



SAY YES TO YOUR PERSECUTED FAMILY

Become a partner
church



OpenDoors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians



IMAGINE

your church being closed down, having to meet secretly...
being attacked, buildings burned, people injured...
being forced to deny Christ, flee your home, or suffer death...

**It happens. Every day. To millions of Christians.
In thousands of churches around the world.**

Christians in Jos, Nigeria, continue to worship despite attacks on their church

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it."

1 Corinthians 12:26

As Christians, we are part of **one church**. We're not divided into persecuted and free. We are **one body**. We are **one family** – with a responsibility to stand shoulder to shoulder with those who are suffering.

Support persecuted Christians. Become a partner church.



We are a large family and the need is growing. That's why we need to work together as partners in the body of Christ. Our brothers and sisters need our support to stand strong and serve their communities. They need to know they are not forgotten.



By praying regularly, supporting practically, and speaking up powerfully for the rights of our persecuted brothers and sisters, you can provide your persecuted brothers and sisters with the spiritual encouragement and practical support that they need.



And there are huge benefits for your church, too. Having a relationship with persecuted Christians will inspire you to grow in faith, prayer and love.

In response to the wave of refugees fleeing so-called Islamic State, the courtyard of this church in Iraq is now home to 700 Iraqi families.



Church leader Douglas says, **"It is an honour to help and to serve them."**

Through different partners and organisations, we are currently helping more than 14,000 displaced families with food, hygiene and medical supplies.

Thousands of Bibles are being placed into the hands of people who are hungry for hope. Broken hearts are being ministered to through prayer in Jesus' name. And children are being given an opportunity to have fun again.

Displaced families live in this church courtyard in Erbil





**"We need you...
We need the
whole church."**

-Pastor B, Syria

"We are ambassadors for the Lord"

Although in many areas of the world Christians find themselves excluded and in a minority, this doesn't mean that they give up in despair. The persecuted church is a proactive church – not a passive church – praying fervently, reaching out to others and witnessing to the love of Christ.

Open Doors partners with a number of churches and organisations to bring relief to displaced families in Syria, including this church in Damascus. Edward, their church leader, says:

"We pray every morning that the Lord will give us the opportunity to help others and to be a blessing for others..."

"We thank the Lord that He is working through the hearts of people. In the West and everywhere, people are supporting and enabling the church to give this message of love to our communities and our people."

The church team in Damascus praying before the distribution of relief packages



How can your church stand with our persecuted family?

- By **praying**, regularly, as a whole church for the needs of persecuted Christians
- By **engaging** with emergency appeals and advocacy campaigns launched in response to urgent need
- By **dedicating** a Sunday service to the persecuted church, at least once a year
- By **appointing** a member of the church leadership, or another key person, with whom we can regularly communicate
- By **encouraging** every member to go deeper and pray as often as they can for the persecuted church.

We'll do everything we can to support you:

- By **sending** a monthly email to church leaders with up-to-date news and prayer requests from the persecuted church
- By **giving** information on the latest emergency appeals and advocacy campaigns
- By **inviting** church leaders to meet persecuted Christians at confidential briefings, overseas trips and an annual retreat
- By **offering** a local speaker to give a presentation to your church, should you request it
- By **providing** you with inspiring resources to help your church engage with the needs of persecuted Christians throughout the year.

"Open Doors opens minds and hearts to the shocking reality of what God's people experience every day in our world. This is a trusted and invaluable relationship with our brothers and sisters who suffer daily because of Jesus Christ."

Rev. Brian More, Newton Mearns Baptist Church, Glasgow.

Our relationship with Open Doors has encouraged us to see Jesus more clearly, and to really focus in on serving God and doing His will, no matter what happens around us in our culture.

Rev. Malcolm Duncan, Gold Hill Baptist Church, Bucks.

Seeing first-hand the work of Open Doors in the Middle East, as they strengthen the church to make Christ known, has convinced me to support them in every way I can, and to call others to do so, too."

The Ven. David A. McClay, Archdeacon of Down, Rector of Willowfield Church, Belfast.



Christian children in Egypt experience persecution in the classroom

Last year we:

distributed 3.1 million Bibles, books and Christian resources

trained over 308,000 Christians and church leaders

served 356,000 people through community development projects.



"Open Doors has shown the true signs of the presence of the spirit of God

in that it has been faithful to its vision and foundation, but adaptable as the world around it has changed. And, today, it is one of the most credible, powerful, authentic and determined advocates of the protection of Christians but also generally of religious liberty."

The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

We invite you to
partner with us
to support our
persecuted family
around the world.



This Syrian girl and her family are now refugees in Lebanon



**"You came to visit us - and gave us
the opportunity to fellowship with
the Body of Christ worldwide!"**

Awel*, Horn of Africa

* Name changed for security reasons



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