

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018



“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.” – Psalm 20:7



Trust in God’s faithfulness is central to having the courage to persevere as a persecuted Christian – and it’s central to our work as we serve them. Thank you for your faithful support in keeping His church alive and strong – we know that for many this has involved personal sacrifice and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

As persecution increases, the challenge of meeting needs increases, too; but we thank God for a year of steady growth of prayer and provision across the UK and Ireland. This includes supporters who left a legacy in their will; several arrived just when they were desperately needed last year, enabling us to meet the commitments and opportunities of our global secret network.

It has been exciting to see government and media sit up and take notice, too. A highlight to me was the face of Father Daniel from Iraq after he and I presented the incredible 808,172 signatures of the *Hope for the Middle East* petition to Prime Minister Theresa May. He couldn’t believe the voices of Iraq’s beleaguered Christians had been heard so clearly in Westminster – and couldn’t wait to get home and tell them about it!

It is a privilege to be part of such a fellowship of faith – supporters, staff, volunteers – where every prayer, gift and voice raised is an expression of trust. THANK YOU for being part of the story!

Lisa

Lisa Pearce, CEO Open Doors UK and Ireland

£12,150,127 was donated in support of the persecuted church
Up to 40,000 people prayed regularly for the persecuted church

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

HOPE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Your prayers and gifts are continuing to keep hope alive for thousands of families in Iraq and Syria, as our local partners provide food, medicines and trauma care, rebuild homes and create jobs.

And your voice is still speaking out through the *Hope for the Middle East* petition. As a result of the over 800,000 signatures that you helped us to gather, Father Daniel, an Open Doors partner from Iraq, was able to meet with Prime Minister Theresa May. Following this meeting, she specifically highlighted Christians in the Middle East in her Christmas message, and committed to exploring what more can be done to support persecuted Christians when asked about this issue in Prime Minister’s Questions.

And Noeh, a young boy from Iraq, was able to present the *Hope for the Middle East* petition to UN leaders in New York and the Vice President of the USA, Mike Pence. Following these meetings, the UN Development Programme and USAID jointly announced that \$55m aid would go directly to Christians in Iraq who are rebuilding their lives.

Father Behnam, a church leader from northern Iraq, said, “We discovered that the church in all the world was with us. I thank God this happened and we proved that Christians in all the world are one family because we have Christ. No matter our denomination. The cross of Christ gathered us.”

Thank you for continuing to bring hope to the Middle East!

SECRET CHILDREN



Thousands of children are bullied, rejected and even orphaned because of their own, or their parents’, commitment to Christ. Through Open Doors they are receiving vital help, thanks to the ongoing prayers and support of supporters who give regularly to children.

Jeovani’s life was changed forever when Seleka rebels bombed his church in Central African Republic. He and his friends, Steven and Dieu Fera, all lost limbs, leaving them unable to run around or play football – and with pain and surgery becoming a constant theme in their young lives. But your support has enabled Open Doors to draw alongside these boys, providing prostheses, paying for school fees, and supporting their families’ small businesses. The road to recovery is slow but Jeovani and friends are making good progress, thanks to the gifts, prayers and messages of encouragement from the family of faith. Thank you!

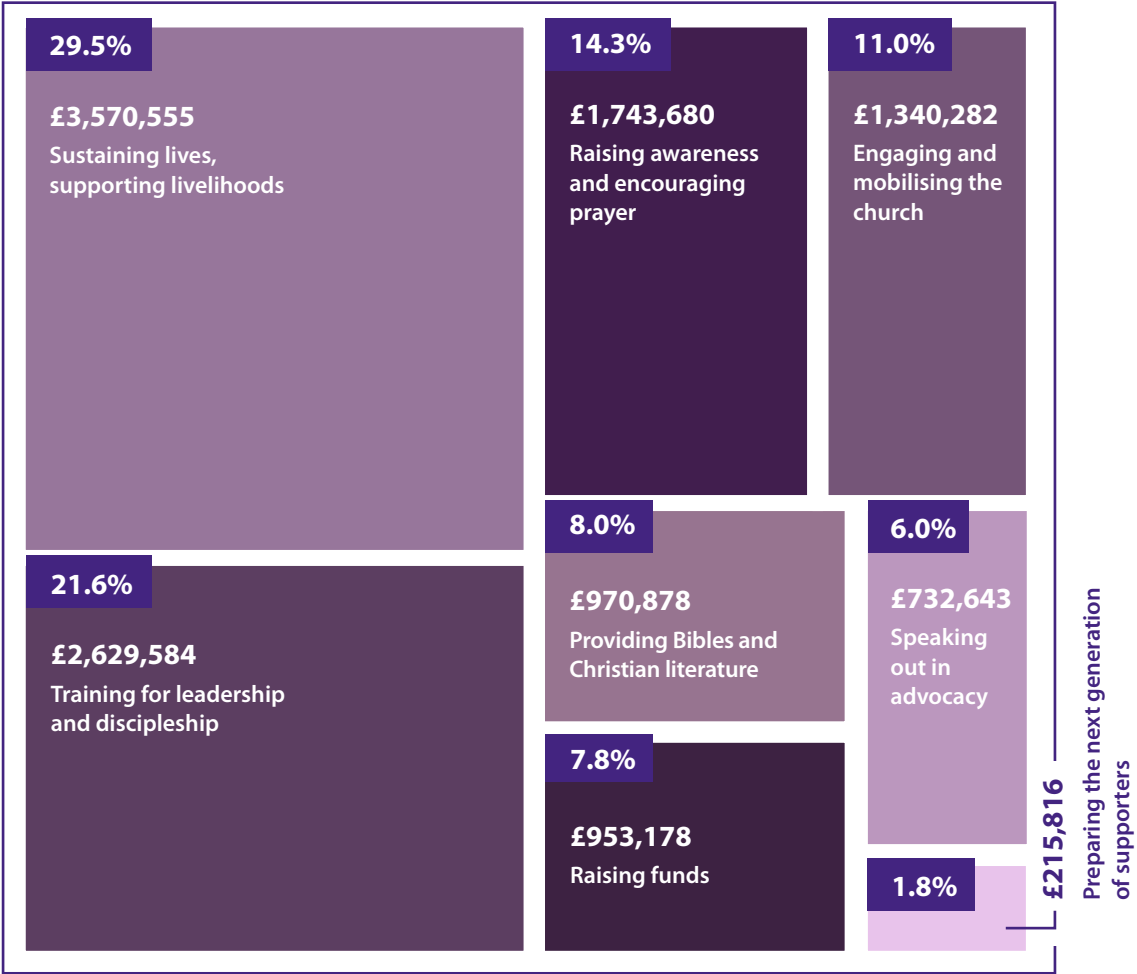
“He was all smiles and very happy when we met him,” an Open Doors co-worker reported after visiting Jeovani and family. “He tells his friends that it is people abroad who care for him, showing them the cards, letters and images from children around the world that he received.”



Cover image: Adrian (20) is one of 25,000 Christians who returned to Qaraqosh, Iraq, last year, after being displaced by Islamic State.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Last year, 92.2% of our expenditure was spent on directly supporting and raising awareness and prayer for the persecuted church. Donations to Open Doors UK and Ireland totalled £12,150,127.



The above figures are extracted from the full financial statements. If you would like to receive a copy of the audited financial statements, they are available on request from July from: Open Doors, PO Box 6, Witney, OX29 6WG.

THROUGH THE YEAR

Here are some of the ways you supported the persecuted church last year

JAN / FEB



You kept Christians alive. Every £41 you gave provided emergency food, medicines and clothes for North Korean families. Over 60,000 secret North Korean Christians were supported in this way.

MAY / JUNE



You rebuilt homes. Every £25 you gave went towards rebuilding or restoring livelihoods in Iraq and Syria. In the Nineveh Plain your support enabled local church partners to restore over 600 houses.

SEPT / OCT



You fed displaced Christian families. Every £42 provided a month’s emergency food supplies to displaced families in Syria. Working through local church networks, over 17,000 families were fed every month.

MAR / APR



You provided trauma care. Every £30 you gave provided two days of trauma care training for church leaders in sub-Saharan Africa. With your help we were able to train 300 church leaders in one location alone.

JUL / AUG



You taught Christians their legal rights. Every £52 you gave helped to train two pastors in India to understand the legal rights of Christians in India. Last year, Open Doors partners were able to train 2,673 pastors and leaders.

NOV / DEC



You provided healing. Every £30 provided trauma care to a child who has been persecuted for being from a Christian family. In one secret location alone, over 50 children were helped in this way.

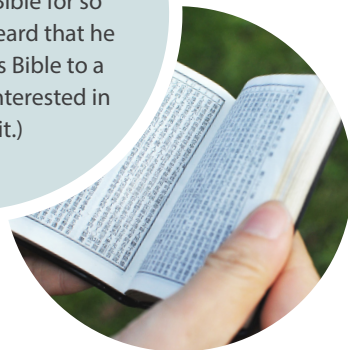
LAST YEAR, THANKS TO YOU...

Open Doors distributed over 2.5 million Bibles, Christian books and other types of literature

Which included over 128,000 children's Bibles

Which included over 440,000 Bibles and New Testaments

In China, one believer said, "Thank you so much, brother! I've been dreaming about having a Bible for so long!" (We later heard that he gave his precious Bible to a friend who was interested in reading it.)



Some of them ended up with these children in Iraq.



Open Doors helped over 850,000 persecuted Christians with emergency relief, community development, education and medical care

Which helped 36,868 people repair or rebuild their communities

Which provided 638,489 people with vital emergency relief

Which provided livelihood training and support to over 50,000 people

Like a sweet factory in Iraq which provides income to five families. "When I came here with my family, we had nothing," said an employee. "I am so happy with this work. I am thankful to the organisation that employed us."



Like 15,000 desperate families in northern Nigeria. "When God says: 'Never will I leave you nor forsake you,' He was talking to me," said Rhoda, a Nigerian widow. "Who am I that you send help to me? I am speechless. You are indeed angels sent by God to wipe my tears away."



Open Doors trained over 500,000 persecuted Christians through leadership and discipleship courses, trauma care training and persecution survival seminars

Which provided trauma counselling training for more than 42,000 persecuted Christians

Which helped over 70,000 Christians to withstand persecution

Which included theological and discipleship training for almost 250,000 Christians

Like these trainee pastors and evangelists in Sudan. "I want to say thank you to all who supported the Bible school. Please pray for Muslims in our area to come to Christ," said Musa, who also received a bike to help him in his ministry as he serves people in the Nuba Mountains.



Like Shikhar in India, who received training through an Open Doors partner. "I thank God for giving me an opportunity to know about persecution through these seminars. I have brought five young brothers to this seminar. One of these brothers who faced persecution used to be very timid, but now he is very bold, even bolder than me. When I am discouraged he encourages me."

Open Doors took a petition of 808,172 signatures to the UN in New York asking for Hope for the Middle East

Which came from supporters in 143 countries



This meant the voice of the church in Syria and Iraq was heard in the UK Parliament, the White House, the EU and the UN.



Giving hope and encouragement to Christians in places like Qaraqosh, Iraq, where 600 homes have been rebuilt.

