



I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE IN NEED, AND I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO HAVE PLENTY... I CAN DO ALL THIS THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.

PHILIPPIANS 4:12-13



Open Doors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

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THIRD COURSE - SYRIA

Know Your Place (Mat) Quiz

1. What's baba ganoush?
2. Where in the Bible will you find the story of Saul's road-to-Damascus experience?
3. How many Syrians are now internally displaced within their country?

The Open Doors World Watch Map/Guide 2017 will help you answer questions about the persecuted church.

Survivors in Syria

Time has almost faded a graffiti message written on a church wall in Homs, written presumably by someone who, like thousands of others, had to flee the city quickly for safety or survival when Islamic fighters took over. Fierce fighting made living in the city virtually impossible.

The unknown graffiti writer, inspired by a famous Syrian poem, marked the wall with the words, "Here is my land. Here are my roots. Here is my language. How it ..." The writing then fades away.

Millions are still displaced within Syria, but gradually, people have been returning to their homes, not only in Homs, but places like Maaloula. Some of the displaced families who've spent the last few years in Damascus being cared for by Pastor Edward's church, thanks to the generosity of Open Doors supporters, are now beginning to return. Open Doors is helping a number of families to rebuild their homes. People need jobs, too, so in Maaloula, Open Doors has set up a sewing centre where women can be trained in dressmaking. There is hope that normal life can resume.

Food for thought: Could you be content in these different situations? How do Christians in Syria find the strength to be 'ambassadors for Christ'?



THIRD COURSE SYRIA

The war in Syria has made the country a lot less safe for Christians. They have been attacked, kidnapped and many have lost their homes, forcing them to move far away. Thousands of families are still living in refugee camps. A lot of children haven't been to school for years – and with no jobs, parents find it difficult to afford food for their families.

But because lots of people have given money to help, 12,000 displaced families in Syria have been supported through churches like Pastor Edward's in Damascus, with a food parcel each month – as well as blankets, coats and medicines. In some cases, families are beginning to return to their villages, having received help from Open Doors to rebuild their homes. Things are looking up.

Question: Could you live without your favourite things?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for food to eat. Please look after your people in Syria and give them hope.

Bible: Philippians 4:12-13

I know how to live when I am poor and when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of how to live through any kind of situation—when I have enough to eat or when I am hungry, when I have everything I need or when I have nothing. Christ is the one who gives me the strength I need to do whatever I must do.

