counselling to persecuted believers across the region. We've also invested in supporting children and their parents who face discrimination in the classroom so they can report it to the authorities for further action.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

SIMIN'S STORY

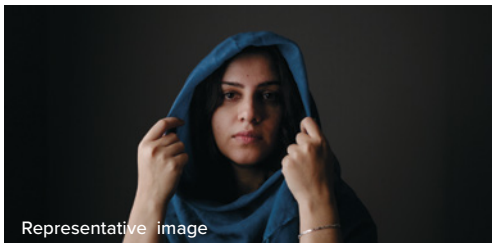
Simin* was mocked and shamed for following Jesus. Rejected by the people she loved. Made to feel worthless because of her faith.

But today, thanks to your support, this Iranian woman is a powerful witness for Christ.

"My heart dances with joy when I hear that brothers and sisters around the world are praying for me," says Simin, who now lives outside Iran and has an online ministry with other Iranian women.

"Your prayers give me new power to stay faithful in my path and move forward. I'm blessed and thankful to see God working in the midst of persecution, challenges and difficulties."

**Name changed to protect her identity.*



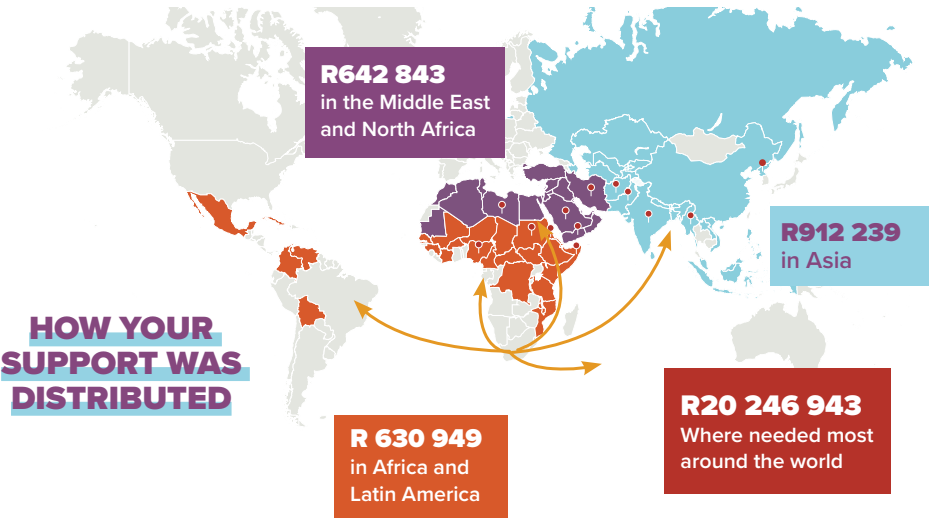
Representative image

Your impact for the persecuted Church

In 2024, **R22,4 million** was granted through your support to our persecuted family across the world. It is so beautiful to see God's people across **Southern Africa** coming together coming together as one Body in Christ.

"Do not forget to do good and to share; for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." – Hebrews 13:16

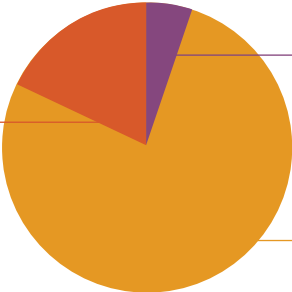
Thank you for generously sharing your time, treasures and talents to help our brothers and sisters in Christ know that they're not alone. Your gifts of love and obedience strengthen them to keep sharing the hope of Jesus amid intense opposition.



WHERE OUR SUPPORT CAME FROM

OTHER – 18%

Once-off donations, bequests, money raised by our Biblegivers, and product sales



MAJOR DONORS – 5%

Donations given by groups or individuals above R50 000 annually

REGULAR GIVERS – 77%

Debit orders and donors giving ten or more times in a year

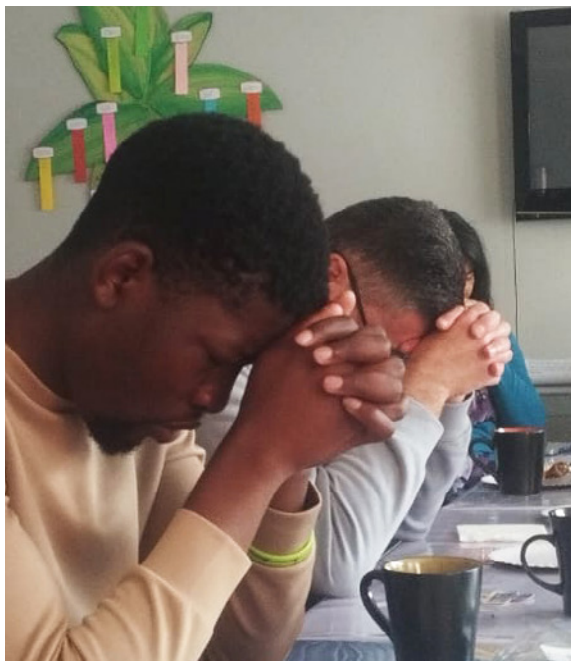
SHARING THE MESSAGE OF FAITH UNDER FIRE

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Part of our mission at Open Doors is to mobilise people to pray and give and build a bridge between our churches and our persecuted brothers and sisters.

Your support in 2024 helped us reach and encourage more people in Southern Africa to pray and take action for those who share our faith, but not our freedom. This included our online community that rallied together in support of our persecuted family.

"IT'S SUCH A PRIVILEGE TO PRAY AND SUPPORT OPEN DOORS AND THE PERSECUTED CHURCH." – NORA



61 533

partners form part of our Southern African base



725

presentations shared the message of the persecuted Church (Reaching over **48 306 people**)



7 618

partners gave a gift every month in 2024



33 997

people joined our **social media community**. (Facebook reach grew by 35% and Instagram content interaction increased by 100%)

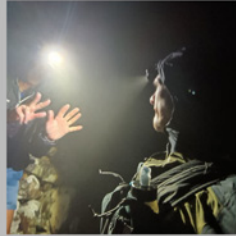


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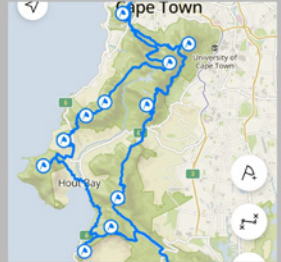
active volunteers (including 2 in Zambia) helped to spread the message, host events and mobilise prayer across Southern Africa

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR JESUS

4THEM ATHLETES



574 athletes competed in support of their persecuted family, raising a total of **R469 650**.



Adriaan van der Westhuizen cycled from Johannesburg to Jeffrey's Bay (a distance of 1 200km over 13 days), raising **R137 000** for Christians facing intense opposition.



RUNNING OUR RACE

WITH A GREATER GOAL IN MIND

Zantelle (a fitness studio owner) and her team completed 109 km on spin bikes 4THEM!

"Every time I do a challenge, I know that my race has been marked out before me. All I have to do is just complete it with passion and determination.

*"Our persecuted brothers and sisters do not necessarily know when their race will end. But we can help and support them so that they too can complete it with passion and determination, **because we are one in Christ.**"*

"And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us..."

– Hebrews 12:1

LEAVING AN ETERNAL LEGACY

IMPACT BEYOND A LIFETIME

The following partners left a final gift in their estate for the persecuted Church to the total of **R390 286**.

WE HONOUR:

AA Leach, JH de Villiers, JP Jordaan, FJ du Plessis, M Furno, SM Gainsford

We're grateful for the legacy they've left for our persecuted family.



WHEN WE GO, WE FIND EACH OTHER...

PRESENCE MINISTRY

One of our core values is that we are **“a people-to-people people.”** Being present and connected to people is crucial to our ministry, as it helps our persecuted family know that they’re not alone.



32 partners travelled with us to encourage our family in South-East Asia, Central Asia, East Africa and the Middle East.

NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD

A TRAVELLER’S TESTIMONY

“On an Open Doors trip to South-East Asia, I met Sarah*, a petite and broken widow. Her husband, an active evangelist and pastor in the community, was imprisoned under harsh conditions, leaving Sarah to look after their children with no resources or income.

“Yet their faith remained strong.

Sadly, while in prison, her husband was hospitalised from a severe beating and died (they claimed he committed suicide). Amid all this, her daughter’s chronic disease got worse when she heard of her father’s death.

“As she shared this story, something we all noticed was the **light that shone on her face**. It was supernatural – words cannot explain – and the smile on her face was comforting. She went on to share how she would never leave the Lord Jesus, because He has been faithful to her.

“I still see her face, smile and pain, but **I’m encouraged that the Lord Jesus lives and because of that we can face tomorrow**. Being there with our brothers and sisters has changed my life and awakened me to the reality that there really is a Church that’s suffering extreme hardships, and they need our prayers every day that they may continue to stand strong through this storm.”

– Tsakani, who travelled with Open Doors in 2024

**Name changed for security reasons.*



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

ARISE AFRICA

Arise Africa is a multi-year campaign committed to standing in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in sub-Saharan Africa who face violent persecution. In 2024, the campaign made a powerful global impact – reaching millions, calling believers to prayer and urging the international community to act. The focus remained on supporting Christians displaced by conflict and violence.

While the crisis in the region continues, we're deeply moved by the global Church's outpouring of compassion, prayer and generosity. As Pastor Barnabas, a displaced believer, powerfully shared:

"They cared for us. They took us along as brothers and sisters."

Thank you for standing with us and for making the suffering of our family in Africa a priority in the heart of the global Church.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2024

GLOBAL IMPACT:

- **AWARENESS RAISED:**
Over **10 million** people engaged through social media and public events, with more than **2 million** actively joining in prayer.
- **MEDIA COVERAGE:**
The campaign and the plight of persecuted Christians were featured in over **100 media pieces** – articles, broadcasts and features – bringing global attention to their struggle.
- **SUPPORT MOBILISED:**
Over **\$5 million** was raised to support affected communities through local partners. This included vital relief aid, trauma counselling, educational scholarships, leadership training, prayer networks and more.
- **DIRECT SUPPORT PROVIDED:**
In 2024 alone, **545 098 Christians** in sub-Saharan Africa received direct support – helping more than **890 000 individuals** in year two of the campaign.

ARISE AFRICA PETITION

Add your name to our petition to help turn momentum into action:

www.opendoors.org.za/petition

**YOUR SIGNATURE TELLS
AFRICAN BELIEVERS: WE
SEE YOU. WE HEAR YOU.
WE STAND WITH YOU.**

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

KHADA'S STORY

It has never been more dangerous to follow Jesus in Afghanistan. But thanks to you, Khada is holding onto faith.*

Khada paid the highest price for faith in Jesus.

She'd given her life to Jesus alongside her beloved husband Ehsan*, and the couple were baptised together. But one day, Ehsan was tortured and killed.

When our partners met Khada, she was broken and vulnerable. As a widow, she had no agency to find work. As a secret believer, she was in extreme danger.

But your support in 2024 has strengthened this courageous woman. Because of you, Khada continues to walk with Jesus – and she is bringing hope in a dark place.



Representative image

"Under the Taliban, there is no forgiveness, and these harsh conditions have profound effects on people. Many have lost their joy," says Khada, in an update to Open Doors partners.

**"THANK YOU FOR
INSPIRING US TO
REMAIN SERVANTS
OF CHRIST." – KHADA**

"Yet those who have found faith in Christ hold onto hope. We believe one day things will change, and God will deliver us from this oppression.

"I shared the Gospel with my family, and they chose to follow Jesus... They embraced Christ and are experiencing true happiness. They feel a sense of freedom and love from God that they never felt before.

"Spiritually, we're very strong... The Taliban government enforces severe punishments on Christian gatherings, including death or stoning. So we remain cautious and have ways of avoiding attention. It is wise for us to meet discreetly."

Khada added: "We're so grateful for your encouragement and support in helping us. Thank you for always thinking of us and inspiring us to remain servants of Christ. May the grace and blessing of Jesus Christ be upon you."

**Names changed to protect her identity.*

**"IF ONE PART
SUFFERS, EVERY
PART SUFFERS
WITH IT... YOU
ARE THE BODY OF
CHRIST, AND EACH
ONE OF YOU IS
A PART OF IT."**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:26-27



A letter from the board



Dear Friends

What a privilege it is to be able to reach out to you and say thank you! Thank you for your faithfulness to our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted for their faith. I truly believe that the prayers and gifts that you have sown will reap a great harvest for His kingdom.

We give thanks today to our Lord for using you in a mighty way for His Kingdom.

Your giving, along with that of supporters around the world, has contributed to helping over **9,5 million believers** globally, with over **R22,4 million granted by Open Doors Southern Africa** to assist our persecuted brothers and sisters across multiple geographies. We thank God for enabling these gifts to be used for, among other things, Bible distribution, training, trauma counselling, socio-economic development and advocacy.

We have seen a 57% growth in Biblical training, a 36% increase in Bibles and Christian literature distribution, and an increase in the number of believers being supported. Praise the Lord!

Through your giving and prayers, God has made this possible.

Your faithfulness will be greatly rewarded as you store up these treasures in heaven.

We thank you for your continued support and pray every good blessing over your life and the lives of your families. May you be richly rewarded for your kindness and your faithfulness.

Yours in Christ

Kerusha George

Kerusha, Chair of the Board
Open Doors Southern Africa

THANK YOU FOR FAITHFULLY SUPPORTING YOUR PERSECUTED FAMILY.

**"Strengthen what
remains and is
about to die."**

REVELATION 3:2



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