



Open *Doors*

PRESENT. ALWAYS.

2025: A year in review



388+ MILLION CHRISTIANS ARE PERSECUTED FOR THEIR FAITH

**"If one part suffers,
every part suffers
with it."**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:26



Michael is one of the few remaining Christians in Iraq. Two of his family members have been killed. His parents have left.

But your support means Michael is not alone. You stand with his family and his church through your gifts and prayers.

"My faith in Jesus Christ is big," says Michael. "I believe God called me to serve, and serving gives me strength. The Lord never forgets anyone."

ABOUT OPEN DOORS

“Strengthen what remains and is about to die.”

These were the words given to a young Dutch missionary more than 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 discipleship, education and practical support.

Today, one in seven believers worldwide is persecuted for their faith. Thanks to the faithful support of people like you, they are not alone.

Open Doors works in almost 70 countries to strengthen the persecuted Church with Bibles, emergency relief and training. Your gifts and prayers support millions of believers risking everything to follow Jesus.

Even as persecution intensifies, the world becomes more unstable, and it becomes harder than ever to serve our suffering brothers and sisters. We stand with those who share our faith but not our freedom.

Thank you.



One day. That's all it took for Islamic militants to destroy Jemal's home and everything he had worked for ...

"They turned it all to ash," says Jemal. "I gave up."

Your support provided Jemal with the help he desperately needed. Now he and his family are rebuilding their lives.

"I still have hope," says Jemal. "Our God can do everything."



A LETTER FROM LYNETTE

Thank you for your extraordinary support in 2025. Thank you for serving, giving, caring and praying. Thank you for always being present with Christians suffering for their faith.

You helped to provide our persecuted brothers and sisters with more than six million acts of support in 2025.

I'm deeply grateful to you – but, more importantly, so are your Christian family . . .

From the grieving widow in Nigeria who received trauma counselling – thank you.

From the underground Church that received Bibles and training – thank you.

From the displaced Christians who received emergency aid – thank you.

Every act of support you provided – from Bibles to discipleship training, crisis relief to advocacy support – made a difference. With your help, believers risking everything for Jesus were never alone.

2025 has also been a year of foundation building for Open Doors, as we renewed our commitment to the most persecuted believers.

We have been reassessing our programmes and rebuilding our infrastructure to ensure Open Doors remains finely tuned to support Christians who suffer most for their faith. In this transition phase, as we adjust and redesign, many programmes are still in the early stages.

This means that during 2025, we've spent more time listening deeply to the persecuted Church, understanding their needs and building relationships to deliver the right acts of support for each persecuted believer.

But even amid transition, one thing has not changed: Your support is as powerful as ever.

You are standing with your persecuted brothers and sisters just as firmly as before. You continue to strengthen Christians who risk everything to follow Jesus. And your love and care still mean everything to the persecuted Church. Once again, thank you.



Grace and peace

Lynette Leibach
Executive Director, Open Doors Africa

OPEN DOORS' GLOBAL SUPPORT

YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

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

6%

Advocacy support

7%

Socio-economic support

6%

Presence ministry and research

20%

Bibles and Christian literature

61%

Biblical training

**GLOBAL
SUPPORT
2025**



YOUR HELP REACHING AROUND THE WORLD

KEY

- Countries with extreme persecution

**4 109 586 ACTS
OF SUPPORT**

in the Middle East
and North Africa

**1 667 164 ACTS
OF SUPPORT**

in Asia

**386 019 ACTS
OF SUPPORT**

in Africa and Latin America

**6 162 769 ACTS
OF SUPPORT**

globally

**These are all the activities that took place to support persecuted Christians.*

OPEN DOORS' GLOBAL IMPACT



PRESENCE SUPPORT

doubled, compared to 2024



ALMOST 2/3

of acts of support strengthened believers to be salt and light



Biblical training accounted for **61%** of acts of support in 2025



\$8 OUT OF EVERY \$10

was spent on socio-economic relief projects and Biblical training



\$73.5M

spent on supporting the persecuted Church in 2025



1,2M

Bibles and Christian literature were distributed



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

ALICIA'S STORY

"What scared me most was that they would kill us. Burn us alive, one by one."

No one should face this fear. Especially not a child. Yet these words were spoken by 12-year-old Alicia from Oaxaca, Mexico, as she remembered the terrifying persecution directed at her family.

When Alicia's father refused to take part in local indigenous worship practices, it sparked fury among the villagers. They cut off the family's electricity and water, seized their land and banned the children from going to school.

But when everything seemed hopeless, *you* stepped in with generous acts of support.

Open Doors' local partners visited Alicia's community. Your gifts helped Alicia's family start a small sheep-farming project, giving them a livelihood, dignity and purpose. You also provided persecution training to twelve families, strengthening their faith.

"God sent His children to comfort us and give us strength," says Alicia. "They gave us words of encouragement. This was what we needed."

Alicia started a diary, writing down the names of people who hurt her family so she could pray for them.

Then one day, incredibly, the village leaders agreed to talk. The family's electricity and water were reconnected. Their rights were restored. Now Alicia's family remains in the village, living as salt and light.

"We saw your support as an answer from God," says Alicia. "God is telling me: 'Don't be afraid, I'm here.'"



Your support strengthened Alicia's faith and sustained her family.

OPEN DOORS' GLOBAL IMPACT IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

Killings. Mass displacement. Extreme violence ... The persecution of Christians in Africa is severe.

The world's most violent persecution takes place in sub-Saharan Africa, where 14 countries are on the World Watch List. It's driven by Islamic extremism and, increasingly, adherents to African traditional religions.

Meanwhile, in Latin America, persecution is driven by drug cartels and organised crime. In these volatile, dangerous regions, your support was vital.



386 019

acts of support were
provided to persecuted
Christians



27%

of global funding
supported Christians
in this region



ALMOST 1/3

of socio-economic
funds were spent in
this region

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2025

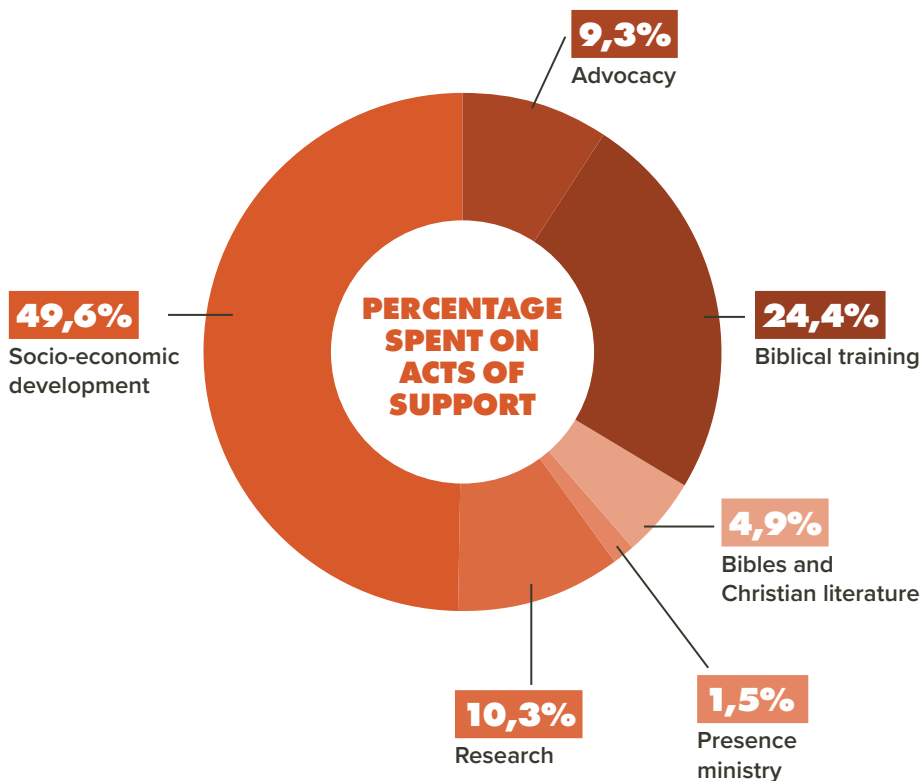
Your generous support had a powerful impact in this region.

As part of the Arise Africa campaign, advocacy efforts strengthened church leaders to stand against violent persecution. We saw leaders confidently engage with authorities and institutions, replacing the culture of silence and fear with informed, collective advocacy rooted in faith.

You also provided trauma care, psychological support, safe havens, food and medical aid in Africa. Recovery takes time, but steadfast care and follow-up visits remind persecuted Christians that they are seen, accompanied and valued.

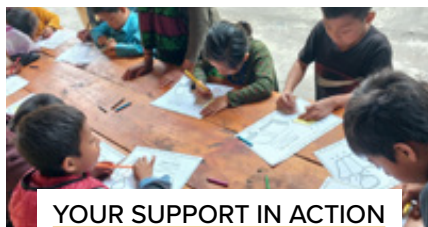
In African nations such as Somalia, Togo and Nigeria, greater Internet access led to an exponential increase in online forms of support, such as digital Biblical training, and a reduced need for the physical distribution of Bibles and Christian literature.

Meanwhile, in Latin America, our renewed focus on the most persecuted Christians saw more acts of support in Cuba, Mexico and Nicaragua, an end to ministry in Bolivia and a new way of supporting children in Colombia and Venezuela.



NIGERIA

A new approach to supporting displaced Christians was piloted in Nigeria in 2025. Instead of providing food and goods, we gave people cash vouchers to increase their sense of freedom, choice and dignity. New early-recovery interventions, such as vocational training, also helped people get back on their feet faster.



MEXICO

Displaced families were supported more effectively and given greater stability when we began providing time-bound rent support and food vouchers (rather than food) to uphold dignity and choice. As a result, the community was more empowered and less dependent, and school re-enrolment increased.

OPEN DOORS' GLOBAL IMPACT IN ASIA

Intense persecution has been the picture across Asia in 2025.

Restrictive laws, tight surveillance and social hostility impacted Christians, and converts were especially targeted for extreme violence.

Raids on church gatherings have driven believers further underground in places such as China and Laos, while mob violence continued unabated in India and Pakistan. For Christians tightly squeezed by persecution, your support has been a lifeline.



1 667 164

acts of support were
provided to persecuted
Christians



43%

of global funding
supported Christians
in this region



3/4 OF FUNDS

for Bibles and
Christian literature
were spent here

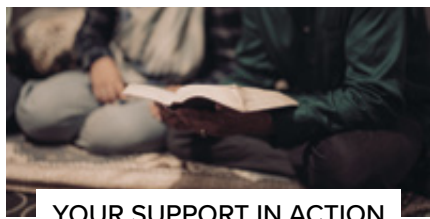
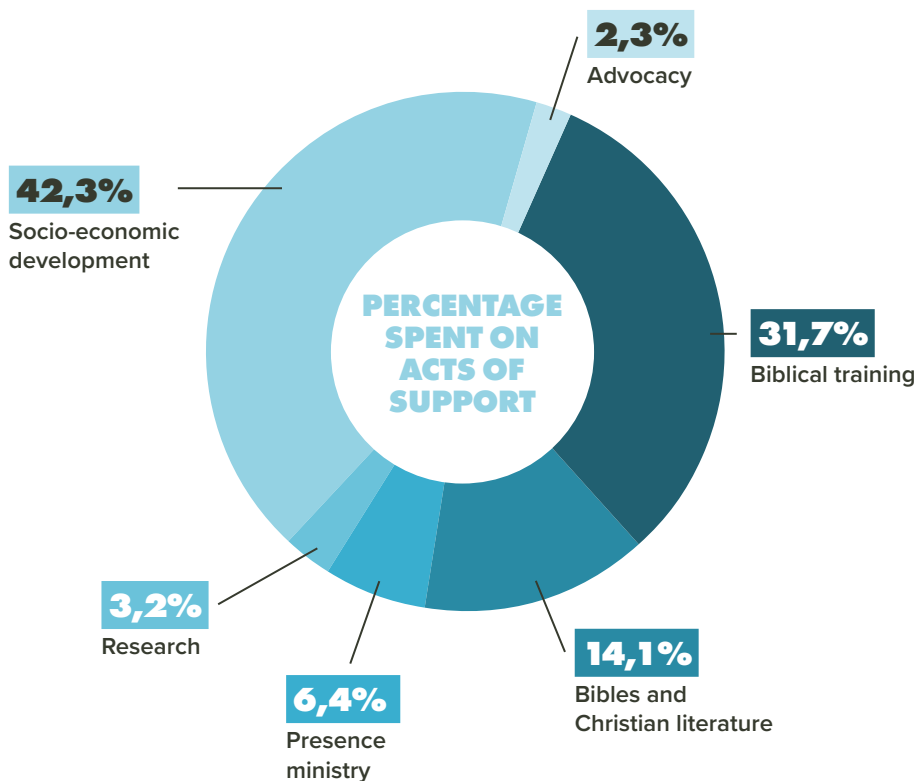
HOW YOU HELPED IN 2025

Your investment has established a solid foundation for work in Asia in the coming years.

For many countries in Southeast Asia, 2025 marked the beginning of a new phase of ministry. Your support took us into new areas, helping us listen to believers and connect with new churches. This requires time and effort to establish and consequently led to a reduction in activity in countries such as Pakistan, Brunei and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, spending increased in China, where the Church is being driven underground, and Christian refugees in China received digital Scripture. Countries such as India have seen a drastic reduction in the distribution of printed Bibles and Christian literature, as more people now have access to the Internet and digital resources.

In 2025, your generosity also equipped persecuted Christians with legal knowledge to protect their religious rights.



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

AFGHANISTAN

Church life remains entirely underground, but your support continued to reach Christian refugees from Afghanistan. With the oppressive regime driving people to seek hope, many engaged with our radio broadcasts and discipleship. Thanks to you, we answered more phone calls from seekers and provided more Bibles than expected.



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Thanks to your generosity, tribal believers in Southeast Asia are becoming salt and light in their communities. Many churches used their small budgets for things like fixing the local hall or teaching people to read, which has led to creative outreach opportunities, particularly around Christmas time.

OPEN DOORS' GLOBAL IMPACT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

War and instability are reshaping life across this region.

From Gaza and Lebanon to Iran, Syria and Yemen, Christians are exposed and vulnerable. Many believers have fled in search of safety. Those who remain, especially believers from Muslim backgrounds, face tight surveillance, arrest and growing hostility.

During the year, we saw a 47% increase in reported persecution in the Persian-speaking world. Your support ensured Christians there were not alone.



4 109 586

acts of support were
provided to persecuted
Christians



30%

of global funding
supported Christians
in this region



47%

of Biblical training
and discipleship funds
were spent here

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2025

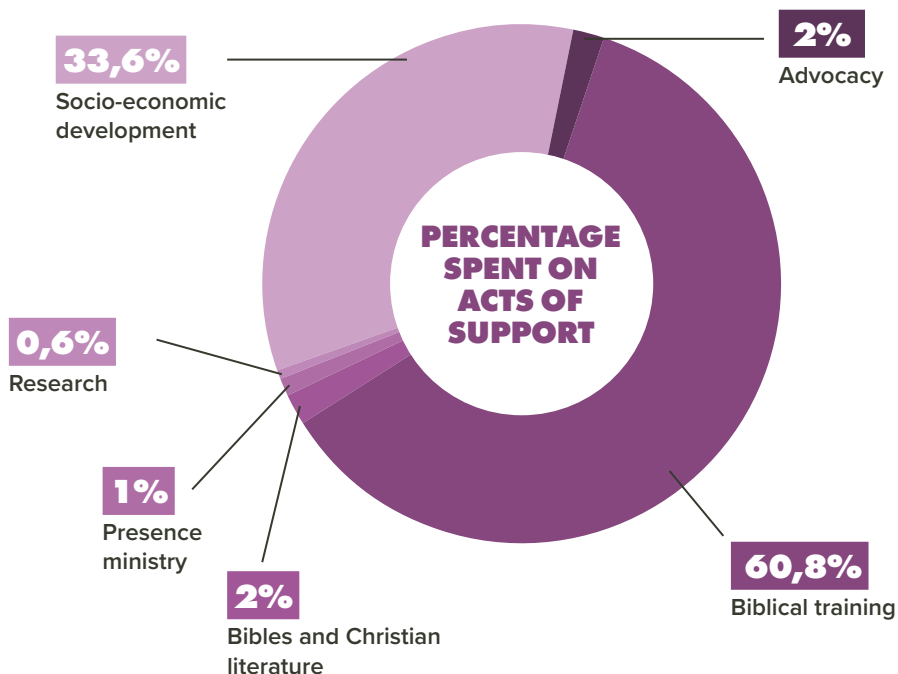
Your generous support strengthened the Church across this region.

Ministry in Egypt increased by 30%, and across the Middle East, the number of churches you supported grew from 6 050 to 6 678. Our vision is for churches to become Centres of Hope within their communities, and you made this happen in 2025. Many Muslim seekers came to us through the Internet, and we connected them with follow-up teams and local believers.

Meanwhile, your support helped run training for church leaders to encourage them to address injustice and serve their communities – for example, in Gaza.

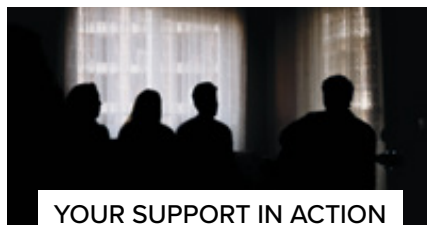
There was a deliberate shift in acts of support from large-scale online training to more local, high-impact interventions. One significant online ministry (a third of our Biblical training acts of support) was passed on to a partner, freeing up funding for future activities.

In nations such as Israel, Egypt, Yemen and Jordan, you provided at least 40% more acts of support to persecuted Christians.



SYRIA

Sudden regime change caused deep uncertainty for the Christian community, and your support provided trauma counselling, starting with women and children, and livelihood training. Through 248 microloan projects, we've seen meaningful and lasting change among Christian families as they rebuild their lives and regain dignity and stability.



PERSIAN-SPEAKING WORLD

With a totalitarian regime tightening its grip, your generosity helped run 15 leadership seminars in 2025. Through these, 347 people received training in Biblical leadership, discipleship and resilience amid persecution. Surveys suggested 90% of participants put their training into use within weeks.



**"Carry each other's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfil
the law of Christ."**

GALATIANS 6:2

After Rifkatu* was kidnapped and violently raped by Fulani militants, she lost all hope. But thanks to your compassion and care, this young Christian is beginning to heal.

**Name changed for her safety.*

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 2025, 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.

The Arise Africa 2025 campaign brought together development offices around the world to advocate for persecuted Christians in sub-Saharan Africa through storytelling, petitions, media outreach and church mobilisation.

High-impact content, compelling testimonies and extensive media coverage were central to the campaign's effectiveness. Across the world, offices also identified areas for growth, including improved impact reporting and more consistent tracking of digital and church engagement.

While the crisis in the region continues, we're deeply moved by the global Church's outpouring of compassion, prayer and generosity.

Thank you for standing with us and for making our family's suffering in Africa a priority in your heart.

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

– Hebrews 12:1

2025 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS:

- From the 16 bases that reported results, **\$8,26 million** was raised, excluding residual donations. (The global total is higher.)
- Development bases reported they had mobilised **more than 720 000 people to pray**.
- The global petition gathered **448 586 signatures from 215 countries** by the end of 2025.
- Development bases reported they had reached nearly **20 million people through social media**.

ARISE
AFRICA

ADD YOUR VOICE TODAY!

Add your name to our **Arise Africa petition** to help turn momentum into action.

Your signature tells our family in Africa: We see you. We hear you. We stand with you.

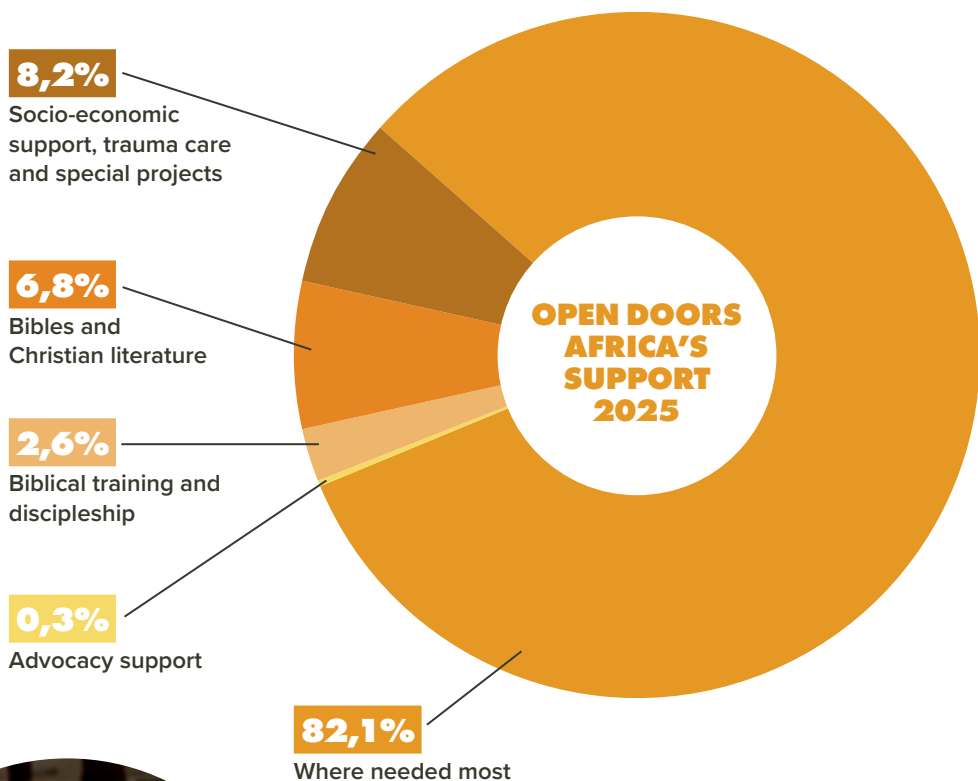
SIGN THE PETITION



www.opendoors.org.za/arise-africa-petition/

YOUR IMPACT AS PART OF OPEN DOORS AFRICA

The generosity of you, our partners in Africa, was overwhelming. Thank you for your faithful and steadfast support for persecuted Christians. Here is how your gifts were used to support our persecuted family across the world ...



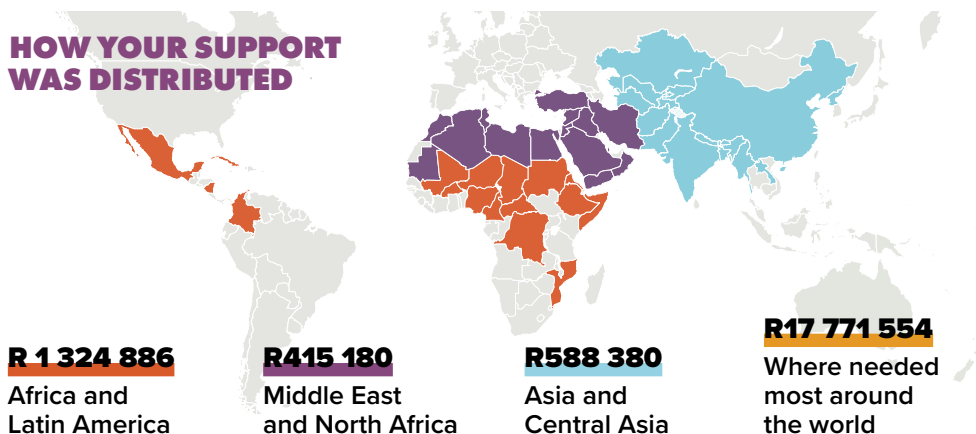
YOUR IMPACT REACHING AROUND THE WORLD

In 2025, your support contributed to a total of **R20,1 million** that was granted by our African base to our persecuted family across the world. It is so beautiful to see us come together as one Body in Christ, willingly carrying the burdens of the most persecuted among us.

“They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.” – Phil. 4:18

Thank you for generously sharing your time, resources and talents to help our brothers and sisters in Christ know and remind them that they’re not alone. Your faithful generosity, love and obedience strengthen them to continue sharing the hope of Jesus with courage amid intense opposition.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT WAS DISTRIBUTED



WHERE OUR SUPPORT CAME FROM

OTHER 20,2%

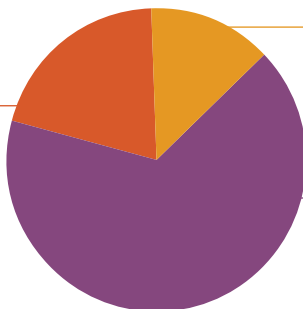
Once-off donations, bequests, money raised by our 4THEM team and product sales.

MAJOR DONORS 13,4%

Groups or individuals who give above R50 000 annually.

REGULAR DONORS 66,4%

People who give ten or more times a year.



Three things the numbers don't tell you

1

THE POWER OF PRESENCE

Being with persecuted Christians – meeting them, person to person, to pray and encourage them is our most powerful ministry. We've gone to great lengths to connect with remote, hard-to-reach believers.



Global support allows Open Doors partners to walk alongside displaced house churches all over the world.

2

RELATIONSHIPS ARE KEY

We've invested heavily in 2025 to build relationships with new partners, enabling us to reach the most persecuted Christians in the coming years.



You helped provide support for converts who, in turn, disciple others, like Mama Alemu in Ethiopia.

3

COLLABORATIVE, LOCAL MINISTRY IS STRONGEST

We had a stronger and more sustainable impact when we worked with local churches across all denominations to provide holistic support.



Your support strengthens churches for greater impact, like this fellowship in Syria.

A LEGACY OF SPEAKING OUT, ACTION, PRESENCE AND GIVING

In 2025, our partners in Africa showed up in extraordinary ways – speaking up, stepping out, travelling far and giving generously. Together, we helped carry the message of the persecuted Church further than ever before. Here is a glimpse of what your involvement made possible.

Our volunteers

VOICES ACROSS SOUTHERN AFRICA

Our 82 active volunteers are the heartbeat of our mobilisation efforts – hosting events, leading prayer initiatives and sharing the stories of our persecuted family across Southern Africa.



55 164+

people reached
through presentations.



830

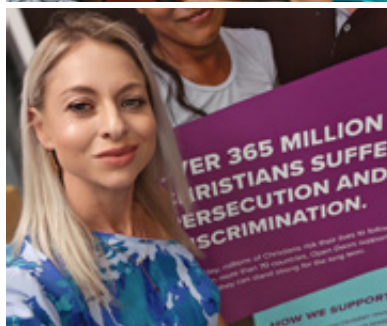
presentations held
in Southern Africa.

A FAITHFUL VOICE

Johan Kruger has served as a volunteer with us for 25 years and has travelled with us to over 15 countries, with a deep heart for the persecuted Church and Africa.

“To be a volunteer for Open Doors has been the biggest adventure of my life. We only have one command, and that is to share the Gospel to the ends of the earth,” he says.

We thank him for his faithful service and commitment to being a voice for our persecuted family over the years.



A group of Open Doors volunteers gathered in Johannesburg in 2025 for time together, to brainstorm and worship.

Connecting communities

OUR DIGITAL COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Our online community grew to **43 855 people**, extending our reach through **23 652** Facebook followers (2M+ impressions), **7 423** Instagram followers (135k+ views), **9 241** X (Twitter) followers, **1 943** YouTube subscribers (299 553 views), **819** WhatsApp Youth Channel followers and **777** LinkedIn followers.

We also formed partnerships with like-minded organisations, deepening our impact for the persecuted Church.



Going the extra mile for Jesus

4THEM ATHLETES AND PARTICIPANTS

From elite athletes to schoolchildren and refugees, hundreds challenged themselves to stand with the persecuted Church.

153 4THEM athletes competed, raising **R300 000**.

161 joined the Around the World Challenge (including **10** from Dzaleka Refugee Camp, Malawi).

400+ tackled the Paul & Silas Challenge.

322 took on the Million Stairs Challenge.

21 completed Challenge1000 (oldest: Derek Burton, 80).

13 PEAKS: Father-and-son team completed **112km** (6 700m ascent) in **38 hours**.



Our 4THEM ambassadors – Landie and Christiaan Greyling, AJ Calitz, Charl Cronje, Jaco Boshoff and Gabriel Kriel – represented our mission at major endurance events across South Africa.

When we go, we find each other

PRESENCE MINISTRY

One of our core values is that we are “a people-to-people people”. Travelling to meet our persecuted family helps encourage them and reminds them that they have a global family standing with them.

25

staff members and supporters travelled with Open Doors Africa.



Places visited: The Arabian Peninsula, Cameroon, Egypt, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

“The trip has challenged my view of missions (the mandate to go and make disciples) ... God orders our steps, and He will lead us to be His vessels at the right time and place.”

– Kgaugelo, 2025 traveller

Leaving an eternal legacy

IMPACT BEYOND A LIFETIME

Some partners leave a legacy that continues beyond their lifetime – a final act of faith and love for the persecuted Church. We **honour** the following partners, who left a gift in their estates totalling **R210 000:**

**PS Swart • HW Haber
N Nieuwoudt**

We're grateful for the legacy they've left, which will continue to bring hope and support for the generations that follow.

Carrying the work together

FAITHFUL PARTNERS WHO SUSTAIN THE WORK

Behind every journey, every race and every presentation is a faithful community of partners who pray, give and act.



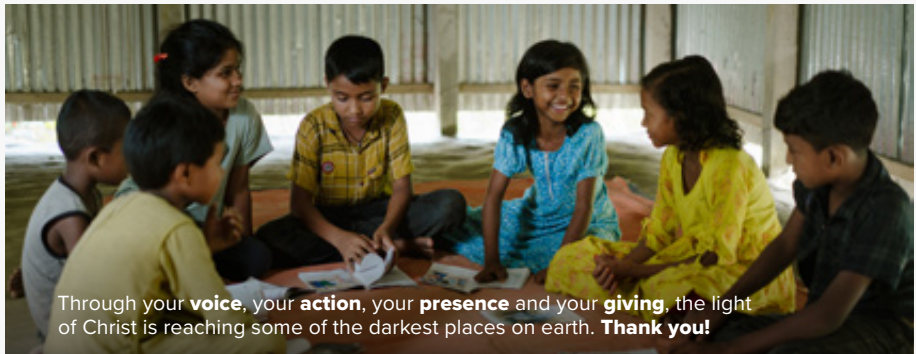
124 034

active individual partners form part of our African base.



7 284

partners gave a monthly gift in 2025 (average over twelve months).



Through your **voice**, your **action**, your **presence** and your **giving**, the light of Christ is reaching some of the darkest places on earth. **Thank you!**

**THANK YOU FOR FAITHFULLY
SUPPORTING YOUR
PERSECUTED FAMILY.**

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

REVELATION 3:2



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