

Sowing seeds of hope in Mexico

How your prayers and support are helping disciple women amid persecution



The first attack Beatriz* felt wasn't physical – it was spiritual.

One day, as she prayed, she heard something terrifying. “I heard an audible voice – it was Satan,” Beatriz says. “He said, ‘Leave this place’. I had never experienced anything like it. I think God allowed me to hear him so I’d understand this was a spiritual war.”

Weeks later, her husband Marcos* faced the same attack.

“One night, there was a shootout,” Beatriz says. “We were in a supermarket and had to hide with our children. As we lay on the floor, my husband heard the same voice: ‘Now will you leave?’ Seconds later, our daughter – just a child – repeated those exact words. That’s when we knew the enemy wouldn’t back down, but neither would we.”

They began to pray and resist, convinced that where there is opposition, there is purpose.

But soon, the persecution turned physical, too. In this part of Mexico, that’s all too common for those who live as salt and light for Jesus.

A neighbour, suspicious of Beatriz and Marcos’ faith, poisoned their pets. Their two-year-old daughter accidentally came in contact with the poison and nearly died.

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“I don’t know where the strength came from – it had to be the Holy Spirit – but I looked at [my husband] and said, ‘Even if our baby dies, we will stay, because God called us here,’” Beatriz says. Hours later, their daughter was out of danger.

“It was a test of faith – but God was faithful,” Beatriz says.

Glimpses of hope

Even still, rejection followed them everywhere. They lost friends, jobs, and ministry opportunities. They were even kicked out of a nursing home for simply sharing a Bible story as part of their work ministering to senior citizens.

“The enemy was furious we were here, but we chose to obey God, no matter the cost,” Beatriz says.

And yet, there were glimpses of hope.

Amid growing hostility, Beatriz found a new purpose within her and Marcos’ ministry calling. She began to see that her story, and her pain, could open doors to reach other women silently suffering in her community.

“God showed me that my own wounds could bring healing to others,” she says.

In 2024, Open Doors began partnering with Beatriz and Marcos, providing them training and encouragement to help them live out their callings. Open Doors also helped with financial support to cover rent and improve the space where Beatriz meets with the women she disciples. “We thank those who support us and ask that you keep doing so,” Beatriz and Marcos say. “We need more of God’s workers in this



area, where there is a great need to preach Christ.”

Thank you for your support, which helps Beatriz’s ministry to restore and equip believers to live for Jesus in Mexico!

Through your gifts and prayers, Open Doors partners with believers like Beatriz to bring hope and healing to believers around the world.

To find out how you can help, visit www.opendoors.org.za/see-her/

Your support at work

A snapshot of how your gifts and prayers are helping persecuted Christians around the world

MESSAGES FROM NORTH KOREA



Open Doors recently received messages from underground Christians in North Korea (once again ranked No. 1 on our recently released 2026 World Watch List). They paint a bleak picture of reality for most North Koreans versus the propaganda the country's government readily doles out. And they help us pray informed prayers.

"The [government's] constant emphasis on self-reliance as the only way to survive makes North Koreans feel utterly hopeless about their future," shared one believer.

But as with most of the messages that Open Doors receives from North Korean underground believers, words of Scripture, gratitude and praise reveal a church with a deep faith and resolve to cling to the Gospel.

"With an unchanging and steadfast faith in the Lord, we have come to deeply realise that we must never abandon our faith in Christ," one believer said. "Not even if it costs us our lives. We have to stand firm for the truth of God's Word."

These new messages also express gratitude. God is using your prayers and support to bring much-needed strength to North Korean believers. "We still exist thanks to your prayers and support," said another North Korean Christian.

You may never meet the writers of these messages from the underground Church, and they may never know your name. But our North Korean brothers and sisters persevere because they know that the worldwide Body of Christ – Christians like you – are standing with them.

**Representative photo of an actor used to protect identity.*

AN UPDATE FROM ETHIOPIA



Jemal* is a husband, father, grandfather and business owner. But most importantly, he is a Christian. When we first met Jemal, he was still trying to pick up the pieces of his life after angry Muslim mobs attacked Christians in his Ethiopian town in 2023.

Through local partners, and thanks to your gifts and prayers, Open Doors was able to come alongside Jemal with trauma care and financial support, which he used to buy equipment for his business.

Recently, an Open Doors local partner spoke with Jemal to see how he and his family are doing. Our partner shares the following update:

I spoke to Jemal this morning, and he was very happy to hear that we wanted to check up on him. I told him that people everywhere are praying for him, and he is truly grateful. He also asked me to pass along his warm greetings to everyone who visited him; he deeply appreciates your kindness and care.

He shared that both he and his entire family are doing very well, praise God! His business is still open and running. Although he continues to sell his products here and there, it is not yet at the level or capacity he hopes for.

Jemal asked that we continue to pray for his town and the people in it. He specifically asked that we pray for his community to come to Christ and walk in the light.

Thank you for keeping Jemal and his family in prayer. Your gifts mean that Open Doors is able to come alongside people like Jemal and his family when they are pushed to the ground and near destitution. Thank you!

ENCOURAGING UPDATE

Lu Mei* (in her 40s) became a Christian in her teens and received theological training. When she came of age, she got married and moved to Northwest China, where the dominant faith is Islam and Christianity seems to be even more tightly controlled and suppressed. Yet, this is where Lu Mei chooses to serve the Lord.

Ten years ago, Lu Mei was arrested, interrogated and detained for 28 days for holding a church gathering. In the two years following her release, even though she was a full-time housewife, police regularly visited her home without warning to interrogate her and intimidate and discourage her and others from practising their faith.

Lu Mei was also blacklisted, which heavily restricted her ability to do basic things like book travel, obtain employment, or conduct financial transactions. There were even a few times when she was scrutinised by policemen, struggling to explain a situation she didn't fully understand as crowds looked on.

"It's strange," she says quietly, "how you can still be here, breathing, and yet feel like you've already been erased."

She endured all this because she worships Jesus.

Thankfully, her name was eventually removed from the blacklist and her identity restored. Though persecution

remains a present reality, Lu Mei stays in Northwest China to serve the Lord.

She recently attended persecution preparedness training offered by Open Doors partners elsewhere in China, made possible by your gifts and prayers (pictured below). She left with joy and quiet hope, reminded that she is accepted, understood, healed, renewed and inspired by God and His people around the world.

"I don't know what the path of tomorrow [will look like]," she says. "I live each day for the Lord. There are many things about the future that I cannot understand now, but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know whose hand is holding mine."



Support Christian women!

In many places around the world, Christian women face double persecution – both because they are women and because they follow Jesus. **But as Beatriz and Lu Mei show in this newsletter, so many sisters are bravely standing for Jesus, no matter the risk!**

If you'd like to support believers like them, visit www.opendoors.org.za/see-her to learn more. Your gifts and your prayers make such a big difference for those who face persecution and oppression for their faith in Christ!



**Throughout this newsletter, representative names used for security reasons.*