

Samira

I'm from Bartella. For me this cross is important because I got it from my church Mar Georgies in Bartella. The cross reminds me of the church in my hometown and the memories of the village."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Salwan

"My father used to own a big Bible that was over 70 years old. It was handwritten. My greatest regret is that we could not bring it with us because we left without anything. I feel sorry for ISIS. They are oppressing us, but they are oppressed because they don't know the truth about Jesus. This is only temporary for us as we have eternal life. I am not attached to earth. Earth is dead to me."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Sandy

"Next to a Bible, I would like to show you the keys of my house. I keep them and treasure them as a remembrance of my house. We have been working hard on building our house and now it all seems to be for nothing. My husband and children, all their effort is represented in this key. I still hope to be able to return one day."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Nisan

Nisan is a lively and enthusiastic Christian. For him the Bible is the most important thing he was able to take from Qaraqosh when he had to flee in 2014.



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Ma'an

"This is important to me because it has Jesus on the cross and also the map of the country of Iraq. I received it from my mother when I finished college when I was 18 years old. Now that I meet you, I happen to have it with me, so I'm glad I can show it to you."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Maryam

Maryam and her family used to have a house in Mosul with some 20 trees in the garden. Her mother had passed away before IS came, then they moved to Erbil. She has a small shoe box with small belongings that are of value to her: an illustrated youth Bible, family photos and also the photo of herself with her mother with whom she had a very good relationship. She misses her.



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Aida

Originally Aida and her family are from Qaraqosh and still the key of their house has a prominent place in their caravan. For her this key is a symbol of hope that they will return to their house one day.



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Ikram

For Ikram the key of her house is very important. She is originally from Karamles and she really hopes to return to her own house someday. She is happy with the support given while displaced in Erbil, but of course nothing is better than to live in her own house again.



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Anis

"I'm very happy that I brought my laptop with me, for it contains many photos of my family and my children from the time when we still lived in Qaraqosh. This photo, for example, is a party for the first communion of my grandson. I like these pictures because all my relatives, cousins and sons and daughters are in them."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Jarjis

"For me the cross on my necklace is a very important piece I could bring with me from my home town. I could not bring much, but I could bring this cross with Jesus. I want to wear this cross because it expresses my religion."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Salem

One of the things very dear to Salem are photos of his parents. The photos are very old and his parents are wearing traditional clothing. He never wants to forget the Christian heritage in Iraq.



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Andros

"What I brought with me is my cell phone. Not because of the cell phone itself, but the data and pictures that are on my phone which are important to me. The pictures are of me, my brothers and my family from the past to present. In June 2014, IS advanced rapidly. In our family we thought it would be a good idea to scan all of the pictures we had, just in case. Mid-July we had scanned all of them and we saved copies of them on our phones. Just in time because two or three weeks later we had to flee. When I had to run from IS we had not time or space to bring all the pictures with me physically, but I could bring them with me on my phone. The photos are very valuable to me and I'm thankful to God that I could bring them with me."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Adrian

"Originally I'm from Qaraqosh, near Mosul. When my family fled, we only took small things with us. I took my hard drive with me because it contains all the memories and images that I could bring from Qaraqosh. These are actually the only memories and images I have of my history there."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Noor

"When I fled from Qaraqosh, I brought my Bible, my little Bible. I know it is little, but it is so precious to me. When I was in Qaraqosh, I was reading it almost every night. The words purify my soul, that is how I feel when reading it. It's so precious. When I had to go, I took it with me."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Emad

"When we escaped from Qaraqosh, I actually did not manage to take anything with me. When arriving in safer areas I realised that I was wearing this cross. It is of great value to me. I still wear the cross every day and I'm proud of it. I believe Jesus not only saved me but protected all the people of Qaraqosh when we had to flee."

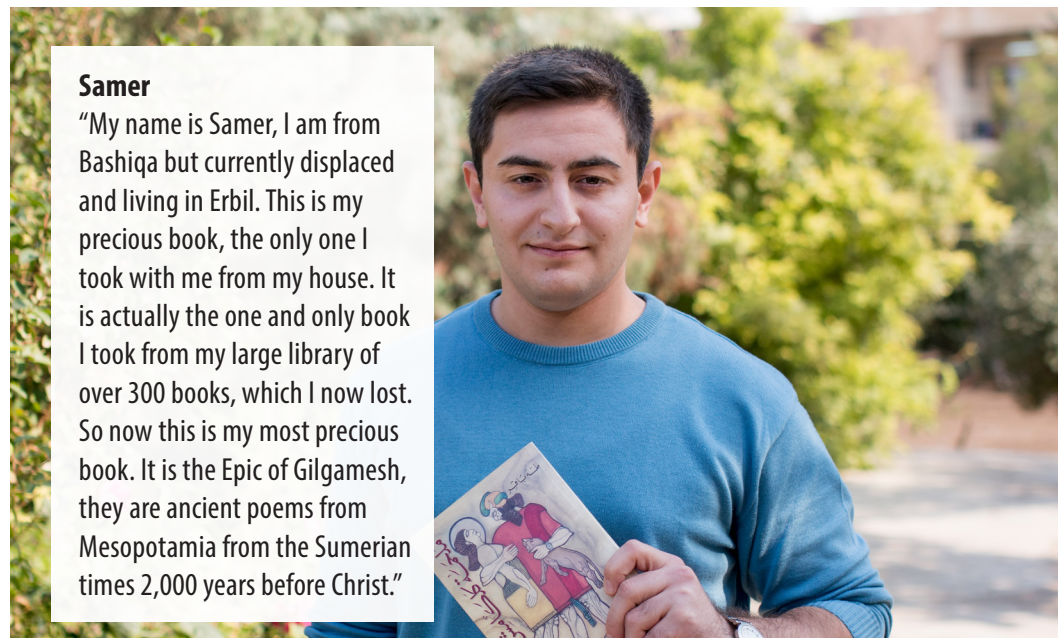


Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Samer

"My name is Samer, I am from Bashiqa but currently displaced and living in Erbil. This is my precious book, the only one I took with me from my house. It is actually the one and only book I took from my large library of over 300 books, which I now lost. So now this is my most precious book. It is the Epic of Gilgamesh, they are ancient poems from Mesopotamia from the Sumerian times 2,000 years before Christ."



Open Doors

SAVE ME | BRING HOPE TO THE MIDDLE EAST