

Open Doors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

magazine

January 2019



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Empty stomachs and full hearts
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STANDING STRONG

Open Doors Celebration 2019

You are invited to meet your extraordinary persecuted family

SAVE THE DATE

16th November 2019
Birmingham

Bookings open in March



What's your legacy?

Give a lifetime of hope to your persecuted family by prayerfully including a gift to Open Doors in your Will.

Find out more and order a pack at www.opendoorsuk.org/legacy or phone 01993 460015.

"Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters... you did for me." Matthew 25:40



WINTER EDITION 2018 LETTER WRITING GUIDE

New edition

Let your persecuted family know that they're not alone.

Write to a persecuted Christian today – order your copy of the winter edition *Letter-writing Guide* at www.opendoorsuk.org/write or phone 01993 460015.



Letter from Henrietta: Friend

Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide.

Open Doors supplies Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services.

We also mobilise the church in the UK & Ireland to serve Christians living under religious persecution.

If you have any questions about the work of Open Doors, or would like to reprint any of the articles in this magazine, please do get in touch.

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Cover image: A young boy in fields near Kaesong in North Korea.

Before working for Open Doors, I had no idea of the extent of persecution against Christians. That changed in my first few weeks as I prepared for interviews on the Open Doors World Watch List. I was horrified to discover the extent of the suffering – way beyond what we hear in the UK media.

Worst on the list is North Korea. Persecution here is the result, not of religious extremism, but of dictatorial paranoia. And whilst there have been signs that it is beginning to engage with the rest of the world, this new openness has not included religious freedom. There are some 60,000 Christians held in the most vile detention camps: that's one fifth of the underground church in jail.

A good friend asked me recently how I cope with facts like this. Two things help me enormously. The first is that, despite the pain, I am encouraged by the amazing stories of what God is doing in and through His people, as Hea Woo, survivor of those camps (see p10), shared on her recent visit to the UK. The second is that, through Open Doors, I really can do something practical to help. During her visit, Hea Woo gave out many pairs of socks as a reminder to walk with our persecuted family. One pair she gave me read: "Adversity does teach who your real friends are." That saying cut me to the quick. Can I be there for Christians in adversity? Alone, it's too big a

*"A friend loves at all times,
and a brother is born for a
time of adversity"*

Proverbs 17:17

task – but with Open Doors, I can be that friend.

Prayer makes a difference – I firmly believe it – and Open Doors resources provide a wealth of detail, enabling me to pray specifically for all kinds of people and situations. God has given Open Doors unique access to the underground church in countries like North Korea, meaning I can support them to stand strong. Speaking up to our MPs is made simple, too. I invited my MP, via the website, to the launch of the World Watch List on 16 January and she replied saying she will try her best to drop in. I find that very encouraging. Have you invited your MP yet? It is very easy to do! (see p13).

At the end of last year, Coptic Christians in Egypt received a Nobel Prize nomination for not retaliating against their persecutors. Praise God! Your support for brothers and sisters like these is bringing the kingdom into people's lives – and nations, too. Let's keep walking in step with them in 2019. Together, we can be the friends they really need.

Henrietta Blyth
CEO, Open Doors UK&I

WORLD WATCH NEWS

SYRIA: *Still there by the power of your prayers and support*

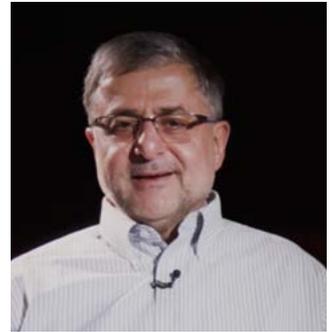
Your prayers and support have been helping the church in Syria to continue to shine as a light in the darkness.

Pastor Edward (RIGHT) from Damascus runs a Centre of Hope through his church, which Open Doors is supporting. The Centre helps thousands of displaced and vulnerable believers, including children and those with disabilities.

"For our supporters, people who really supported us all through the crisis, I want you to know that this meant a lot to us," says Pastor Edward. "I received a letter from a lady who said: 'I prayed

for you every day.' I told our congregation this amazing fact that we are really the body of Jesus Christ: we feel for each other and we support each other. I want to express my appreciation and I want to make sure that you know that the Lord answered your prayers, and we are still there by the power of those prayers and your support."

Your support is keeping hope alive in Syria, enabling Open Doors local church partners like Pastor Edward to provide food for over 12,000 vulnerable families every month – thank you! And please keep going.



"We need your prayers," continues Pastor Edward. "Our country is not now settled completely. We still have challenges as a result of the crisis. People are in grief, they are in a post-trauma situation everywhere. We thank you for your prayers and we ask you to pray for the church, the leaders of the church and the people who work in ministry to keep focused on the glory of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit."

You can watch an interview with Pastor Edward by going to www.opendoorsuk.org/syria



A volunteer prepares food parcels at Pastor Edward's church

KYRGYZSTAN: *Believer beaten for refusing to deny his faith*

A 25-year-old believer from a Muslim background has been beaten for refusing to deny his faith in Jesus.

Three men broke into the home of Eldos Satar Uluu. "They began hitting him and kicking him until he fell on the floor," said a neighbour. They accused Eldos of being an

'infidel' and betraying Islam. Eldos and his family are well known as Christians and 'some in the village do not like this'. Eldos was hospitalised by the attack.

You can send him a message of encouragement by going to www.opendoorsuk.org/write

• PRAY

- For Eldos and his family. He says, "I am still alive because of the prayers of many people, I can feel it."
- That God will change the hearts of Eldos' attackers and draw them to Himself.

“The Lord answered your prayers... we are still there by the power of those prayers and your support.”

Pastor Edward from the Alliance Church in Damascus

BANGLADESH: PM pledges tougher blasphemy laws

Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, has pledged that “Anyone who pronounces offensive comments against [Islam], or against the Prophet Muhammad, will be prosecuted according to the law.”

Many fear that this announcement will lead to

charges of blasphemy being brought against Christians by their neighbours to settle scores and seek revenge. Christians in Bangladesh are experiencing increasing violence from radical Islamic groups. Also, elections are due at the end December, and these are frequently the excuse for violence against minorities.

• PRAY

- That Christians would be protected under the law
- For Open Doors workers strengthening believers to withstand persecution through Standing Strong Through the Storm seminars.

CHINA: Christian students pressured to give up their faith

Students in certain parts of China are facing pressure to renounce their faith.

In Shandong province, eastern China, one student was told that if she held on to her Christian faith, she would not receive her diploma. Another student at a medical university said she had been questioned about her faith, and pressurised to renounce it, and that she might be called in to have an ‘ideological conversation’ some

time soon. Students at one college were reportedly warned not to attend meetings of the college’s Christian fellowship.

Pressure on China’s Christians has increased since the introduction of new religious regulations in February, which included banning anyone under 18 from attending church or receiving any religious education. Hundreds of church leaders signed a public letter calling

on the government to stop its ‘violent actions’ against Christians, including forcing churches to join religious organisations controlled by the government.

• PRAY

- For the courageous witness of Christians in China
- For Open Doors teams supporting the church with discipleship and persecution survival training.

IRAN: Two Christians arrested after calls intercepted

Behnam Ersali and Davood Rasooli, both Christians from Muslim backgrounds from northeastern Iran, have been arrested.

Iranian intelligence apparently found out about their meeting by intercepting their calls. Since their arrest, the two men have not been in touch with family or friends

and it is not known on what charges they are detained or where they are kept. Davood’s friends suspect he is being held in solitary confinement and interrogated in Rajai Shahr Prison. These are just the latest instances of increasing arrests and pressure in Iran. The Lord Jesus knows where these faithful, courageous brothers

are – let’s place them in His loving hands.

• PRAY

- For protection for Behnam and Davood and for their release
- For strength and courage for all Christians imprisoned in Iran.

Source: MEC

Go to www.opendoorsuk.org/news for more on these stories and for the latest news, information and prayer requests from persecuted Christians around the world.

SMUGGLE HOPE TO YOUR PERSECUTED FAMILY

Send a Bible to North Korea

Are you looking for fresh inspiration for your faith this year? Do you want to be more connected with your persecuted family? The Open Doors Secret Church Devotional is a great new way to spend time with your persecuted family each day and support persecuted believers in North Korea.

Designed to replicate the small, anonymous, easily concealed Korean Bibles which Open Doors distributed to North Korean Christians for many years, the Secret Church Devotional contains 365 daily devotional readings to help you engage in daily prayer and action for the persecuted church.

But this is more than a daily devotional – it's an invitation to be part of the Open Doors secret network.

Because for every Secret Church Devotional sold, a persecuted believer in North Korea will receive the gift of a Bible.

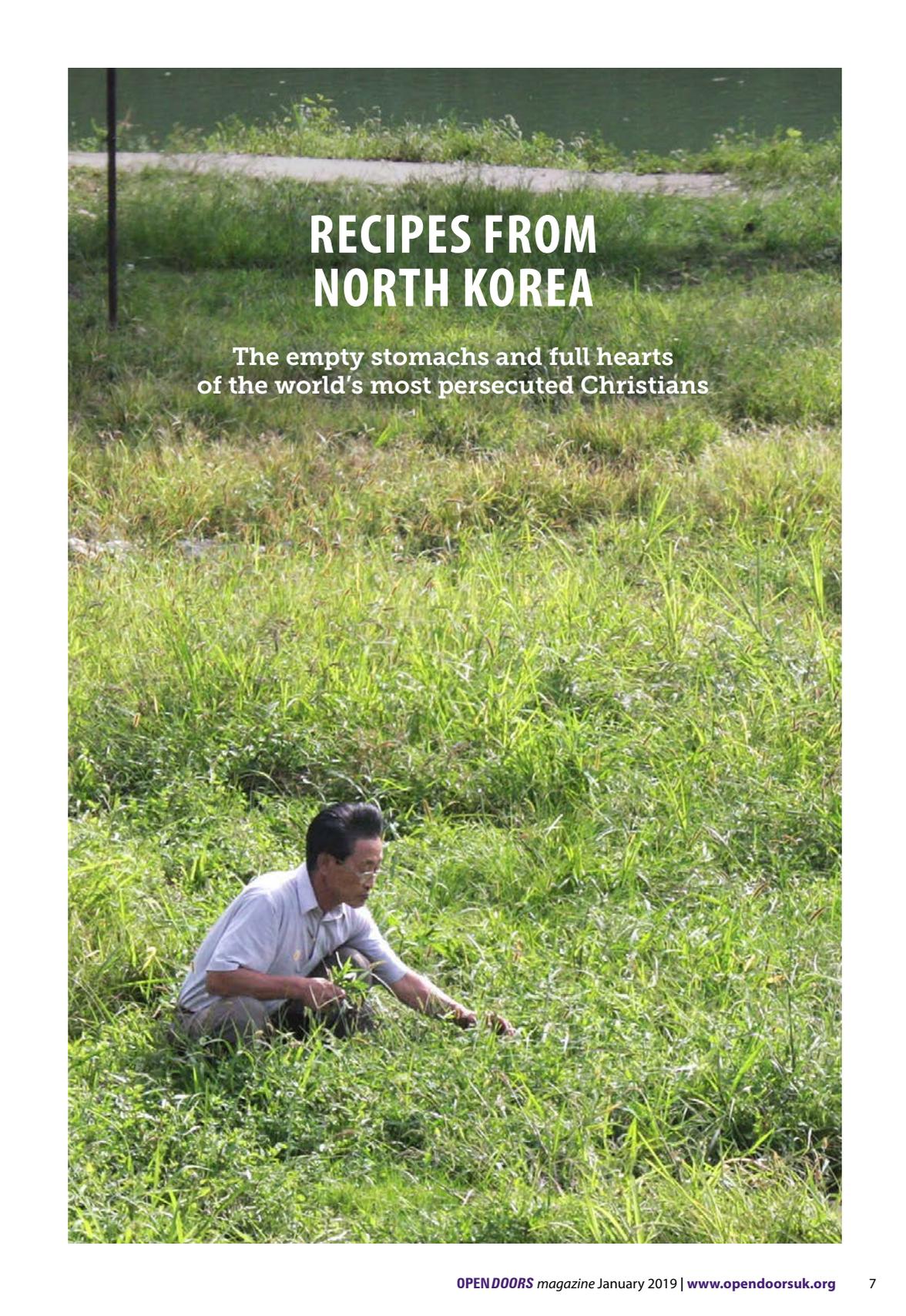
Send a Bible. Smuggle hope. And be newly inspired this year by your persecuted family.

**BUY ONE - SEND ONE
EVERY SECRET CHURCH
DEVOTIONAL SOLD WILL PUT
A BIBLE IN THE HANDS OF A
NORTH KOREAN BELIEVER**

- Ideal for daily devotions and quiet times
- Each day has a Bible verse, stories and quotes from persecuted Christians, a written prayer and a way to respond practically
- Also contains a simple outline for a service of prayer for the persecuted church and ideas to help you pray for persecuted Christians throughout the year.

Order your Secret Church Devotional today. Go to www.opendoorsuk.org/smugglehope





RECIPES FROM NORTH KOREA

The empty stomachs and full hearts
of the world's most persecuted Christians



Recipes from North Korea

GRASS SOUP

Ingredients	Method
Grass Salt Water	Go to the mountains and pick as much grass as you can. Add to a pot of boiling water. Season to taste.



PAGE 7 A man picks grass near Pyongyang. During food shortages, this is all ordinary North Koreans have to eat.

ABOVE Statues of Kim Il-sung, the founder of modern day North Korea, and his son Kim Jong-il. The people of North Korea are expected to worship their leaders as gods.

RIGHT A map of North Korea used by a believer who escaped to pray for her country. The hearts show where the labour camps are.



Chilled octopus from the Namhae Tongyeong sea, garnished with citrus soy sauce. Beef from South Korea's indigenous Hanwoo cattle. Sea bream and steamed crab. Mango mousse.

What do these things have in common? They were all on the menu when Kim Jong-un, the leader of North Korea, and Moon Jae-in, the President of South Korea, had their historic first meeting in April last year.

It was the first time the leader of North Korea and the leader of South Korea had met in over a decade, and the food they ate together was full of symbolism.

There were dishes from the two leaders' childhoods, noodles specially imported from Pyongyang, and the mango mousse even had a map of a united Korea on it.

But this meal is something that ordinary North Koreans can only dream about.

Kim Jong-un rules North Korea with an iron fist, and every aspect of life there is controlled by the state. All resources, including food, are owned and distributed by the government, and

North Korea operates a 'military first' policy, meaning that the country's leaders and armed forces are provided for first; ordinary people get whatever's left.

Often, that isn't anything at all.

Every year there are natural disasters, with droughts in the dry seasons and flooding and mud slides in the rainy seasons. Harvests are poor.

Joo Eun*, a North Korean who now lives in South Korea, remembers, "One day the food distribution simply stopped. We didn't receive anything anymore. The government gave us the advice to go into the mountains, pluck grass and make soup with some salt. It tasted really awful, very bitter." Her mother and brother eventually died of starvation.

If the mousse with the map of a united Korea on it was meant to symbolise a desire for peace on the Korean peninsula, surely telling people to eat a meal of soup made with grass, a food usually only eaten by animals, is a symbol of what Kim Jong-un thinks of the people he leads.

"We need to pray for Kim Jong-un and our other fellow countrymen!"

North Korean believer

And Christians are some of the people that Kim Jong-un hates the most. Why? Because Kim Jong-un expects to be worshipped and obeyed as a God – and Christians have the audacity to believe in Jesus and follow Him first, before any earthly leader. Between 50,000 and 70,000 Christians are imprisoned in horrific labour camps in North Korea. Hundreds of thousands more follow Jesus in absolute secret. North Korea has been number one on the Open Doors World Watch List, our annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the worst persecution, since 2002.

And yet, Christians in North Korea don't hate Kim Jong-un – they pray for him. One believer told us, "They don't pray that God will depose him or get rid of him. They genuinely ask God to save their leader for the eternal life." Another who runs Bible studies with North Korean refugees in China tells us, "There is one lady in my group who felt we needed to pray for Kim Jong-un. So the next day when we closed our Bible study meeting with prayer I proposed

that we pray for North Korea. And this lady got so excited. 'That's what God called me to do! We need to pray for Kim Jong-un and our other fellow countrymen!'"

Isaiah 25:6 says, "On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines." If the prayers of North Korean Christians are answered, it could be that one day, on the mountain of the Lord, they will feast together with Kim Jong-un.

LIKE SPRING AFTER WINTER

But there isn't much feasting going on in North Korea right now. The freezing winter makes life even harder. In January, temperatures are typically between -3 degrees Celsius and -13 degrees Celsius in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. One secret believer in North Korea told us, "In winter everything is frozen and there's nothing to eat. These days in our province people are suffering with severe starvation and hunger. Most people suffer from malnutrition. Furthermore, we can't use our heating stoves, because there's no firewood."

Another told us, "Cholera is spreading fast due to impure water and bad hygiene. There are hundreds of patients who are suffering from a severe diarrhoea, and more than half of them are young children and elderly patients whose level of immunity is low. Therefore, people dying of starvation and from various diseases are increasing day by day."

"Through your love and care, we break through any circumstance, just like spring breaks through the ice cold winter."

North Korean believer

Incredibly, your faithful prayers and support are helping Open Doors courageous underground workers to smuggle in enough food to keep 60,000 believers alive in North Korea, along with medicines, winter clothes, boots and blankets.

This support is a lifeline. At one point, Open Doors was considering sending slightly less

food to North Korea. The believers there sent back a dramatic message. "Please, make any choice you need to make. You can stop with any other activity, but please, do not reduce the amount of food you send us. You don't know what it is like to go hungry."

It's no exaggeration to say that your prayers and gifts are the difference between life and death for some of our North Korean brothers and sisters. One believer told us, "It's impossible to imagine a car without an engine. In the same way, we cannot imagine how we'd be able to survive without your concern, support and love for our believers. Whenever we face strong storms of difficulty, we remember that you care for us. Through your love and care, we break through any circumstance, just like spring breaks through the ice cold winter."

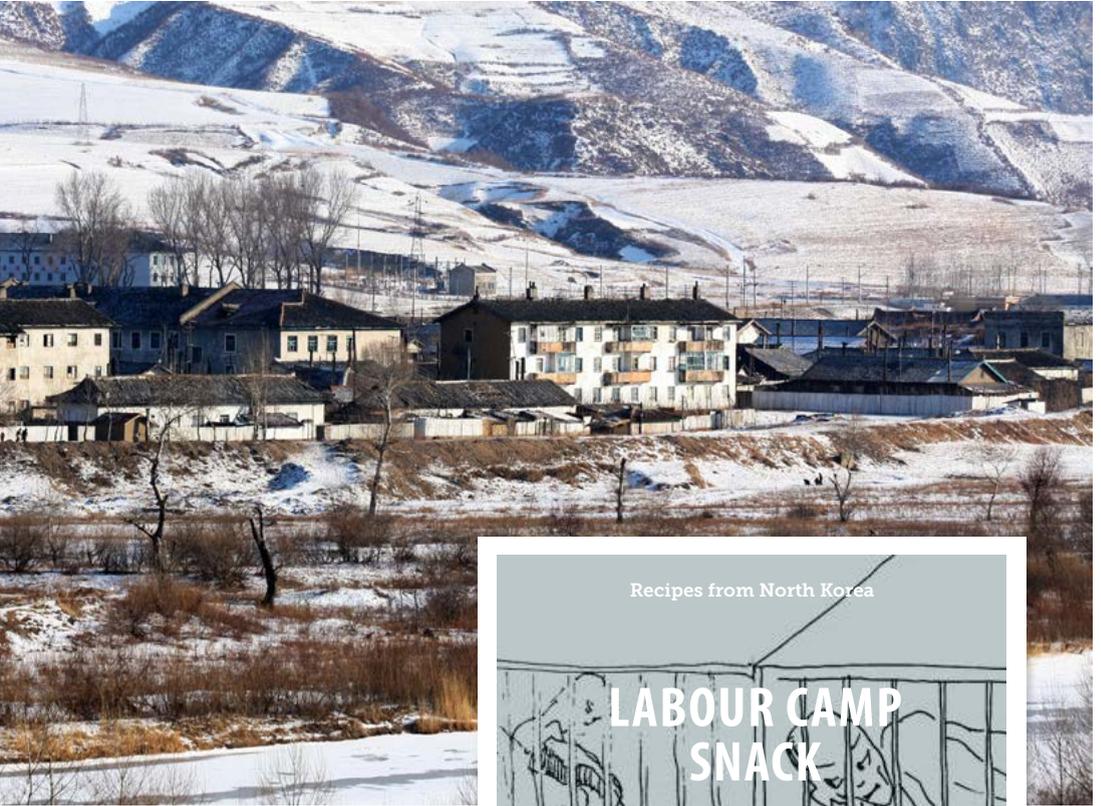
'WE TOOK CARE OF ONE ANOTHER'

Despite having very little, Christians in North Korea choose to share what they do have with those who have even less.

One secret worker says, "At the height of the famine a leader felt called to reintroduce the concept of 'holy rice', a practice whereby rice is set apart for use in God's kingdom. Ever since, these Christians don't consume all the food they receive from us. They save some to give to people who are even worse off than them. This gives them an opportunity to build trust and later share the gospel with these people."

This practice even continues when secret Christians are discovered and imprisoned in North Korea's infamous labour camps. Hea Woo*, a Christian who was imprisoned in North Korea, remembers, "I stood out among the other prisoners, because I helped them. Sometimes I





shared some rice with the sick. Occasionally I washed their clothes, too.”

When she describes the daily routine in the camp, you realise how little food the prisoners were given. She says, “At five o’clock we were woken up and the prisoners were counted. After breakfast, which consisted of two or three spoons of rice, we were marched out of the camp, where we had to work in the fields without a break until 12 o’clock.

“Back in the camp, we were again given a few mouthfuls of food, after which we went back to our work on the land until six o’clock in the evening. In the evenings, we had a criticism

Recipes from North Korea

LABOUR CAMP SNACK



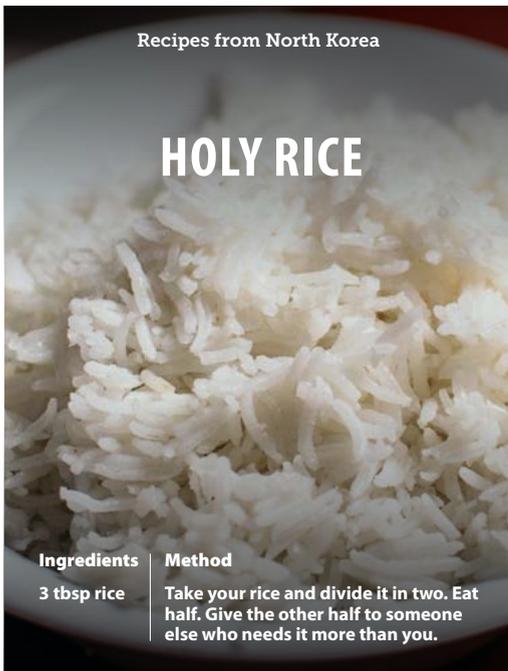
Ingredients One rat

Method If you find a dead rat, eat it raw, and eat it quickly. If the prison guards catch you, they won't give you any more rations for the day

ABOVE An icy river marks the border between North Korea and China. Thanks to your support, Open Doors secret workers smuggle enough food over the border to North Korea to keep 60,000 believers alive.

"I stood out among the other prisoners, because I helped them."

Hea Woo, North Korean believer



roll call, at ten o'clock we were finally allowed to go to sleep."

The rations given to prisoners in the camps are so small that they will resort to eating anything they can find to supplement their diet – including snakes, rats, mice and insects.

Even in the midst of these horrific conditions, Hea Woo (PICTURED) was able to shine as a light. She says, "God used me to lead five people to faith. I tried to teach them what I knew. That may not have been much, and I didn't have

session in the camp, during which we had to sit in front of the group and accuse ourselves and others of offenses.

"After a few more spoonfuls of food, we were then given ideological training. This was the most difficult part of the day. Our eyes fell shut from exhaustion, but we had to pay attention and learn the words of the leaders off by heart. Otherwise we were punished. After another

access to a Bible in the camp. But on Sunday and at Christmas, we met together out of the view of the guards. Often that was in the toilet. There we held a short service. I taught them Bible verses and some songs, which we sang almost inaudibly. All six of us survived the camp, because we took care of one another."

**name changed for security reasons*

HOW CAN I HELP MY PERSECUTED CHURCH FAMILY?

North Korea is the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian – but it isn't the only place where Christians face extreme persecution. There are secret believers in other places, such as Somalia, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Iran, where Christians must hide their faith from dictators and extremists, and risk imprisonment or even death for following Jesus.

It can seem like our persecuted brothers and sisters are too far away, and their lives are too different from ours, for us to really help them. But that isn't true. There are three things you can do today that will make all the difference for our persecuted church family.

PRAY

Brother Andrew, the founder of Open Doors, says: "Our prayers can go where we cannot. There are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray."

Each time you sit down for a meal this week, why not take a moment to pray for your church family in North Korea? Pray that God would provide food for our brothers and sisters, that He would protect Open Doors secret workers as they smuggle in life-saving aid, and that our church family in North Korea would continue to shine as a light, even in the darkest places.

GIVE

You can't help every persecuted believer, but by giving a gift, you could keep hope alive for one brother or sister. In North Korea, your gift

could mean the difference between life and death – and the longterm support of people like you is helping an entire generation of believers in North Korea to not only survive, but also continue to show the love of Jesus to those around them.

Every £15 could provide a monthly winter relief pack to help a North Korean believer survive.

Every £33 could provide access to education and vocational skills for a Christian woman living in a country we can't name where believers face extreme persecution.

SPEAK OUT

On 16 January we will be launching the 2019 World Watch List in Parliament, helping our leaders to understand the extreme persecution facing Christians around the world. If you haven't already, please invite your MP, and help them to find out how they can support international freedom of religion or belief. Visit www.opendoorsuk.org to find out how.

THANK YOU

Your faithful support is enabling Open Doors workers and partners to be there for our persecuted brothers and sisters for as long as it takes, and show them that they are not forgotten or alone.

One North Korean believer told us, "The fact that you are able to support us is proof that God exists. Thanks to you, we know He has not forgotten us. He has opened the door for us to be connected to many believers abroad." Thank you for continuing to stand with them.



THE 2019 WORLD WATCH LIST WILL BE LAUNCHED ON 16 JANUARY

Visit www.opendoorsuk.org that day to find out if North Korea is still number one, and to learn more about your brothers and sisters around the world who are courageously following Jesus, despite extreme persecution.

'TOGETHER WITH YOU, WE CAN MAKE INDIA A BETTER PLACE'

As Hindu extremists step up their efforts to make India free of Christians, Open Doors is working through local church partners to double their impact over the next two years. And thanks to your faithful prayers and generous support for our persecuted family in India, Open Doors partners have been able to deliver persecution survival training to over 6,000 church leaders across the country!

Bhuwan* and Sumit* are pastors and friends who have attended the training, which is conducted by Open Doors church partners in India. The seminars include how to respond biblically to persecution, what believers' legal rights are and why they should continue to spread the gospel, despite the increasing hostility against Christianity.

'I ONLY TEACH WHAT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE – THE BIBLE'

Both Bhuwan and Sumit have seen that hostility firsthand. Sumit says, "Through the church we wanted to start some classes for adults. We estimated about 15 people would attend, but 22 came. However, just after the morning devotions, a mob came to the house. Among them were at least ten Hindu fundamentalists, about 12 police officers and some other locals. The extremists shouted to the police: 'They are traitors! Grab them and we will give you a reward!'"

But thanks to the training Sumit received, he was able to stand strong in the face of the mob. "Fortunately the police were not too hostile. They did come back to our church and confiscated some materials. They also blamed us for luring people into Christianity. 'Why are you not teaching Hinduism?' someone asked us. I told him, 'I only teach what has changed my life: the Bible.' They left and later returned the Bibles they had taken from us."

Bhuwan initially faced persecution from his family. "Two uncles and about 20 villagers came to my home and shouted at me: 'Why have you become a Christian?'"

"It was a tense atmosphere, but I told the mob that they could only stop me by breaking me. But even if I could no longer walk or would no longer be alive, someone else would come and share the gospel.

"During the seminars I've attended, I learned many things. The legal stuff we learn is very practical."

'WE WOULD BECOME THE CHURCH THAT JESUS TALKS ABOUT'

As well as legal rights, persecution survival seminars are a mixture of teaching from the Bible and sharing testimonies of persecuted Christians around the world.

Bhuwan says, "We have to focus not just on the spiritual growth of the church, but on the whole church. Not just the adults, but the youth



Bhuwan says, "Without this knowledge, we can't stand for our rights."



Sumit says, "You are sowing where there's no seed yet."

too. Not just reading the Bible, but also helping the hungry."

Sumit was struck by the levels of Christian persecution around the world. "Persecution is not just happening in India, it's happening across the world in many different countries among many different groups. We have to stand with them. When I go back to my church, I will share the testimonies I've heard with my church members."

Bhuwan reflects on what India would be like if every Christian could attend persecution survival seminars. "India would become a country with only mature Christians. We would become the church that Jesus talks about: a church that hell will not prevail over. That's why we need to understand the Bible and our legal rights as well. Without this knowledge, we can't stand for our rights and for our faith. Together with you, we can make India a better place."

'YOUR SUPPORT INSPIRES ME'

In 2018, India was at number 11 – its highest ever position – on the World Watch List, Open Doors' annual ranking of the top 50 countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian. The Indian government is currently led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who believe that being a Hindu is part of Indian identity. This year, India will hold its general election, which could drastically influence the way Christians and other minorities are treated, depending on who is elected to power.

Thank you so much for all that you have done so far to support our persecuted family in India. As you can see, your support is going a long way to build up believers facing some of the most extreme persecution. God is doing amazing things in India, and Open Doors local church partners want to extend their reach to every corner of India over the next two years – but they need your support and prayers to keep going.

To you, Sumit says, "You are sowing where there's no seed yet. Initially, we only knew Bible verses. But thanks to these biblical teachings as well as the teaching about our legal rights, we now know how to live and act as responsible Christians. Whatever you do to support us, it's very inspiring to me. I will continue my ministry with even more zeal."

**name changed for security reasons*

PRAY

- For Bhuwan, Sumit and church leaders attending the persecution survival training, that they would be inspired and encouraged to continue to stand up for Jesus
- For the work of Open Doors local church partners as they reach vulnerable Christians, that God would protect them and open the way for them to bring light and hope
- For peace and stability in the run-up to India's elections, and that the newly elected government would be sympathetic to Christian and Muslim minorities.

SECRET SMUGGLER



Have you read *God's Smuggler*? The amazing story of Open Doors' founder Brother Andrew's real-life adventures has inspired millions since its publication in 1967, with its mix of risk, danger and courageous faith. Now you can introduce the children in your life to this miraculous story with

Open Doors' brand new family-friendly film: *Secret Smuggler*.

In 1955, when Brother Andrew first drove a car full of Bibles up to the Yugoslavian border,

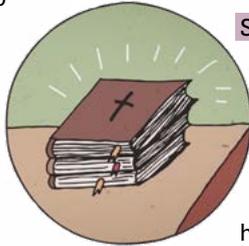


it was illegal to take more than one Bible into the country. But that didn't stop him. He felt called to strengthen Christians living behind the Iron Curtain and, as he explained to a television audience 20 years later, God honoured his faith many times over.

Brother Andrew: I prayed: Lord Jesus, when You were on earth, You made so many blind eyes see. Now, it's the same job for You to make seeing eyes blind – but you've got to do it now! And if He doesn't, then I've had it! I cannot outsmart the custom guards. They took four hours to search: two fellows in the front of my vehicle, two in the rear, two underneath and two standing to watch the expression on my face to see if I was getting nervous!

Pat Robertson: (incredulously) All the time, they couldn't find the Bibles?

Brother Andrew: No, I've not lost one Bible in 20 years!



The story of Brother Andrew and his 'miracle' car has not lost the power to enthral. With tales of scary soldiers, death-defying dares, bold prayers, true love and miracles, the new *Secret Smuggler* film held primary-school-aged children rapt when launched at Open Doors' celebration event Standing Strong. And with such beautiful illustrations, it's not difficult to see why...

SECRET SMUGGLER RESOURCES

Our *Secret Smuggler* resources provide a fun way to discover Brother Andrew's story and to inspire children to join the adventure of serving their persecuted family:

SECRET SMUGGLER FILM:

This five-minute family-friendly film tells the story of Brother Andrew's first trips into Communist countries, how he became famous as God's Smuggler and how his adventures led to the creation of Open Doors. To order the DVD use the magazine response form or download it at www.opendoorsuk.org.

SECRET SMUGGLER SESSION PLAN:

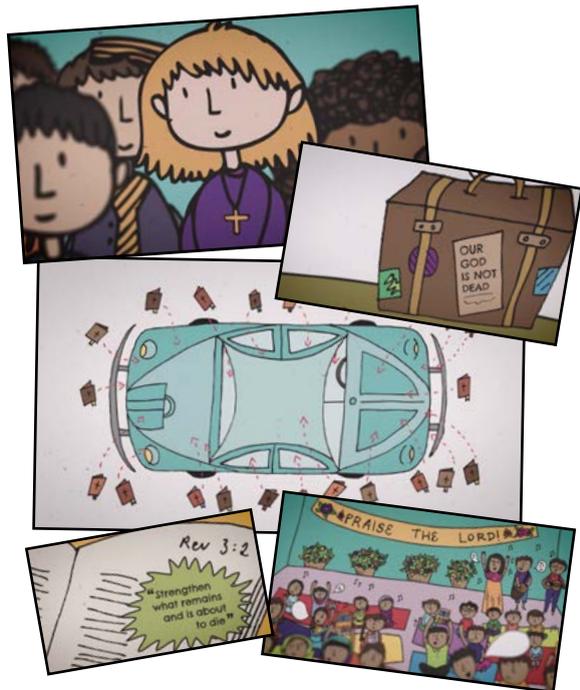
A ready-to-use session plan suitable for use in Sunday School, children's groups or all-age services. The plan is downloadable from the website and gives loads of ideas for games, prayers and imaginative play based on the *Secret Smuggler* film. Includes the story of a current day Bible-smuggler as an inspiration to pray.

SECRET SMUGGLER BOOK:

This 24-page full-colour booklet also includes items to spot, as well as suggestions to help children pray, write and raise funds. Packed with fun, charming illustrations, it's perfect for children, and is great for church or home, for reading alone or in a group. Makes a great free takeaway for children's groups. Order as many as you need, using the response form, or by going to our website.

For all *Secret Smuggler* resources, go to www.opendoorsuk.org/secretsmuggler

**Secret Smuggler* is a short adaptation of *God's Smuggler*, the best-selling book by Brother Andrew with John and Elizabeth Sherrill © Open Doors International, 2018.



SOUTH KOREA MUSKATHLON 2019



Do you want to help Christians in North Korea? Tim Hamilton does – he’s taken on the Muskathlon where he’ll run his first marathon to fundraise for Christians in the country where it is most dangerous to be a Christian. Are you ready to join him and take on the challenge of a lifetime?

“I’ve been so inspired by the faith of North Korea’s secret believers – and the courage of those who risk their lives to help them,” says Tim. “The Muskathlon gives me an opportunity to meet North Korean believers and raise significant support and awareness for this incredible work.

“I’m not much of a runner, so a marathon is a huge challenge. And so is the fundraising target of £10,000. But it seems like the least I can do – and I’m sure family, friends and church will give great support.”

In North Korea, citizens earn less than \$2 a month. Many are forced to eat grass to stay alive. “In winter everything is frozen and there’s nothing to eat,” said an in-country source. “We have to pay additional taxes too. We can’t even use our heating stoves because there’s no firewood.”

Like Tim, you can change the story for Christians in North Korea by taking on an extraordinary challenge. The money you raise will help your brothers and sisters to stand strong in the face of extreme persecution and poverty, as well as providing shelter and training to North Koreans who have escaped to China, and broadcasting Christian radio into North Korea with the potential to reach tens of

thousands with the hope of the gospel.

Join us on the Muskathlon 2019 in South Korea where you’ll meet and encourage North Korean Christians who have been imprisoned for their faith, raise money for vital food aid and compete in an extreme challenge.

The Muskathlon is an extreme challenge in an extreme location that will push the limits of your endurance. Run 13, 26, or 39 miles, OR trek 39 miles, OR cycle 75 miles and fundraise £10,000 for vital support for North Korean believers.

Dates: 5-12 October 2019

Where: South Korea

Trip highlights:

- Fellowship with a North Korean defector and South Korean pastors
- Visit the demilitarised zone
- Sightseeing
- Daily group devotions
- Your Muskathlon challenge and a huge celebration.

Cost: €1550 excluding flights

You’ll be supported by Fiona at Open Doors with fundraising advice, resources and everything you need to make your trip a success.

Muskathlete Graham Jennings, who ran a marathon in Jordan in October 2018, talks to Challenge Events Coordinator Fiona about how the trip deepened his faith.

You recently got back from Jordan where you ran an impressive 26 miles! What was the biggest impact of the trip?

My faith has been challenged and deepened. In Jordan I realised that Muslims pray five times a day and I often struggle to pray that much, so I have set the bar higher. And I have a greater confidence in what God can do in my life. I also have a new awareness of my brothers and sisters who are going through difficult persecution, and how I can pray for them.

On your trip you had the privilege to meet and pray with refugees. What impacted you most?

Probably hearing the story of an Iraqi refugee who fled her home, which was then burnt out. Her husband was shot and wounded and her son-in-law was killed. They lost all security and yet they still have hope and faith!

You saw first-hand the work that Open Doors is doing in the region. What was that like?

I was impressed by what's being done. Open Doors supports the local church who give out essential supplies to many Muslim refugees. This gives the church the opportunity to share their faith with these families in their homes and many responded.

What was the highlight of the Muskathlon trip for you?

I have two highlights. First, eating food that the Iraqis refugees had prepared for us, because it was their sign of friendship to eat with us and to serve us. Their food was amazing,



Graham raised over £9,000 for Open Doors by running a Muskathlon in Jordan

freshly prepared and so colourful. Number two was running the marathon. There was so much support out there. I didn't know whether I could do it – my training had been disrupted by injury. It was a real challenge but I completed it!

So what would you say to others thinking of taking on a Muskathlon?

It was a huge challenge for me, but so worthwhile. If you're up for it, go for it – you won't regret it.

A massive thank you to Graham who raised a whopping £9,050 for Open Doors, and he's still going!

Think you're up for the challenge? Ready to change the lives of Christians in North Korea? Visit www.opendoorsuk.org/muskathlon to book your spot or contact Fiona on **01993 460015** or challenge@opendoorsuk.org.

Looking for something closer to home? Take on a 10K run or do a Pilgrimage prayer and walking challenge. Visit www.opendoorsuk.org/fundraise to see what's best for you.

In North Korea there are two extremes: Persecution and hunger

Christians in North Korea risk being killed if their secret faith is discovered. They are seen as enemies of the state for daring to believe that Jesus is a higher authority than North Korea's leaders.

But they also face another danger: hunger. One believer says, during one of the regular food shortages in North Korea, "The government gave us advice to go into the mountains, pluck grass and make soup with some salt." Her mother and brother died of starvation.

Your faithful prayers and gifts are enabling Open Doors underground workers to keep 60,000 secret believers alive in North Korea by smuggling in food and other aid.

Every £59 could provide a monthly relief pack to keep a North Korean family alive during the freezing winter. This could include food, medicines, winter clothes, boots and blankets.

Please continue to pray and give what you can to keep hope alive for our North Korean brothers and sisters.

Use the response form, call 01993 460015 or visit www.opendoorsuk.org

The 2019 World Watch List will be launched on 16 January. Visit www.opendoorsuk.org on that day to find out if North Korea is still number one.

