

 OpenDoors

**WORLD
WATCH
LIST** 2025

THE TOP 50 COUNTRIES

WHERE FOLLOWING JESUS COSTS THE MOST

“ON MY ACCOUNT YOU WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE GOVERNORS AND KINGS AS WITNESSES TO THEM AND TO THE GENTILES. BUT WHEN THEY ARREST YOU, DO NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT TO SAY OR HOW TO SAY IT. AT THAT TIME YOU WILL BE GIVEN WHAT TO SAY, FOR IT WILL NOT BE YOU SPEAKING, BUT THE SPIRIT OF YOUR FATHER SPEAKING THROUGH YOU.”

– MATTHEW 10:18–20

Jesus was clear from the start. Identifying with Him, believing in Him, simply talking about Him would all come at a cost. The early church understood there is a price to pay for being a “witness.” It’s no coincidence that the Greek word for witness – *martus* – became our word “martyr.” Martyrs are people whose witness has cost them their lives.

Today, the witness of the persecuted church comes at a similar cost. Persecuted Christians might not face “kings and governors,” but they know what it is to live under the gaze of the authorities, to be hauled in front of judges, secret police, local councils, village chiefs, tribal elders, party officials, heads of clans or families. But they also know the truth of Christ’s presence: they know what it is to have the “Spirit of the Father” with them on the witness stand.

EYEWITNESS TRUTH

That is the reality behind the World Watch List. Even in the countries in

this book, the Spirit is active, and the church is alive and growing. Where believers have to keep their faith secret, they still find a way to tell others about Jesus. Where they are driven out of their homes, they still meet as a church. Where they are assailed with slander and lies, they still live out the truth.

And “truth” is the key word. Because the World Watch List draws directly from the on-the-ground experience of persecuted Christians. This is not theoretical, and it’s not produced in ivory-tower academia: it’s based on the accounts of real people in real situations. This is firsthand information. Eyewitness testimony.

BEING A WITNESS

In the end, we are all witnesses. We witness to the light and life that is found in Jesus. And we are witnesses to what is happening to His followers around the world. We have the privilege of standing alongside them – through prayer, through giving and through speaking out on their behalf.

Your prayers and your support mean that they are not alone in the fight. They have, as Jesus promised, the presence of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them. But they also gain strength from us – from knowing that their family is standing with them, praying with them, speaking up on their behalf, seeing things through their eyes and joining in with the task that Jesus gave us – of being a witness.



Pastor Soré and his family from Burkina Faso. Read more about their story *page 29*.

MAPPING THE WITNESSES OF THE

WORLD WATCH LIST



380 MILLION

More than 380 million Christians face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. That's one in seven Christians worldwide.

23

The number of years North Korea has been number one on the World Watch List.

— See *Eyewitness: Jung Jik* page 9

3,944

Christians were sexually assaulted, harassed or forcibly married to non-Christians.

An estimated **500** incidents in Syria

54,780

Christians beaten, threatened or physically and mentally abused...

...including some **10,000** people in Pakistan

209,771

Christians forced to leave their homes, to go into hiding or exile.

Over **40,000** of these were in Myanmar

4,744

Christians detained, arrested or sentenced for faith-related reasons.

Over **2,100** of these incidents took place in India

4,476

believers were killed for their faith.

3,100 of these deaths were in Nigeria

28,368

attacks on Christian homes, shops and businesses.

Almost **20,000** of these attacks took place in sub-Saharan Africa

AROUND THE WORLD...

...CHRISTIANS ARE BEING ATTACKED AND KILLED

The most violent region is sub-Saharan Africa, where weak government and political tensions allow Islamic extremism to flourish. Persecution is rising in countries such as **Burkina Faso (20)**, **Mali (14)** and **Chad (49)**, which enters the top 50 for the first time. The *Arise Africa* campaign is a call to the church and the world to respond to this crisis.

— See *Arise Africa* page 44

Violence grows in situations of anarchy and internal conflict. Trapped in the chaos of civil war, Christians in **Yemen (3)**, **Sudan (5)** and **Myanmar (13)** are easy targets.

— See *Eyewitness: Zahra* page 11

But strong, authoritarian regimes are also places of officially sanctioned violence. In both **Kyrgyzstan (47)** – back in the top 50 for the first time since 2013 – and

Kazakhstan (up nine places to 38), churches and

believers have been attacked by police and security services, or through locally orchestrated mobs.



...CHRISTIANS ARE BEING FORCED TO FLEE

The persecuted church is, increasingly, a displaced church, exiled to refugee or IDP (internally displaced people) camps. **Sudan (5)** is facing the largest displacement crisis in the world: in a country of 49 million people, the number of IDPs by mid-2024 had surpassed 7.7 million. For already vulnerable Christians, the loss of home and community make them even more of an easy target. In **Nigeria (7)**, radicalized Islamic Fulani militants continue to drive Christian communities from their lands. Conflict in the Manipur region in **India (11)** forced tens of thousands of Christians to flee for their lives – often with little more than the clothes on their backs.

...CHRISTIANS ARE DRIVEN UNDERGROUND

More and more Christians are forced to worship undercover. In **Afghanistan (10)**, it is effectively impossible to publicly express your faith. In **Algeria (19)**, all Protestant churches have been forced to close, and the number of Christians awaiting trial and sentencing is at an all-time high. In **China (15)**, the era of relative tolerance is over. Unregistered churches are now illegal. Ideological pressure and official indoctrination are used to direct church teaching. Religious education for children is banned. Many congregations are taking their fellowships underground, into isolated home groups.

— See *Eyewitness: Ming* page 23

... CHRISTIANS ARE ACTIVE AND THE CHURCH IS GROWING

Despite the destruction and displacement, despite the tyranny and terror, the church



is active and alive. Even in **North Korea**

(1), the worst of all countries to be a Christian, some 400,000 believers still witness to the life and light of Jesus. As Lydia*, a secret Open Doors fieldworker who supports North Korean believers outside of the country says, “Despite persecution, nothing and no one can stop the church from growing.”

— **See Eyewitness: Jung Jik** page 9

SYRIA




During the World Watch List recording period, the main problem in **Syria (18)** was crime and corruption, which continued to drive Christian emigration. As this year’s list was going to print, the Assad regime fell to rebel forces, leaving Christians in the church’s ancient heartland facing renewed anxiety and threats.



*Name changed for security reasons

ABOUT THE WORLD WATCH LIST

Now in its 32nd year, the Open Doors World Watch List ranks the countries where the persecution of Christians is most extreme. Data is based on in-country, eyewitness information, using networks developed over decades. This data is converted into a “persecution score,” which is ranked into categories:

-  **Extreme 81-100 points**
-  **Very High 61-80 points**
-  **High 41-60 points**

— See “*What is the World Watch List?*” page 64

DEFINING PERSECUTION

Persecution takes many forms, from insults and abuse, to discrimination in education and the workplace, to outright violence. Open Doors categorizes the different forms as “smash” and “squeeze.”

“Smash” is physical, visible, violent: bombing, arson, shooting, sexual violence, kidnappings, forced evictions.

“Squeeze” is insidious, structural, suffocating: legal restrictions, cultural and religious discrimination, societal pressure and, above all, the inability to talk about or publicly display your faith.

— See “*What do we mean by persecution?*” page 65

ABOUT OPEN DOORS

For 70 years, Open Doors has stood alongside these faithful brothers and sisters, strengthening and supporting those who count the cost of following Christ. Our global underground networks work in more than 70 countries, including some of the most dangerous places on earth.

— See “*70 years of standing with the persecuted church*” page 62

1 NORTH KOREA

Representative image



98



POPULATION

26.2 million / 400,000 Christians

LEADER

Kim Jong Un

PERSECUTION SCORE 98 (+2) ↑

If your Christian faith is discovered in North Korea, you will either be immediately executed or deported to a horrendous labor camp that few survive.

The Kim regime relies on tightly controlling people's behavior and beliefs. In early 2024, they announced stricter regulations against outside influences. It has been reported that about 30 teenagers were executed just for watching a South Korean drama last year. In this environment, even secret Christian worship and prayer is an enormous risk.

Open Doors secret workers are helping around 100,000 North Korean believers by providing vital food and aid from outside the country, shelter and training for refugees at safe houses in China and training through radio broadcasting.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God will give North Korean Christians eyes to see His light in the darkness
- For the estimated 400,000 secret believers in North Korea
- That God will refresh courageous believers with His peace.



In North Korea, despite the intense persecution, an estimated 400,000 believers still follow Jesus

Representative image

JUNG JIK

“My grandmother was a Christian, but I never knew,” says Jung Jik*. “Every morning, when she cooked rice, she would mumble. Before she went to sleep, she sat down and mumbled. I thought she believed in some superstition, but looking back, I now know that it was Christian prayer.”

His grandmother could not talk about her faith, for fear that her children or grandchildren would let the secret out. But she could pray for her family – and these prayers had a profound impact.

“MY HEART STILL YEARNS FOR NORTH KOREA.”

After fleeing North Korea for food, Jung Jik’s father became a Christian, leading to his arrest and deportation. When Jung Jik’s siblings visited their father in prison before he died, he wrote on their hands that he was a follower of Jesus.

Jung Jik followed in his father’s footsteps – both becoming a Christian after fleeing North Korea

and spending time in prison. Today, he lives in South Korea. “My heart still yearns for North Korea,” he says. “There’s still a large underground church. Because you pray, many people are miraculously healed, and they experience God’s power. They come to faith.”

NAMELESS AND POWERLESS

Jung Jik has been imprisoned twice and escaped – once by climbing an electric fence when the power was off, and the other when a guard asked him to return home to get him alcohol. “In prison, you are no longer considered human. They never called me by name, but by a number,” he says. “There was hardly any food. The husks of corn had no salt in them, otherwise prisoners would have energy to escape.”

JUNG JIK ASKS

“PRAY FOR MY CHILD WHO IS STILL IN NORTH KOREA. PRAY THAT I WILL SEE THEM AGAIN AND I CAN TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS.”

*Name changed for security reasons

2 SOMALIA

Representative image



94



POPULATION

18.7 million / a few hundred Christians

LEADER

Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre

PERSECUTION SCORE 94 (+1) ↑

In Somalia, following Jesus is a matter of life and death.

Al-Shabaab, a violent Islamic militant group, is at war with the government and controls large swathes of the country. They enforce a strict form of Sharia (Islamic law) and are committed to eradicating Christianity from Somalia.

Even at home, any suspicion you have come to faith in Christ can result in house arrest, forced marriage or threats on your life from your own family.

Open Doors supports Somali believers across the Horn of Africa through discipleship training and by equipping them to cope with severe persecution.

PLEASE PRAY

- That secret Christians would know they are not alone
- That God would protect anyone in danger of attacks from Islamic extremist group al-Shabaab
- For secret believer parents – they need wisdom as they teach their children about Jesus.

3 YEMEN

Alamy | Representative image



94



POPULATION

35.2 million / a small number of Christians

LEADER

Chairman Rashad al-Alimi

PERSECUTION SCORE 94 (+5) ↑

Torn apart by civil war, life is very hard for everybody in Yemen, and even harder for Christians.

The country is now ruled by three different powers, none of which are sympathetic to Christianity. Anyone thought to be Christian can face monitoring, detention, torture, ill-treatment and even murder. Persecution has increased as Houthi rebels – Islamic militants – have expanded their control. In the last year, at least one Christian was killed for his faith, and dozens of house churches in Houthi-controlled areas can no longer meet.

Open Doors' partners support the body of Christ in Yemen by raising prayer; distributing relief aid; training believers and pastors; and offering shelter, protection and livelihood support.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God would bring peace and justice to Yemen
- For protection for Yemeni Christians against Islamic extremists
- That the underground church in Yemen would flourish.

ZAHRA

The text messages will be forever etched into Zahra's* mind.

They were sent to her friend Anis* after she walked a street with him and his son. "We wanted to kill you today, but we saw you with others," they said. "We don't want to harm them, but we're coming for you." A week later, Anis was killed.

"I was haunted by the messages," says Zahra. "I was terrified. What if I were next?"

"THE CHURCH, THOUGH IN SECRET, IS GROWING!"

However, Zahra is unflinching in her calling. "I visit women in their homes, help them with housework and cooking, so I can build relationships to lead them to Christ," she explains.

It requires an astonishing sensitivity to God's voice. "*Shall I go to this meeting today? Maybe we should move our meeting to Zoom.* These are questions I ask God. When I enter a house, I might not come back out. We live among wolves."

But just as Zahra witnesses the dangers facing Yemeni believers, she also sees

God moving.

"I'm comforted and encouraged when I see how the church, though in secret, is growing!"

SURVEILLANCE AND SECRECY

Secret meetings, coded messages and pseudonyms – these are all part of what it means to follow Jesus in Yemen, given the increasingly suffocating surveillance and restrictions. "It's like we have our own language," says Saad*, a church leader.

ZAHRA ASKS

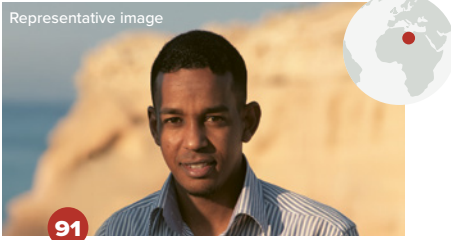
"PRAY THAT GOD WILL GIVE ME STRENGTH, AND GUIDE ME TO HEAR HIS VOICE, SO I CAN SERVE HIM."

*Names changed for security reasons



4 LIBYA

Representative image



91

100  0

POPULATION

7 million / 35,500 Christians

LEADER

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh

PERSECUTION SCORE 91 (no change) ↔

In Libya, following Jesus is a huge risk for anyone. Libyan Christians with a Muslim background face violent pressure from their families and communities to renounce their faith.

Foreign Christians, especially those from sub-Saharan Africa, are targeted by Islamic militant and criminal groups. These groups kidnap and sometimes brutally kill Christians. The lack of a central government to enforce law and order makes the situation even more precarious.

Open Doors works with local partners and churches in North Africa to provide leadership and discipleship training, livelihood support, legal aid, trauma counseling, Bibles and pastoral care.

PLEASE PRAY

- That Libya won't erupt into a civil war that would further endanger believers
- For God's protection on Christian migrant workers at risk from extremist groups
- That secret believers would be able to contact each other and grow in their walk with Christ.

5 SUDAN



90

100  0

POPULATION

49.4 million / 2 million Christians

LEADER

Lieutenant-General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan

PERSECUTION SCORE 90 (+3) ↑

Sudan was on a path toward religious freedom, but a coup and devastating war have dashed these hopes.

Sudan is now home to the world's largest displacement and hunger crisis. The conflict has given Islamic extremists more opportunity to target Christians; more than 100 churches have been damaged, and Christians have been abducted and killed.

New Sudanese Christians face such severe opposition that they tend to keep their faith secret, even from their own children.

Open Doors works through local church partners in Sudan to strengthen persecuted Christians through persecution survival training, discipleship training and economic empowerment projects.

PLEASE PRAY

- For an end to Sudan's civil war, where Christians have been caught in the crossfire
- For the brave Christians who continue to serve the vulnerable during the war
- That God would be with and provide for believers forced to flee their homes.

**“MUCH OF THE
CHURCH IN SUDAN
ARE ON THE RUN.”**

– FIKIRU*, OPEN DOORS
RESEARCHER

All Sudanese are suffering in the war, but Christians also face exclusion, discrimination and persecution.



6 ERITREA

Alamy | Representative image



89



POPULATION

3.8 million / 1.7 million Christians

LEADER

President Isaias Afwerki

PERSECUTION SCORE 89 (no change) ↔

It's incredibly dangerous to follow Jesus in Eritrea. Last year saw another mass arrest of Christians.

Only certain denominations are recognized by Eritrea's government, with harsh persecution for Evangelicals and other non-traditional churches and for any believer from a Muslim background. Government security forces have conducted house-to-house raids, sending hundreds of Christians to the notorious, inhumane prisons.

Eritrea is often called the "North Korea of Africa" – phone calls and internet usage are heavily monitored, and Christians suffer the most.

Open Doors works through local church partners in Eritrea to provide economic empowerment projects, discipleship training and persecution survival training.

PLEASE PRAY

- That the Christians arrested last year will be freed
- For God's provision for the families and children of those arrested
- For God's protection on believers forced into military service against their will.

7 NIGERIA



88



POPULATION

229.2 million / 106.6 million Christians

LEADER

President Bola Tinubu

PERSECUTION SCORE 88 (no change) ↔

More Christians are killed for their faith in Nigeria than anywhere else in the world, according to Open Doors research.

Violence from Islamic extremist groups is escalating, with targeted attacks by Fulani militants, Boko Haram and other militants spreading farther and farther south. The attacks are brutal – many believers are killed, with women often kidnapped and sexually assaulted. Militants destroy homes and churches. Millions of Christians have fled and now live in displacement camps.

Open Doors works through local church partners in Nigeria to strengthen Christians with discipleship and persecution survival training, trauma care, relief aid and economic empowerment projects.

PLEASE PRAY

- For Christians whose loved ones have been killed or abducted
- That God would work in the hearts of Nigerian leaders to protect Christian citizens and communities
- For the millions of Christians and others who have been displaced by violence.

MANGA

“I live as a Christian, and I’m ready to die as Christian.”

That’s what Manga said to Boko Haram militants when they put a knife on his neck and asked him to deny his faith. As he began to bleed profusely, Manga recalled Jesus’ words on the cross: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).

“Miraculously, the pain vanished,” he recalls. “I felt the presence of God. I felt His hands on my neck.” The militants left Manga, assuming he was dead – just as they had killed his father in the attack. “At some point I was clinically dead, but God restored my life.

“My life was taken away, it’s never like before. I miss my dad,” he continues. “But what has been my anchor and my strength is that we are pilgrims in this world. We have a home, far better than this world, which we await to return to.”

“AT SOME POINT I WAS CLINICALLY DEAD, BUT GOD RESTORED MY LIFE.”

MIRACLES AND RISK

Like many persecuted Christians, Manga has seen miracles, but his life remains at risk. “I cannot go back home to be with my family, and each day we live mindful of our security,” he says, highlighting the devastating long-term impact that attacks in sub-Saharan Africa can have on believers. “Our life is not normal anymore, like other people’s.”

MANGA ASKS

“YOUR PRAYERS SHOULD BE FOR STRENGTH TO REMAIN FIRM, AND THAT FIRE FOR JESUS, WHICH IS BURNING IN OUR HEART, SHOULD KEEP ON BURNING.”



Manga in Maiduguri, Nigeria

8 PAKISTAN

Pexels | Representative image



87



POPULATION

245.2 million / 4.5 million Christians

LEADER

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

PERSECUTION SCORE 87 (no change) ↔

Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are often used to target minority groups, especially Christians.

While the death sentence is rarely carried out, being accused of blasphemy makes people very vulnerable to attack. In June 2024, an elderly man was killed by an angry mob after being falsely accused of desecrating the Quran.

More and more Christian girls are abused. All Christians suffer discrimination, and the authorities reserve the most degrading jobs for Christians.

Open Doors is active in the Persian Gulf countries, including Pakistan, through the HOPE (Helping Others Pray and Encourage) Community.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God changes the hearts of decision-makers in Pakistan on blasphemy laws
- That Christians will live joyfully, knowing they are not second-class citizens in God's eyes
- For God's protection on Pakistani Christian women who can be forced into Islamic marriage.

9 IRAN

Representative image



86



POPULATION

89.8 million / 800,000 Christians

LEADER

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

PERSECUTION SCORE 86 (no change) ↔

The Iranian government views people becoming Christians as a “threat to national security” – a Western attempt to undermine Islam and the regime.

House churches are often raided, with leaders and church members arrested, prosecuted and given long prison sentences. The historical Armenian and Assyrian churches are protected but treated as second-class citizens. They must not worship in Persian or talk about their faith with Muslims.

But despite persecution, the church in Iran is growing steadily.

Open Doors raises prayer support for the Christians in Iran.

PLEASE PRAY

- That Iran's new president would pursue religious freedom for all Iranians
- For secret believers – that God would give them wisdom and courage as the church in Iran grows
- For the mental and physical well-being of Christians in prison and their families.



WWL
#9

**“I’M NOT WITHOUT PURPOSE.
GOD IS WORKING THROUGH ME
TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST
WOMEN WITH BROKEN HEARTS
AND IDENTITIES SHATTERED BY
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC.”**

– SIMIN, IRAN

Arrested and interrogated for her faith, Simin escaped Iran and now supports other victims of persecution.

10 AFGHANISTAN



POPULATION

43.4 million / thousands of Christians

LEADER

Hibatullah Akhundzada is Taliban leader

PERSECUTION SCORE 85 (+1) ↑

Most Afghan Christians come from Muslim backgrounds; practicing their faith openly is impossible.

Leaving Islam is considered shameful, and it's punishable by death under Islamic law, which has been increasingly enforced under the Taliban. Afghan believers may have no option but to flee if the government discovers their faith.

A new believer's family, clan or tribe may try to preserve its "honor" by punishing the convert through pressure, violence or even murder – with women most at risk.

Because of the risks faced by our partners and the people they serve, we are restricted in the information we can provide about Afghanistan.

PLEASE PRAY

- For God to protect and encourage the secret believers in Afghanistan
- That even as the Taliban's brutal regime stays in power, God will touch their hearts and change these men
- For the thousands of Afghan refugees – ask God to help them find community and hope.

11 INDIA



POPULATION

1.4 billion / 73.2 million Christians

LEADER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

PERSECUTION SCORE 84 (+1) ↑

Hindu nationalists believe that all Indians should be Hindu. The increasing popularity of this idea has stoked a wave of violence.

Twelve states now have anti-conversion laws, which are abused to target Christians and stop them from sharing their faith. Uttar Pradesh recently added life imprisonment as a possible sentence for this crime.

Last year's elections forced the nationalist BJP to form a coalition government with parties that support religious freedom. But for now, violence against Christians continues in many states.

Open Doors' local partners strengthen the church in India by providing Bibles, emergency aid, persecution survival training and livelihood and community development projects.

PLEASE PRAY

- That the new coalition government protects the rights of all Indians
- For peace and reconciliation in Manipur State, where Christians experienced terrible violence in 2023
- For church leaders who are falsely accused under anti-conversion laws.

EYEWITNESS / INDIA

MANSI & DHIRU



Dhiru and Mansi in India

What if your wedding day arrived – only for it to be canceled, because of persecution for your faith?

That’s exactly what happened to Mansi* and Dhiru* in India. As their big day neared, Mansi and her family were accused by Hindu extremists of forced conversions and told to renounce their faith. “Even if you kill us, we will not renounce our Lord Jesus,” said Mansi’s mother. “We will continue to love the Lord, go to church and live out our faith.” The police got involved, and the couple had to cancel their wedding, just hours before it was due to begin.

“EVEN IF YOU KILL US, WE WILL NOT RENOUNCE OUR LORD JESUS.”

Helped by Open Doors’ local partners, Mansi and Dhiru have since moved to another state and gotten married. “It was overwhelming to experience such loss,” says Mansi. “We trusted God and took a leap of faith, and He honored us by sending help through you. I’m encouraged to see support through God’s people whom I’ve never met.”

VENGEANCE AND DELIVERANCE

In India, persecution often comes from believers’ own families. After her dad died, Mansi’s uncle said it was because of the family’s faith. In vengeance, he cursed Mansi. “I felt the devil’s attack, groaning in pain,” she says. “My mother prayed fervently for me, and I was delivered.”

MANSI AND DHIRU ASK

“PLEASE PRAY AS WE HAVE MANY PLANS, BUT WE WANT GOD’S WILL TO BE DONE. WE DON’T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE FUTURE, BUT WE WANT TO FULFILL GOD’S PURPOSE.”

*Names changed for security reasons

12 SAUDI ARABIA

Alamy | Representative image



81



POPULATION

37.5 million / 2.3 million Christians

LEADER

King Salman Bin Abdulaziz al-Saud

PERSECUTION SCORE 81 (no change) ↔

In Saudi Arabia, it's illegal to leave the Islamic faith – and new Christians will face intense opposition from their communities.

Because of this, most Saudi Christians follow their faith very secretly. But believers are becoming bolder, sharing their Christian faith with others online and through Christian TV channels – though Saudis caught doing this have faced serious repercussions.

Christian workers from other countries cannot share their faith with local Saudis, and worship gatherings are restricted.

Open Doors supports the body of Christ on the Arabian Peninsula by organizing prayer, distributing Scripture resources and training believers and pastors.

PLEASE PRAY

- That believers here would find a place to worship and grow in knowledge of the Lord
- For immigrant Christians who meet secretly to receive God's protection and wisdom
- For God to bless all those who reach out to share the gospel in Saudi Arabia.

13 MYANMAR

Alamy | Representative image



81



POPULATION

55 million / 4.8 million Christians

LEADER

General Min Aung Hlaing

PERSECUTION SCORE 81 (+2) ↑

As Myanmar enters the fifth year of an increasingly violent conflict, the Christian minority is among those bearing the brunt of the attacks.


Since the military coup in early 2021, Christians have encountered greater violence and tighter restrictions. More Christians than ever have been driven out of their homes to find refuge in churches, displacement camps or the jungle. Many are going hungry.

Last year, the government enforced military conscription, which led to many young Christians leaving the country. Believers are scattered.

Open Doors' partners strengthen believers in Myanmar through literature distribution; discipleship and leadership programs; livelihood support; and youth, children and families ministries.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God will enable Christians to endure the long-term consequences of the coup
- That Christians caught in the conflict will be peacemakers
- For the leaders of Myanmar's military to see that Jesus is the true source of peace.



**“SO MANY
HAVE BEEN
KILLED. PLEASE
PRAY FOR THE
SAFETY OF
CHRISTIANS IN
THE COUNTRY.”**

– KO AUNG, MYANMAR

Ko Aung is one of many thousands in Myanmar who have been forced to flee for following Jesus and who are now being supported by Open Doors' partners.



WWL
#13

14 MALI

Alamy | Representative image



80



POPULATION

24 million / 542,000 Christians

LEADER

Transition President Assimi Goïta

PERSECUTION SCORE 80 (+1) ↑

The Islamic extremist insurgency that began devastating the north of Mali in 2012 continues to have huge implications for Christians.

Churches have been burned down, and many Christians have fled their homes. Although some have returned under police protection, they live under the threat of attack. In some areas, they have been denied access to water and land to grow crops. It's very dangerous to share the gospel in the north.

The jihadist violence is spreading southward, and the country's institutions are breaking apart.

Open Doors works through local church partners in Mali to provide persecution survival training, discipleship programs and economic empowerment projects.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God would protect believers who are targeted by Islamic extremist groups
- For Open Doors' partners in Mali as they strengthen believers who have lost so much
- For political stability and religious freedom for all Malians.

15 CHINA

Alamy | Representative image



78



POPULATION

1.4 billion / 96.7 million Christians

LEADER

President Xi Jinping

PERSECUTION SCORE 78 (no change) ↔

In recent years, the Chinese government has aggressively tried to ensure all religious expression is in line with official Chinese Communist philosophy.

Unregistered churches, long tolerated by the Chinese government, are now being closed down when discovered. State-approved churches are facing stronger restrictions over what they preach. Children under 18 are forbidden from attending.

Surveillance is a normal consequence of being a church leader in China. Expressing Christian faith is increasingly complicated.

Open Doors' partners support believers in China with discipleship and persecution survival training, presence ministry, relief response and by serving the younger generation of believers.

PLEASE PRAY

- That believers experience growth in their faith even as persecution rises
- For protection for believers in areas where Islam or Buddhism are the primary faiths
- That church leaders would feel Christ's presence as they are pressured and monitored.

MING

“I’m on my way to the old place.” That’s the carefully coded message Ming* would send to his contacts, after loading his car with Bibles in a hidden alley in China. Knowing that the authorities were monitoring phones, he knew any wrong word could be costly.

One day, his worst fears were realized when Ming and his friends were arrested. Miraculously, Ming was set free, but the arrest put him firmly on the authorities’ radar. Today, they sometimes show up and search his home. Ming also lost his business, and his father-in-law stops him from seeing his wife and daughter.

“THE GREAT COMMISSION ENCOURAGES ME TO STAY COMMITTED TO THE CALL OF SHARING THE GOSPEL.”

Despite this, he remains determined to pursue his calling. “I feel heavily the burden of taking part in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19–20, which energizes and encourages me to stay committed to the call of sharing the gospel to my people,” says Ming.

SPIES AND ISOLATION

In China, people are given incentives to inform on their neighbors. It means that



Representative image

many believers, like Ming, don’t know whom to trust – and it adds to their isolation. “I need to make friends cautiously and identify the right people to share things with,” says Ming. “Since there may be spies pretending to be Christians even in Christian communities, I must stay vigilant.”

MING SHARES

“THANK YOU FOR PRAYING. I FEEL THAT I AM NOT BY MYSELF. THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS, I CAN FEEL THAT GOD HAS BEEN LOOKING AFTER ME TO MAKE ME FEEL SECURE.”

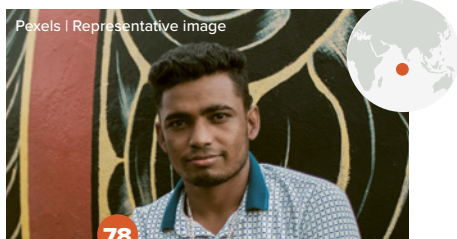
*Name changed for security reasons



Extremist groups in Mali have driven huge numbers of Christians from their homes. In the town of Bankass, the local church was overwhelmed with displaced Christian families. Thanks to your support, Open Doors' partners were able to provide 320 families with vital relief aid.



16 MALDIVES



POPULATION

518,000 / a few hundred Christians

LEADER

President Mohamed Muizzu

PERSECUTION SCORE 78 (no change) ↔

The Maldives is an island paradise for tourists from around the world – but not for Maldivians who choose to follow Jesus.

This nation declares itself 100% Muslim. Within the country's close-knit communities, any deviation from Islamic values is easily spotted. Christian believers may be stripped of their citizenship, lose their state benefits and be isolated from society.

Foreign Christians working in the tourist sector have slightly more freedom, but their gatherings are strictly monitored. Many are too scared to meet.

Open Doors raises prayer support for persecuted believers in the Maldives.

PLEASE PRAY

- That secret believers will be able to access the Bible in their own language this year
- For Christians to find opportunities to meet, pray and worship with one another
- That the Lord would open the eyes of tourists and travelers to the situation facing Christians in the Maldives.

17 IRAQ



POPULATION

46.5 million / 187,000 Christians

LEADER

President Abdul Rashid

PERSECUTION SCORE 78 (-1) ↓

Iraqi Christians face increasing pressure from various groups, especially since the rise of Shia militias backed by Iran.

While the so-called Islamic State (IS) still poses a threat, attacks from Türkiye and Iran have devastated predominantly Christian villages, forcing many to flee.

The Assyrian and Chaldean churches are seriously affected by discrimination and violence from militant groups and government authorities. Pressure on converts from Islam is intense, often forcing them to hide their faith.

Open Doors' local partners strengthen the church in Iraq with training, trauma care, Bible delivery, livelihood projects and microloans, crisis relief and rebuilding homes and churches.

PLEASE PRAY

- For the Christians returning home and rebuilding 10 years after IS drove them out
- For God's blessing on the trauma care programs supporting those who suffered at the hands of IS
- For believers from Muslim backgrounds facing danger at home.

18 SYRIA



POPULATION

24.3 million / 579,000 Christians

LEADER

Interim leader

PERSECUTION SCORE 78 (-3)

Large numbers of Christians have fled Syria for safety in the past decade. When conflict flares up, Christians are still caught in the crossfire.

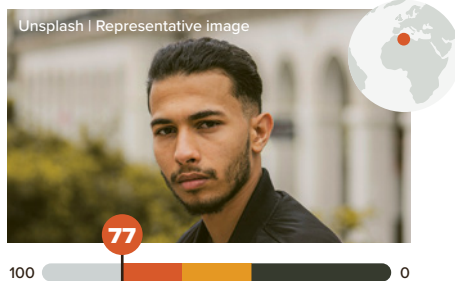
Islamic extremist rebel groups have outlawed Christianity and destroyed churches. While Kurdish-controlled areas allowed religious freedom and Christian conversion, Turkish forces have devastated Christian and Yazidi communities in these previously safe regions.

Open Doors' local partners encourage Syrian churches through Centers of Hope by providing Bibles, training, counseling, disaster relief and fostering unity between different Christian groups.

PLEASE PRAY

- For hope and healing to new Christians who have been rejected and expelled from their families
- That Open Doors' partners in Syria would be refreshed and able to continue serving God's people
- That the church in Syria would love one another, work together, stand by the oppressed and shine for the truth.

19 ALGERIA



POPULATION

46.3 million / 144,000 Christians

LEADER

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune

PERSECUTION SCORE 77 (-2) ↓

A sharp increase of government pressure against the Algerian Protestant church continues.

In 2023, almost all of Algeria's Protestant churches were ordered to close. The remaining churches were forced to stop meeting in 2024, isolating many Christians.

It is prohibited to "shake the faith of a Muslim" – a law that restricts Christian expression in many ways. New Christians, most of whom have Muslim backgrounds, risk strong backlash from their communities and extended families.

Open Doors works with local partners and churches in North Africa to provide leadership and discipleship training, livelihood support, legal aid, trauma counseling, Bibles and pastoral care.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God will allow the few remaining Protestant churches to remain open
- For wisdom and boldness for Algerians daring to share their faith
- That every believer in Algeria would be able to find a Christian community and enjoy fellowship.

20 BURKINA FASO



POPULATION

23.8 million / 6.2 million Christians

LEADER

President Ibrahim Traore

PERSECUTION SCORE 76 (+1) ↑

In recent years, there has been a rapid rise in violence against Christians in Burkina Faso, and hundreds of churches have closed.

The rise of violent Islamic extremist groups has forced Christians to flee, and even cities that used to be safe are now risky. Believers living in areas where these groups are active have been targeted, kidnapped and killed, with Christian schools and churches destroyed. Converts from Muslim families are often rejected.

Open Doors works through local partners to strengthen Christians in Burkina Faso by providing persecution survival training, relief aid and spiritual and trauma care.

PLEASE PRAY

- For the many believers forced to leave home by Islamic militants
- For Christians who have endured violence—ask God to bind up their wounds
- For church leaders trying to minister to their flock while forced to flee. Pray for God’s encouragement and strength.



Pastor Soré, displaced in Burkina Faso.

PASTOR SORÉ

It was the third Islamic militant attack on his village in Burkina Faso that made Pastor Soré take his family and flee as refugees.

“When the terrorists come to churches and find Christians, they tell them that Christianity’s time is over, and they should turn to Islam,” says the pastor. “They warn Christians to stop conducting services. After warning, when they come back later and find you in the church, they kill you.”

The family is among 2 million people displaced in Burkina Faso, many of them Christians driven from their homes by extremism. Because of an overcrowded displacement camp, Pastor Soré and his family, and the 15 other children they care for, created a makeshift shelter on an empty piece of land.

“I do believe that we are displaced, but Jesus is not and will never be displaced from our lives,” he adds. “He is always with us.

“Another thing that strengthens my faith is that, despite our difficult condition, Jesus brings other people who get saved,” he says. “This shows me that He is with us and is in control.”

SNAKES AND SUPPLY

Pastor Soré led a thriving church, his children went to school, their home had beds and access to water, and their farm flourished. But in a day, it was all taken away from them, leaving them awfully exposed – in more ways than one. “Every night I had to be watchful, killing snakes while my family slept,” says the pastor. Thankfully, with the support of Open Doors’ local partners, the family have received practical and pastoral care. “We wholeheartedly praise God for such blessings.”

PASTOR SORÉ ASKS

“PRAY THAT ALL CHRISTIANS IN BURKINA FASO, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO ARE DISPLACED AND LIVING WITH ME, STAY FIRM IN THEIR FAITH.”



**“WE KEEP GOING
AND TRUST GOD TO
PROVIDE EVERYTHING
FOR US.”**

– VEE, LAOS

Pastor Vee has been thrown out of his village and faced death threats and violence. Yet through his work, 90 people have come to Christ.



Pastor Vee in Laos

21 MOROCCO



POPULATION

38.2 million / 33,000 Christians

LEADER

King Mohammed VI

PERSECUTION SCORE 74 (+3) ↑

Morocco has a socially conservative, 99% Muslim society. This puts a lot of pressure on Christians, especially those from Muslim families.

Christians cannot get official permission to gather, so they meet in house churches – these churches have faced some violent attacks over the past year. It's not illegal to become a Christian, but it is illegal to "shake the faith of a Muslim." This means that new Christians, and anybody expressing their faith in Jesus, even online, may be arrested and interrogated.

Open Doors' partners in North Africa provide leadership and discipleship training, livelihood support, legal aid, trauma care, Bibles and pastoral care.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God would help the Moroccan church be salt and light
- That Christians will be wise and courageous as they live for Jesus and work out how to share their faith
- For peace for converts from Islam facing pressure from their families and communities.

22 LAOS



POPULATION

7.7 million / 224,000 Christians

LEADER

President Thongloun Sisoulith

PERSECUTION SCORE 74 (-1) ↓

In Laos, Communist authorities heavily monitor all religious activities, even those of registered churches.

About 75% of government-approved congregations don't have a building. All gatherings must be reported to the administration, so running an unregistered house church is risky.

New Christians face severe rights violations. They are seen as outsiders to the Buddhist-animist community and face violent opposition from their families and local authorities. Local leaders may incite the community against new believers, running them out of the village.

Open Doors' partners offer Bibles and Christian materials, leadership training, discipleship programs, socio-economic development, practical aid and advocacy.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God will help believers expelled from their villages find a safe place to live
- For the families of pastors and other church leaders who have been killed
- For the Lord's protection over Christians monitored by the Communist authorities.



WORLD WATCH LIST 2025



PERSECUTION LEVELS

- Extreme
- Very high

- 1** NORTH KOREA
- 2** SOMALIA
- 3** YEMEN
- 4** LIBYA
- 5** SUDAN
- 6** ERITREA
- 7** NIGERIA

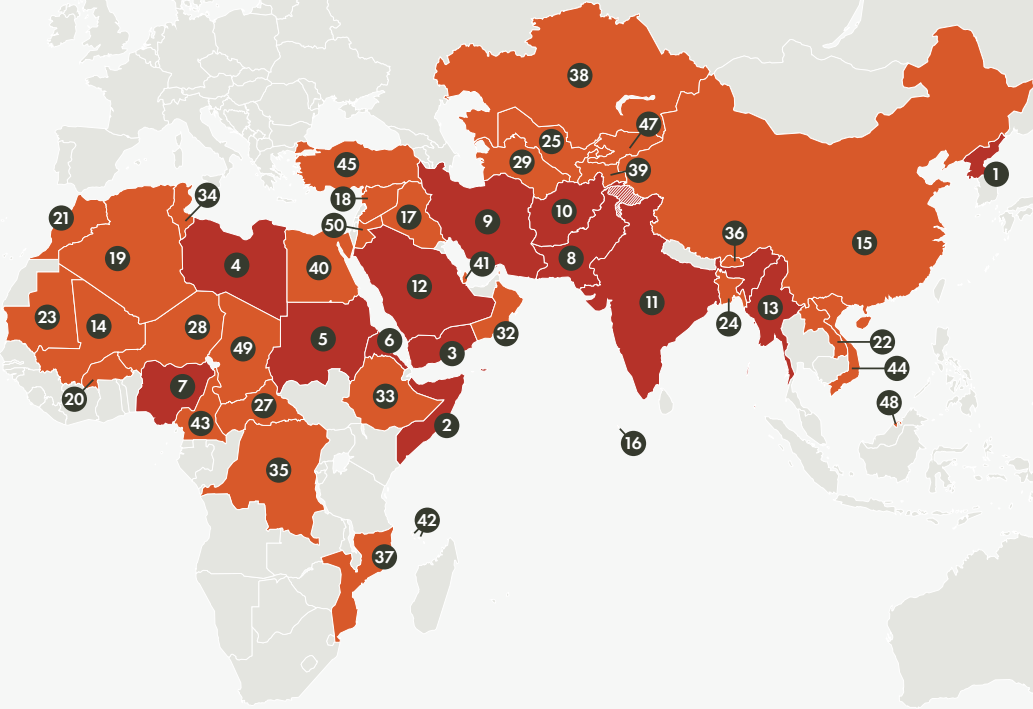
- 8** PAKISTAN
- 9** IRAN
- 10** AFGHANISTAN
- 11** INDIA
- 12** SAUDI ARABIA
- 13** MYANMAR
- 14** MALI

- 15** CHINA
- 16** MALDIVES
- 17** IRAQ
- 18** SYRIA
- 19** ALGERIA
- 20** BURKINA FASO
- 21** MOROCCO

- 22** LAOS
- 23** MAURITANIA
- 24** BANGLADESH
- 25** UZBEKISTAN
- 26** CUBA
- 27** CAR (Central African Republic)

“BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.”

— ACTS 1:8



- 28 NIGER**
- 29 TURKMENISTAN**
- 30 NICARAGUA**
- 31 MEXICO**
- 32 OMAN**
- 33 ETHIOPIA**
- 34 TUNISIA**

- 35 DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo)**
- 36 BHUTAN**
- 37 MOZAMBIQUE**
- 38 KAZAKHSTAN**
- 39 TAJIKISTAN**
- 40 EGYPT**

- 41 QATAR**
- 42 COMOROS**
- 43 CAMEROON**
- 44 VIETNAM**
- 45 TÜRKIYE**
- 46 COLOMBIA**
- 47 KYRGYZSTAN**

- 48 BRUNEI**
- 49 CHAD**
- 50 JORDAN**

23 MAURITANIA

Alamy | Representative image



74



POPULATION

5 million / 11,000 Christians

LEADER

President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani

PERSECUTION SCORE 74 (+2) ↑

In Mauritania, Christianity is viewed as a negative Western influence, and anyone who comes to faith in Christ faces severe hostility from the authorities and their families. They may even have to leave the country.

It's against the law to leave Islam, with the death penalty technically possible. Islamist groups also pose a threat. Baptisms happen in secret, but many believers feel even this is too risky. Christians may connect online, but lack of privacy in families makes this difficult.

Open Doors works with local partners and churches in North Africa to provide leadership and discipleship training, livelihood support, legal aid, trauma counseling, Bibles and pastoral care.

PLEASE PRAY

- That believers will be able to find ways to meet together and grow in faith
- For laws that forbid leaving Islam to be overturned so all people would be able to follow the religion they choose
- That God would protect His people from extremist groups and maintain political stability in Mauritania.

24 BANGLADESH



74



POPULATION

174.7 million / 950,000 Christians

LEADER

President Mohammad Shahabuddin

PERSECUTION SCORE 74 (+3) ↑

Violent riots and political turmoil gripped Bangladesh in 2024. Extremist groups used the chaos as a chance to target Christians and burn their homes.

In Bangladesh, anyone becoming a Christian is at risk, whether their background is Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or tribal. Christians usually meet in small, secret groups for fear of attack.

Last year, members of the majority-Christian Bawm ethnic group were killed and many were forced to flee, caught up in a complex political conflict.

Open Doors' partners provide persecuted survival training, discipleship, Bibles and other Christian literature, literacy programs, socio-economic empowerment and emergency aid.

PLEASE PRAY

- For strength, healing and comfort to the victims of recent attacks
- For the believers rebuilding and recovering from the 2024 cyclone
- For the brave Bangladeshi believers who live out their faith even though it puts them at risk.

RUMANA

At school, Rumana is alone. “I don’t have any friends because I’m a Christian,” she says. Even her teachers tell students not to be her friend. One day, when she was pushed down the stairs, she went to her teacher for help. “He didn’t listen to me and instead called me a liar.”

Rumana has been mocked and attacked by children while walking to church, and neighbors have verbally abused her, even shouting death threats. The worst moment was when she returned from school to find her home on fire. “I saw my father crying and writhing on the ground. There was nothing left from the house. I was crying, too.”

Despite everything, Rumana and her family – all of whom come from a Muslim background – continue to follow Jesus. “Jesus loves me,” she says. “It’s only because of Jesus’ love that I have survived until now, despite all the persecution.”

“I DON’T HAVE ANY FRIENDS BECAUSE I’M A CHRISTIAN.”

REFUSAL AND REJECTION

“No one from our village offered any help,” says Rumana, recalling the day her home was set on fire. “All of them were just watching.” When Rumana’s father collapsed, a neighbor refused to let him rest in their home, for fear of being targeted by the community. A cousin also refused to take him to the hospital. One woman welcomed him, but as Rumana’s father became responsive, she asked him to leave.

RUMANA ASKS

“I PRAY TO GOD EVERY DAY FOR MY CLASSMATES. EVEN IN MY LUNCHTIME PRAYER, I ALSO PRAY FOR THEM.”

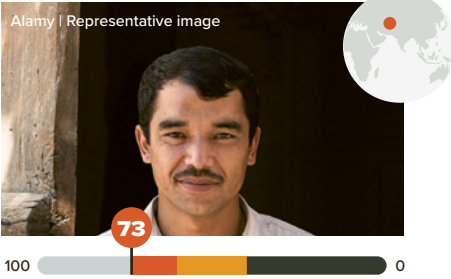


**“WE ASK FOR PRAYER
THAT THE LORD’S
PLANS CONTINUE IN
OUR NATION.”**

– MIGUEL*

During his 20 years in ministry, Pastor Miguel was interrogated more than 50 times. Now he works with Open Doors to strengthen and support thousands of Christians in Cuba.

25 UZBEKISTAN



POPULATION

35.7 million / 406,000 Christians

LEADER

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

PERSECUTION SCORE 73 (+2) ↑

Uzbekistan is a former Soviet state, and it's still ruled by an authoritarian government that heavily monitors the population – especially religious groups.

Christian groups are kept under surveillance. In the last year, churches not approved of by the state have been raided, with people arrested, threatened and fined.

Converts from Islam face the most persecution – from both the state and their own families. They may be threatened, locked away, divorced, disowned or physically abused.

Open Doors strengthens the church in Central Asia by providing relief aid, Bibles, ministry training, prayer support, vocational training and microloans, as well as projects such as rehab centers.

PLEASE PRAY

- For Uzbek Christians to persevere and be witnesses to Christ's love
- That unregistered churches won't be targeted or harassed by authorities
- For believers facing opposition from their families to know God's love and strength is with them.

26 CUBA



POPULATION

11.2 million / 6.8 million Christians

LEADER

President Miguel Díaz-Canel

PERSECUTION SCORE 73 (no change) ↔

Cuba's Communist Party reacts harshly to opponents and tries to control the church.

As a humanitarian crisis continues, Christian activists who criticize the regime face interrogation, smear campaigns, travel restrictions, prison sentences or harassment. Their family members also face threats, such as losing custody of their children.

The government often refuses to register new churches, forcing many to operate illegally, which makes them vulnerable to fines, property confiscation and even demolition.

Open Doors' local partners provide Bibles, livelihood projects, biblical training, leadership development projects, socio-economic development and care and support for children and pastors' families.

PLEASE PRAY

- That all churches would be allowed to remain open
- That the authorities who monitor churches would be touched by the message they hear
- For Cuban church leaders targeted by state authorities.

27 CAR (Central African Republic)



POPULATION

5.9 million / 4.4 million Christians

LEADER

President Faustin-Archange Touadéra

PERSECUTION SCORE 72 (+2) ↑

Life in the Central African Republic (CAR) has been dangerous for more than 10 years.

A civil war began in 2013, sparking violence along both ethnic and religious lines. Christians are often caught in the middle – if they speak out against violence they can be targeted, with churches burned and entire communities displaced.

Some of the armed groups also attack Christians simply because of their faith, with women facing sexual violence.

Open Doors' partners support believers in the Central African Republic with persecution survival training, economic empowerment projects and trauma care.

PLEASE PRAY

- For an end to the long civil war in CAR
- For God's protection and healing for Christians being targeted by extremist groups
- For emotional, spiritual and physical healing for the survivors of sexual violence.

28 NIGER



POPULATION

28.2 million / 69,200 Christians

LEADER

Interim leader Abdourahmane Tchiani

PERSECUTION SCORE 72 (+1) ↑

Since the coup in 2023 that caused political chaos, the jihadist group al-Sunnah wa Jama'ah has made life increasingly difficult for Christians in Niger.

In areas under their control, church services have become risky. Attacks and kidnappings have limited Christians' freedom and safety, and there has also been a rise in attacks on Christian properties, including schools.

The slow, complex legal process for registering a church appears to be used to prevent Christians from gathering.

Open Doors' partners strengthen persecuted Christians in Niger through economic empowerment programs, leadership and discipleship training, persecution survival training and pastoral care for new believers.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God will bring order to political chaos
- That God will protect Christians from Islamic militant attacks
- For converts from Islam – especially young people – who face rejection and oppression.

29 TURKEMENISTAN



POPULATION

6.6 million / 164,000 Christians

LEADER

President Serdar Berdymukhamedov

PERSECUTION SCORE 71 (+1) ↑

Turkmenistan is a former Soviet state still ruled by an authoritarian government that heavily monitors the population.

Printing or importing Christian materials, holding unofficial meetings or even downloading Christian songs can result in a fine or worse. Christian leaders are the most closely observed. Even the country's historical Russian Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic churches can find their services being monitored. Most Turkmen are Muslims – those who become Christians can expect strong opposition from their communities.

Open Doors strengthens the church in Central Asia by providing relief aid, Bibles, ministry training, prayer support, vocational training and microloans, as well as projects such as rehab centers.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God will soften the hearts of leadership, ultimately leading them to find the hope Jesus brings.
- For greater unity among Christians and their leaders
- For a way for Bibles to get to believers hungry for Scripture.

30 NICARAGUA



POPULATION

7.1 million / 6.8 million Christians

LEADER

President Daniel Ortega

PERSECUTION SCORE 71 (+1) ↑

Nicaragua is experiencing political unrest, economic decline and many protests against the current government. Christians have paid a heavy price for speaking out.

Church leaders have been harassed and arrested; properties seized; Christian schools, TV stations and charities closed; and churches intimidated. Some leaders have fled the country, and many more have been deported. Hundreds of Christian organizations have lost their legal status in the last year as the government tries to silence the church.

Open Doors strengthens the persecuted church in Nicaragua by providing Christian literature, discipleship training, emergency relief aid, legal advice and education for pastors.

PLEASE PRAY

- For God's protection over church leaders who speak out against injustice
- That persecution survival training would help believers live as salt and light
- That believers monitored by the government won't be deterred from sharing the gospel.

31 MEXICO



POPULATION

129.4 million / 123.3 million Christians

LEADER

President Claudia Sheinbaum

PERSECUTION SCORE 71 (+3) ↑

In Mexico, many active Christians are at risk from criminal gangs and drug cartels. The run-up to last year's election was the most violent in Mexico's history.

Christians who bravely speak out against criminal groups and gangs, or who are involved in community work or evangelism, are deemed a threat – and that makes them a target. In some indigenous communities, those who decide to leave ancestral and traditional beliefs to follow Jesus face ostracism, fines, incarceration and forced displacement.

Open Doors strengthens persecuted believers in Mexico with biblical training, legal support, trauma care and socio-economic aid.


PLEASE PRAY

- That God will protect His people living where drug cartels and criminal gangs are present
- That God will continue to draw to Himself believers from indigenous communities
- For God to strengthen Open Doors' local partners, building Jesus' kingdom of hope and peace.



Image is representative

SERGIO



Sergio* was praying with someone when they heard motorbikes outside revving their engines very loudly. “I thought about getting up and going to see what was happening, but I felt from God that I should not go out, so I did not pay attention, and we continued praying,” he says.

Hours later, Sergio’s neighbor called him and said she had seen two men pointing guns at his house earlier, waiting for the door to open. They left after no one answered.

In northern and central parts of Mexico, missionaries like Sergio are deemed an obstacle to drug cartels. That’s because they often reach out to help children, the very people the criminals see as potential customers and recruits.

Marcos*, another missionary in an area largely controlled by cartels, told Open Doors that, at the beginning of this year, he repeatedly saw luxury vans with tinted windows (widely used by the cartels) driving around his church while he was teaching the children he works with. “This is a problem for us as

missionaries because we must think of strategies that allow us to fulfill the Great Commission and at the same time take care of ourselves and our families,” says Marcos.

EXPRESSION AND ATTENTION

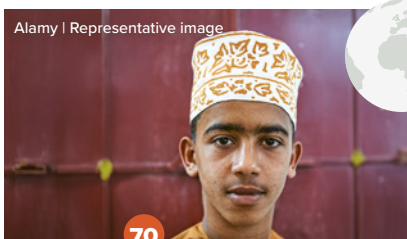
Praying before eating food in a restaurant can be dangerous for Christians living in areas in Mexico where drug cartels are prominent, as are other public expressions of faith. That’s because it draws attention to those whose lives and ministries could be a target for the cartels.

CHRISTIANS IN MEXICO ASK

“PRAY THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW GOD’S WORD AND NOT LOSE HOPE, THAT OUR HEARTS WILL BE STRONG AND THAT THE CHURCH WILL GROW. MAY WE NOT FALTER IN THE WAY OF THE LORD BECAUSE IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE GO THROUGH THIS PERSECUTION TO REACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”

*Names changed for security reasons

32 OMAN



Alamy | Representative image

70



POPULATION

4.7 million / 187,000 Christians

LEADER

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said

PERSECUTION SCORE 70 (+1) ↑

Converts to Christianity face total opposition from their families due to a strong clan mentality.

While most Omanis practice a moderately conservative form of Islam, believers can still be expelled from their homes and jobs and face problems over child custody and inheritance. Many keep their faith hidden.

Immigrant Christian communities are tolerated, as long as they avoid sharing their faith with Muslims – but their meetings are monitored. All religious organizations must be registered with the authorities.

Open Doors supports the body of Christ on the Arabian Peninsula by organizing prayer, distributing Scripture resources and training believers and pastors.

PLEASE PRAY

- For church communities, that God will protect them
- That immigrant believers would have wisdom and boldness in living out their faith
- For Open Doors' partners on the Arabian Peninsula to shine the light of Christ.

33 ETHIOPIA



70



POPULATION

129.7 million / 77.5 million Christians

LEADER

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed

PERSECUTION SCORE 70 (+1) ↑

In Ethiopia, Christian communities are facing serious religious freedom issues. Non-traditional Christians get the worst treatment from local authorities.

Converts from Islam, and those from Ethiopian Orthodox backgrounds, face intense family opposition. In some regions, Christians are attacked by Islamic mobs and denied community resources, leading to isolation.

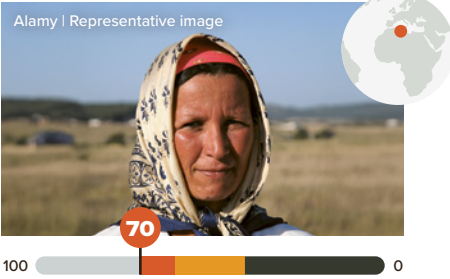
During recent political violence and regional conflicts, many churches were attacked and destroyed, and even those seeking refuge in churches weren't safe from violence.

Open Doors' partners strengthen Christians in Ethiopia with leadership training, persecution survival training and economic empowerment projects.

PLEASE PRAY

- For people who have left another faith to join an Evangelical community and now face opposition
- For believers living in unstable parts of Ethiopia where they may be targeted
- For unity among all Christians in Ethiopia.

34 TUNISIA



POPULATION

12.6 million / 23,300 Christians

LEADER

President Kais Saied

PERSECUTION SCORE 70 (+1) ↑

For a Tunisian, being known as a Christian could mean losing their job, reputation and – in the worst cases – their whole community.

The authorities monitor church gatherings, and converts are most at risk, as well as any believers who share their faith. Recently, many Christians who've migrated from sub-Saharan Africa have fled Tunisia due to racist abuse.

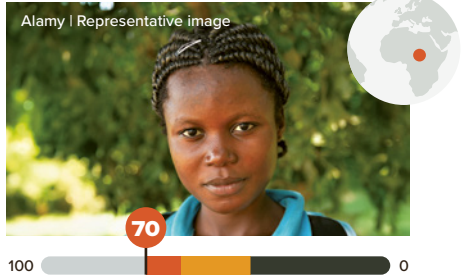
Despite persecution and opposition, the church in North Africa is growing.

Open Doors works with local partners and churches in North Africa to provide leadership and discipleship training, livelihood support, legal aid, trauma counseling, Bibles and pastoral care.

PLEASE PRAY

- For converts from Islam, that they would be sheltered from abuse and rejection
- For justice and an end to violence against migrants in Tunisia
- For God to help Tunisian Christians – who aren't allowed to worship publicly – find community.

35 DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo)



POPULATION

105.6 million / 100.6 million Christians

LEADER

President Félix Tshisekedi

PERSECUTION SCORE 70 (+3) ↑

The last year has seen an escalation in the shocking attacks against Christians in DRC.

The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an extremist group with ties to the so-called Islamic State, has carried out coordinated attacks, abducting and killing dozens of Christians, displacing thousands and leaving believers living in fear.

The M23 rebel group also targets Christians, making the situation even worse. The mix of militant threats, family pressures and political interference creates a dangerous environment for Christians in the east of the country.

Open Doors works through local partners to support Christians in the DRC through persecution survival training, economic empowerment projects and trauma care.

PLEASE PRAY

- For God to be close to His hurting people amid the staggering violence in the eastern part of the DRC
- For stability and hope for displaced Christians who have lost everything
- For new believers to grow strong and mature in faith.

Will you stand with the church in Africa?

JOIN THE *ARISE AFRICA* CAMPAIGN

WHAT IS THE *ARISE AFRICA* CAMPAIGN?

Millions of Christians in sub-Saharan Africa face violent persecution for their faith. They are being attacked, displaced and killed – yet no one is talking about it. That’s why the African church is calling on their global church family to stand with them through the *Arise Africa* campaign. It aims to see the global community acknowledge and act against extreme violence and to help the church to persevere – and to be resilient, resourceful and influential.

WHY IS IT NECESSARY?

Violence is increasing: According to Open Doors research, over 90% of Christians killed for their faith last year were in sub-Saharan Africa, and 3,100 believers were killed in Nigeria alone. This rising violence is being driven largely by Islamic extremists taking advantage of political instability in the region.

Christians forced to flee: 16.2 million Christians in sub-Saharan Africa are displaced by violence and conflict, with many ending up in camps for internally displaced people (IDPs). While

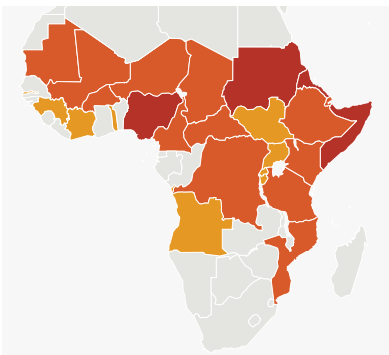
persecution is not the sole driver, there is strong evidence that huge numbers of these believers have been specifically targeted for following Jesus.

HOW IS IT MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

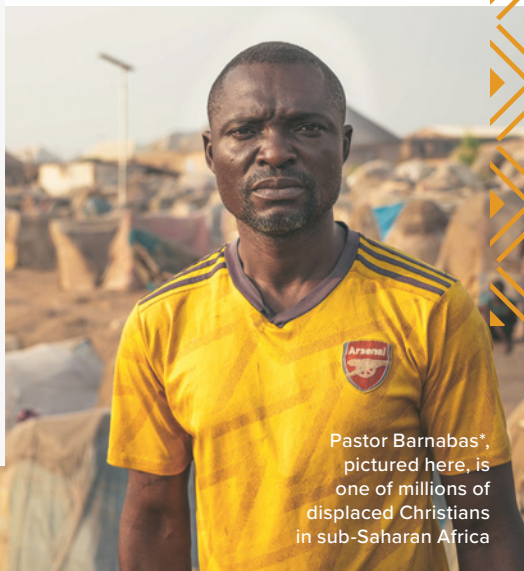
Your prayers and support are already making a huge difference. Ramata’s* worst fears came true when her husband was killed in the night by Boko Haram extremists. In the far north

“God never left me, and I didn’t leave Him.”





15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa are in the World Watch List Top 50. 16.2 million Christians are displaced in this region.



Pastor Barnabas*, pictured here, is one of millions of displaced Christians in sub-Saharan Africa

region of Cameroon where she lives, Christians are high-value targets for Islamist extremists. They shoved Ramata out of the way when she tried to save her husband.

The trauma Ramata experienced meant that she could not go back to her house for three months. “When I am alone, all kinds of questions come to mind. Everything that happened comes back. It is hard to live with these feelings,” she says.

After Ramata’s ordeal, local Open Doors’ partners came alongside her with emergency aid and trauma care and helped her start a small business so she could provide for her children. She was even able to return to her home. “God helped me: He sent you, and you supported me,” she says. “Some of the painful thoughts are already leaving my mind. “God never left me, and I didn’t leave Him.”

STOP THE VIOLENCE. START THE HEALING.

You can sign the *Arise Africa* petition, which calls upon the global community to ensure that Christians and other vulnerable individuals in sub-Saharan Africa are treated with dignity and respect by providing robust protection from attacks, ensuring justice and bringing healing and restoration to all affected communities.

You can add your name to the petition, share it, find ways to pray, and discover more at **ODUS.org/AriseAfrica**.

*Name changed for security reasons

36 BHUTAN



Alamy | Representative image

69



POPULATION

792,000 / 18,800 Christians

LEADER

King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

PERSECUTION SCORE 69 (+1) ↑

Everyone in Bhutan is assumed to be Buddhist. If you become a Christian, you will be watched with suspicion, and your community will make efforts to bring you back to Buddhism.

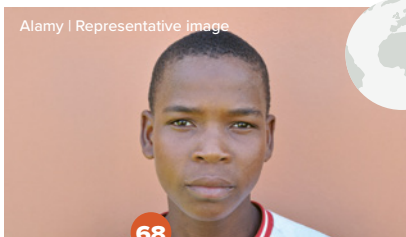
No churches are officially recognized by the state, which means that Christians who gather in homes are acting illegally. Local authorities often refuse to issue Christians the right paperwork for loan applications, property registration, job applications and ID card renewal.

Open Doors' local partners strengthen the persecuted church in Bhutan through prayer support and other practical emergency support.

PLEASE PRAY

- For believers in Bhutan who can only attend churches that exist in a legal gray area
- For believers who have converted from Buddhism and are rejected by their families
- That “illegal” believers will find their worth and citizenship in God’s kingdom.

37 MOZAMBIQUE



Alamy | Representative image

68



POPULATION

34.9 million / 20 million Christians

LEADER

President Filipe Nyusi

PERSECUTION SCORE 68 (no change) ↔

The rise of Islamic extremism in the north of Mozambique has had a devastating impact on the lives of believers.

Churches have been torched, pastors abducted and killed. In 2024, extremists launched a campaign targeting Christians called “Kill Them Wherever You Find Them.”

Christians are also caught in the crossfire of the conflict between government forces and jihadist groups and are targeted for speaking out against drug cartels, making them even more vulnerable to violence and displacement.

Open Doors supports persecuted Christians in northern Mozambique by providing emergency aid, persecution survival training and economic empowerment projects.

PLEASE PRAY

- For protection for believers in the unstable northern part of Mozambique
- For comfort and healing for Christians severely traumatized by violent attacks
- For Open Doors' partners who work in Mozambique to be protected as they seek to strengthen the faith of believers.

38 KAZAKHSTAN



POPULATION

19.8 million / 5 million Christians

LEADER

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

PERSECUTION SCORE 68 (+3) ↑

In Kazakhstan, religious freedom is heavily restricted by the country's Religion Law dating back to 2011. The government is continuing to tighten its control over society, leading to increased surveillance, raids on meetings and arrests.

Christians who have converted from Islam suffer the most. They face persecution from both the state and their own families, friends and communities. Some are locked up by their families, beaten and eventually expelled from their communities.

Open Doors strengthens the church in Central Asia by providing relief aid, Bibles, ministry training, prayer support, vocational training and microloans, as well as projects such as rehab centers.

PLEASE PRAY

- That God would protect churches from the misuse of the Religion Law
- For church leaders being monitored by the Kazakhstan authorities
- That God's Word would find its way to every believer where Bibles are currently scarce.

39 TAJIKISTAN



POPULATION

10.3 million / 62,600 Christians

LEADER

President Emomali Rahmon

PERSECUTION SCORE 68 (+2) ↑

Despite officially allowing freedom of religion, the Tajikistan government restricts religious activities.

There are many elements to the Christian life that are illegal without a permit, from holding a meeting to training leaders to printing Christian literature. Under-18s are not allowed to attend church, and Christians may not share their faith.

Church meetings are increasingly raided by the authorities, with members being interrogated and pressured to inform on others. They can even be imprisoned.

Open Doors strengthens the church in Central Asia by providing relief aid, Bibles, ministry training, prayer support, vocational training and microloans, as well as projects such as rehab centers.

PLEASE PRAY

- For courage for Christians meeting up under the threat of government raids
- For a change in the hearts of government officials toward religious freedom
- For protection over Christian workers who bring in God's Word and other Christian resources.

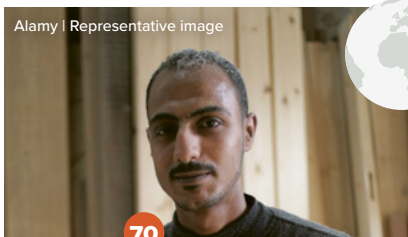


A secret baptism in a house in Central Asia. Roeslan* is a serving police officer. If he were to share his faith, he would risk losing his job and being disowned by his family. Yet nothing can diminish the joy he feels at this moment.



40 EGYPT

Alamy | Representative image



POPULATION

114.5 million / 10.1 million Christians

LEADER

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

PERSECUTION SCORE 68 (no change) ↔

Egyptian President al-Sisi speaks positively about Christians and attempts to promote unity, but local authorities often fail to protect Christians from attacks by Islamic extremist groups.

In rural areas, Christian women are harassed on the streets, and Christian children are often bullied. Building new churches is difficult in certain parts of Egypt. New Christian converts can face pressure and hostility from their Muslim families and communities, as well as detention by security services.

Open Doors' partners in Egypt support the church throughout the country with literacy training; education; advocacy; medical outreach; and youth, family and women's ministries.

PLEASE PRAY

- For brave believers who take on the risk of leaving Islam to follow Jesus
- For God to sustain Christians who experience discrimination and abuse because of their faith
- For Christians who've been attacked or have loved ones who've suffered attacks.



Representative image

MARIAM

“My heart was torn apart,” says Mariam* after Muslim extremists killed her husband – simply for being kind to his Christian brothers and sisters.

“This area, where he worked as a contractor, was known for intense persecution – Christians suffer a lot because of their faith, and they are discriminated against daily,” explains Mariam. “However, my husband never felt afraid and used to help the Christians there and donate to sick and needy people.

“That’s why radical Muslims wanted to get rid of him, and they used to threaten him a lot. They wanted him to stop helping needy Christians in the area. My husband was a brave man and never listened to them and continued helping others.”

Tragically, the extremists’ threats weren’t merely words. In 2017, they murdered Mariam’s husband at work. “They killed my soulmate and my life partner,” says Mariam. “He left behind four young daughters who are in real need of their father’s love.”

QUESTIONS AND LAMENT

“Why did God do this? Why has He forsaken us?” asks Mariam. Given all that Mariam’s family has seen and experienced, lament is a crucial part of their Christian walk. As Open Doors’ local partners listened to her, acknowledged her pain and gave livelihood support, the family saw God in a whole new way. “I’ve seen God’s practical love through your love, care and presence,” says Mariam. “I believe that God is my heavenly Father, and He has never forsaken me. We stopped blaming God, and we worship Him instead.”

MARIAM ASKS

“GOD, THANK YOU FOR SHOWING ME MERCY AND PROTECTING OUR SMALL FAMILY. I BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE BAD CIRCUMSTANCES TO BETTER ONES. THROUGH EVERY CHALLENGE I FACE, I ASK THAT YOU FREE ME FROM WORRY AND FEAR AND BRING ME YOUR PEACE. IN JESUS’ NAME, AMEN.”

*Name changed for security reasons

41 QATAR

Alamy | Representative image



67



POPULATION

2.7 million / 381,000 Christians

LEADER

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani

PERSECUTION SCORE 67 (no change) ↔

Christians in Qatar are either workers from non-Muslim countries or converts from Islam – and the two rarely interact.

A select number of migrant workers' churches are allowed to meet in the official religious complex outside Doha. Qatari citizens are not allowed to enter, and migrants must not speak about Christianity to Muslims, or they may be deported.

Qatar is increasingly using advanced technology to monitor everybody, causing Christians in Qatar to become very careful.

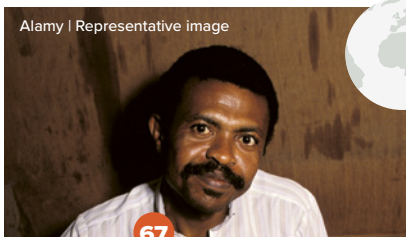
Open Doors supports the body of Christ on the Arabian Peninsula by organizing prayer, distributing Scripture resources and training believers and pastors.

PLEASE PRAY

- That native Qataris would be permitted to convert from Islam without repercussions
- For Qatar's secret Christians – ask God to protect their faith and help them find other believers
- To thank God that so many migrant Christians in Qatar are able to meet and worship Him.

42 COMOROS

Alamy | Representative image



67



POPULATION

868,000 / 5,500 Christians

LEADER

President Azali Assoumani

PERSECUTION SCORE 67 (+1) ↑

In the Comoros islands, it's illegal to talk about any faith other than Sunni Islam. Any foreigner suspected of evangelizing can be deported, and local Christians who preach Christianity will be prosecuted.

Christian worship cannot be carried out in public. Christians can only legally worship in three designated churches. Converts from Islam can face significant pressure from their families and communities, as can anyone who is found to have Christian materials in their possession.

Open Doors works through local partners to strengthen the persecuted church in East African islands through discipleship and economic empowerment projects.

PLEASE PRAY

- For new believers, especially those rejected by their families and communities
- That Christians would be able to worship more openly
- For God to change hearts and laws so that anybody in the Comoros islands can legally follow Jesus.



**“YOU GAVE US MAIZE,
YOU GAVE US OIL, YOU
GAVE US FISH. WE LACK
WORDS TO THANK YOU.”**

– AID RECIPIENT, CAMEROON

Thanks to our supporters, thousands of Christians fleeing violence have been supported in Cameroon.

**WWL
#43**

43 CAMEROON



POPULATION

29.4 million / 17.1 million Christians

LEADER

President Paul Biya

PERSECUTION SCORE 67 (+1) ↑

Christians in Cameroon face violence and attacks from Islamic extremist groups, especially in the far north region.

Here, extremist groups Boko Haram and Islamic State West African Province regularly attack, and Christians can be abducted or murdered. Converting from Islam or owning a Bible is very dangerous. Many churches have stopped meeting.

Many Cameroonians are suffering from a massive humanitarian crisis caused by conflict. Christians have been accused by both sides of “harboring the enemy” and had their churches and property destroyed.

Open Doors’ partners strengthen persecuted Christians in Cameroon by providing emergency relief aid, trauma care, economic empowerment projects and spiritual care for new believers.

PLEASE PRAY

- For God to comfort and heal those who have endured unspeakable violence
- For those still coming to Jesus, despite the danger, to grow in faith
- For an end to government corruption and instability in Cameroon.

44 VIETNAM



POPULATION

99.5 million / 9.8 million Christians

LEADER

President Luong Cuong

PERSECUTION SCORE 67 (-1) ↓

In rural Vietnam, villagers follow traditional ethnic-animist religions, and persecution toward anybody who becomes a Christian is fierce. Believers can have their homes destroyed and be run out of their communities.

Local authorities will threaten, fine and sometimes imprison leaders of unregistered churches; they’re particularly suspicious of Christians from minority ethnic groups like the Hmong. Despite this, Hmong Bible teachers bravely travel miles by motorbike into remote areas to train believers in secret Bible schools.

Open Doors’ local partners strengthen persecuted believers in Vietnam with relief and practical aid, advocacy support, Christian resources, socio-economic development projects and leadership and discipleship training.

PLEASE PRAY

- For God to comfort abused Vietnamese Christians
- For blessing on the work of Open Doors’ partners
- For believers in unregistered churches to follow Jesus without impediment.

BARNABAS

“Oh God, what should I do?”

There were 200 believers before Barnabas* at a river waiting to be baptized when word reached him that police were on their way. They’d be there in 20 minutes. At a loss at what to do, Barnabas prayed.

“Suddenly, I had an idea,” he says. “I asked all of them to go to the river. I told them to dip themselves in the river after I declared them baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Within three minutes, 200 people were baptized!”

“We ran to another village, and I gave them Holy Communion and shared with them the meaning of baptism. The police went to the river, but we were no longer there. They complained that they were given the wrong information.

“Many times over the years, God was our rescuer,” he says.

ILLEGAL AND UNDERGROUND

For three decades, helped by Open Doors’ local partners, Barnabas has run an underground Bible school that has trained more than 10,000 people and led to the establishment of more than a thousand churches.

“WITHIN THREE MINUTES, 200 PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED!”

It’s an astonishing number – but it’s costly. “Sharing the gospel is illegal,” Barnabas says. “That is why, when we share the gospel with another, we know that we will experience persecution. We accept suffering. We know that we can be arrested anytime.”

BARNABAS ASKS

“PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR US AND SUPPORT US SO WE CAN SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH ALL VIETNAMESE IN THE FUTURE.”

*Name changed for security reasons



45 TÜRKIYE

Alamy | Representative image



67



POPULATION

86.3 million / 257,000 Christians

LEADER

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

PERSECUTION SCORE 67 (+3) ↑

There is a strong sense of nationalism in Türkiye today, which sees being Muslim as part of Turkish identity. Although Christianity has a very long history here, it is still seen as a negative Western influence, even by secular Turks.

It's not illegal to become a Christian, but most converts face strong pressure from their families to change their minds, under the threat of being disowned. Christian asylum seekers and job hunters are discriminated against. Even traditional Greek and Armenian churches face legal obstacles.

Open Doors raises prayer support for persecuted believers in Türkiye. Through local partners, Open Doors supports Persian-speaking refugee believers with training, resources and practical support.

PLEASE PRAY

- That people would accept people of all faiths as true Turks
- For strength for converts from Islam, particularly those rejected by their families
- Praise God that many believers in Türkiye can worship Jesus openly.

46 COLOMBIA

IMB | Representative image



66



POPULATION

52.3 million / 49.7 million Christians

LEADER

President Gustavo Petro

PERSECUTION SCORE 66 (-2) ↓

Guerrilla groups in Colombia often attack the Christians in their territories, especially if they think the Christians are opposing the “business” of their associated drug cartels.

Church leaders are particularly at risk because they try to influence the young people that guerrilla groups want to recruit.

In some indigenous communities, Christian preachers and converts can be seen as traitors to the tribe or community and can be imprisoned or disowned.

Open Doors strengthens the persecuted church in Colombia through Bible distribution, training, trauma care, community development projects, emergency relief aid and assistance in legal proceedings.

PLEASE PRAY

- For lasting peace between guerrilla groups and the Colombian government
- For those who come to faith in indigenous contexts and experience persecution from their communities
- For Christians living in areas controlled by cartels – pray for their protection and wisdom as they follow Christ.

**“THE LOCAL CHURCHES
EXPERIENCE MANY
DIFFICULTIES AND
PERSECUTIONS, BUT THEY
STILL STAND STRONG”**

– MIKE*, VIETNAM

Pastor Mike travels long distances to disciple isolated believers. He also leads a secret Bible school in Vietnam.



47 KYRGYZSTAN

Unsplash | Representative image



POPULATION

6.8 million / 263,000 Christians

LEADER

President Sadyr Japarov

PERSECUTION SCORE 66 (+7) ↑

In Kyrgyzstan, local authorities have considerable power and tend to be under the influence of the Muslim community. This has strong repercussions for converts to Christianity.

Some new believers are locked up for long periods by their families and beaten, and they can be expelled by their communities. There have been a number of violent incidents against believers this year, which is a major reason the country has jumped 14 places on the World Watch List.

Open Doors strengthens the church in Central Asia by providing relief aid, Bibles, ministry training, prayer support, vocational training and microloans, as well as projects such as rehab centers.

PLEASE PRAY

- For safety and hope for Christians who have had to flee their homes
- That the hearts of Kyrgyz people would open and accept Christians
- That local leaders would allow Christians to bury their loved ones in the local cemeteries.

48 BRUNEI

Alamy | Representative image



POPULATION

456,000 / 55,600 Christians

LEADER

Sultan Sir Hassanal Bolkiah

PERSECUTION SCORE 66 (no change) ↔

Brunei has introduced Sharia (Islamic Law), meaning that leaving Islam is punishable by law. Families will do everything possible to bring a Christian believer back to Islam.

Non-traditional Christian communities cannot be registered as churches but are legally treated as secular organizations. As such, they are required to submit operational reports to the government every year. Ongoing restrictions on any kind of evangelism make it hard for Christians to reach out, especially to young people.

Since 2023, all children, including those from Christian families, have mandatory Islamic religious education incorporated into their studies.

Open Doors raises prayer support for persecuted believers in Brunei.

PLEASE PRAY

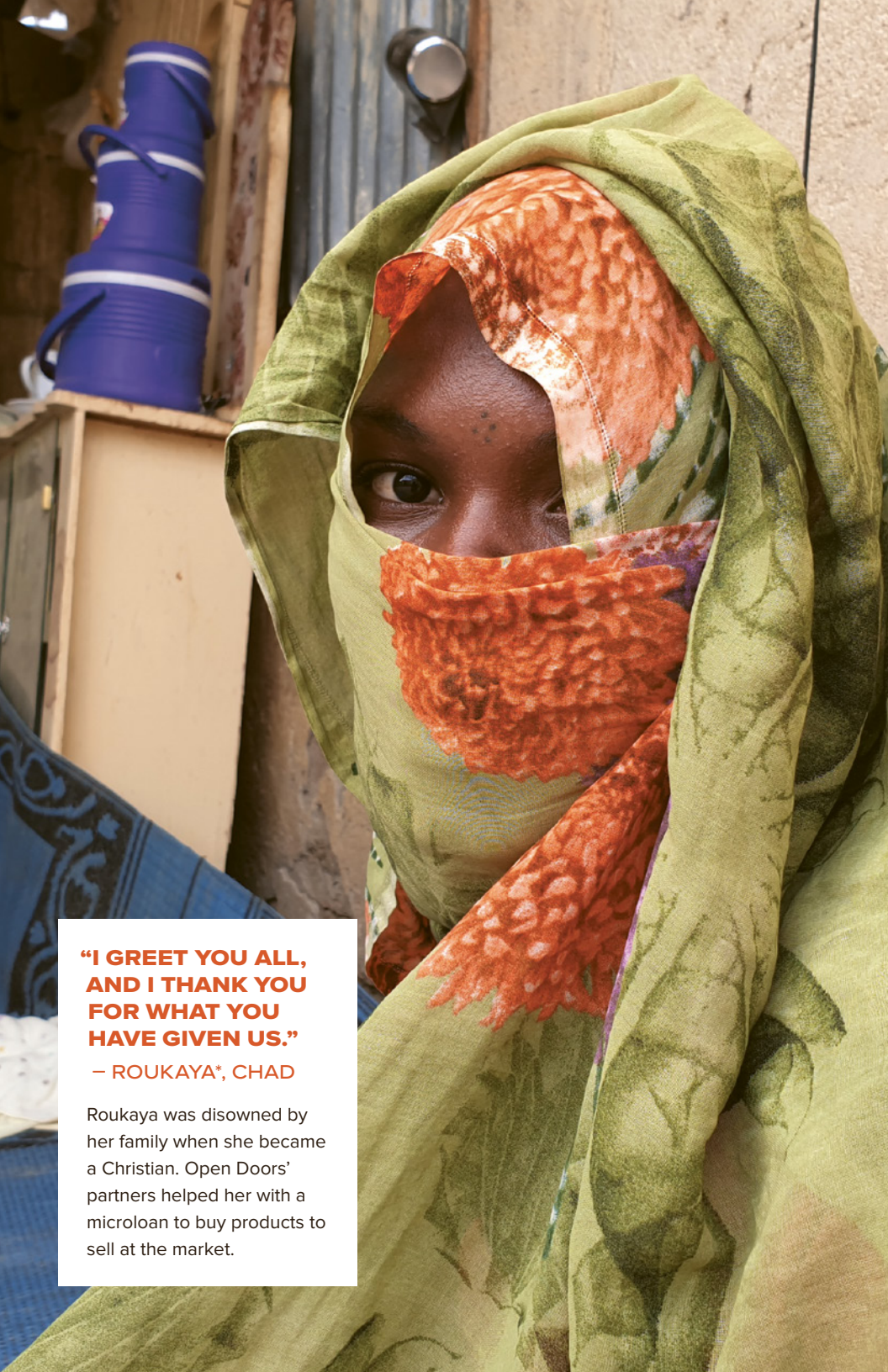
- That God's Word will get to believers in Brunei with limited access to Bibles
- That churches will be able to stay open and disciple Brunei Christians
- That the monarchy in Brunei will be open to the truth of Jesus.



RANA*,

CENTRAL ASIA

When Rana came to faith in Jesus, she was rejected by her family. But through prayer, she found hope. She's now an evangelist, working to expand God's Kingdom.



**“I GREET YOU ALL,
AND I THANK YOU
FOR WHAT YOU
HAVE GIVEN US.”**

– ROUKAYA*, CHAD

Roukaya was disowned by her family when she became a Christian. Open Doors’ partners helped her with a microloan to buy products to sell at the market.

49 CHAD



POPULATION

18.8 million / 6 million Christians

LEADER

President Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno

PERSECUTION SCORE 65 (+4) ↑

Chad faces huge challenges thanks to Islamic extremist groups like Boko Haram destabilizing neighboring countries and occasionally operating within Chad itself.

In such an environment, following Jesus comes with significant risks, particularly in rural areas where fear often keeps believers from even attending church.

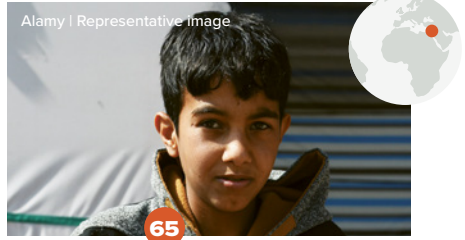
Last year, many Christians in Chad were displaced and their properties burned or destroyed. Local believers report a growing tide of Islamic extremism, especially among younger religious leaders who preach intolerance.

Open Doors' local partners in Chad provide important resources like persecution survival training, discipleship, economic empowerment and care for new believers.

PLEASE PRAY

- For protection of Christians who are at risk from Islamic extremist groups
- For God's presence to encourage Christians in Chad, particularly converts
- That God equips His people to serve the many refugees as well as the displaced and poor people in Chad.

50 JORDAN



POPULATION

11.4 million / 170,000 Christians

LEADER

King Abdullah II

PERSECUTION SCORE 65 (no change) ↔

Christians in Jordan live in relative security under King Abdullah's leadership, which tolerates and somewhat supports recognized churches.

Christian communities are still monitored to some extent and can face discrimination and restrictions against public preaching. Meanwhile, Christians from Muslim families risk beatings, arrest and even death for openly sharing their faith, and those helping them are often threatened and obstructed.

Lately, Jordan is showing a trend toward greater Islamic conservatism, driven largely by the civilian death toll in Gaza.

Open Doors' partners support the church in Jordan with relief and rehabilitation, research, and prayer support.

PLEASE PRAY

- That Christian worship in Jordan would offer light and hope for the whole region
- For converts from Islam, whose faith in Jesus can make them targets for abuse
- That God would help the monarchy of Jordan see the love of Jesus in the lives of Jordanian believers.



Open Doors

70 years of standing with the persecuted church

For 70 years, Open Doors has stood alongside Christians who face persecution for their faith.

It began with our founder, Brother Andrew, traveling to Poland in 1955 and encountering beleaguered Christians behind the Iron Curtain. Today, 70 years later, that journey continues, with thousands of partners working through global underground networks in more than 70 countries.

Since 1955, the most dangerous places have changed. The biggest threats to Christians around the world have shifted over time. Brother Andrew concentrated on the oppressions of Communism, but now the most violence comes from Islamic extremism. Over those 70 years, so many of our

brothers and sisters have laid down their lives for Jesus. They could confidently say, alongside Paul, that “to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). But over those 70 years, there is another story too. Thousands, millions of stories. Stories of individuals, families and communities whose lives have been transformed by the help and encouragement of Open Doors’ partners. Towns, regions and countries that have seen the light of Christ shone by a church equipped with strength and resilience. Persecution is growing at a heartbreaking pace – but the church is growing too!

Whatever the need, whatever the threat, whatever the darkness faced, Open Doors continues to support the church in the most crucial ways. Whether that’s smuggling Bibles and Christian

literature, offering legal advice, training church leaders and other Christians or providing vital practical support such as emergency aid and trauma care.

The result is a real connection between believers. Because we are one family. We are one body. If one part hurts, we should all feel pain.

As Brother Andrew put it: “If I cannot feel their pain, I should get scared: maybe I’m an artificial limb. A wooden arm cannot feel pain. I don’t want to be a wooden arm. I want to be alive!”

That, perhaps, is the great gift the persecuted church offers us: their stories help restore feeling to our faith. We are informed, inspired and impacted. And prepared to play our part, working in partnership to bring the light and love of Christ into some of the darkest places in our world today.

STAY INFORMED. BE INSPIRED.

Go to opendoorsus.org to find more stories of courageous faith and explore a wide range of resources to help you deepen your connection with the persecuted church.



WHAT IS THE WORLD WATCH LIST?

The Open Doors World Watch List is a unique, reliable, comprehensive ranking of the countries where the persecution of Christians is most extreme.

UNIQUE...

because, as far as possible, our data is gathered at a grassroots level, using in-country networks and local partners on the ground. This ensures that the data reflects the real, everyday experience of Christians.

RELIABLE...

because over three decades, the list has gained a reputation for credible, dependable information. Our approach and analysis are independently audited by the International Institute for Religious Freedom.

COMPREHENSIVE...

because our list measures persecution in all its forms: not only violence, but also the level of freedom Christians have to practice their faith in their private, family, community, national and church lives. And while the published World Watch List currently includes 50 countries each year, research is conducted in 150 countries.



Destruction in Nigeria

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY PERSECUTION?

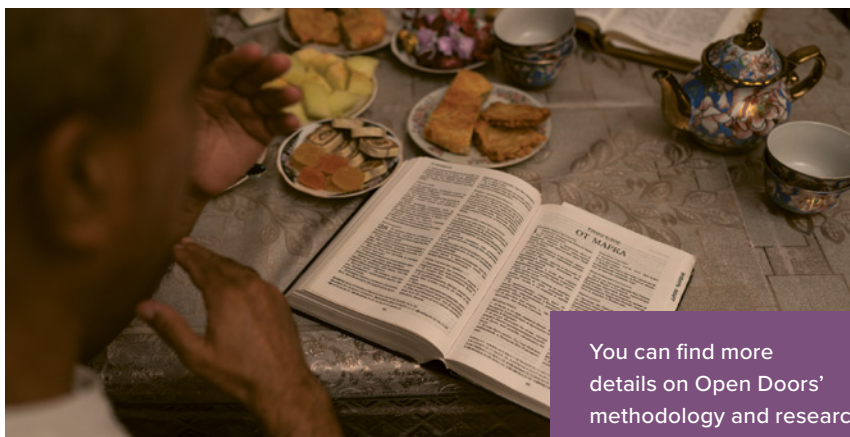
Open Doors defines persecution against Christians as “any hostile action toward a person or community motivated by their identification with the person of Jesus Christ.”

Hostility takes many forms. It can be visible and violent, where churches are burned, believers attacked, Christians kidnapped and killed. But it can also be a subtler, more attritional force. Millions of Christians live in a culture of hostility and intolerance as they try to exercise their faith against a background of discrimination and injustice.

Persecution can also be regional. This is why many countries you might consider Christian, like those in sub-Saharan

Africa, can appear on the list. Nigeria, for example, has the biggest church auditoriums in the world. But that is in the south. In the north (and increasingly, the central) regions, Christians are in a minority, and radical Islamic groups, like Boko Haram, and Fulani militants can create havoc.

This is why the real, lived, eyewitness experiences of believers remain the core of the World Watch List. Because what matters is not the official, grandiose governmental statements about freedom of belief. What matters is what really happens on the ground when people try to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.



A Bible study in Central Asia

You can find more details on Open Doors' methodology and research at [opendoorsus.org](https://www.opendoorsus.org).

THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH BELIEVERS WHO DARE TO SHARE JESUS

Your prayers, gifts and actions will strengthen persecuted Christians living in the countries where following Jesus comes with the greatest risk. Here are some other ways in which you can continue your journey.

KEEP ON PRAYING

Sign up for weekly emails that will inform and inspire you with news and prayer requests from the world of the World Watch List. On the Open Doors US website, you can also find a range of resources to help you and your church pray with the persecuted church.

KEEP ON SUPPORTING

Your gift can give an isolated Christian a precious Bible, help rebuild shattered homes and churches, provide persecuted Christians with vital food and medicine. Whatever you give will make a difference.

KEEP ON SPEAKING OUT

Tell others what is happening. Raise your voice to those with influence and power. Tell your church about their persecuted brothers and sisters with our resources for churches.

\$25

can provide Bibles to two believers facing extreme persecution

\$49

can provide a safe house for a North Korean family for six months

\$58

can provide biblical leadership training to a woman like Joo Min*

FIND OUT MORE AT OPENDOORSUS.ORG

MORE WORLD WATCH LIST RESOURCES

Children's Prayer Passport and Activity Map

Crammed with information and activities, this family-friendly resource is a great way to help children pray for the persecuted church. Get your copy at opendoorsus.org.



PRAY

JOIN YOUR FAMILY AROUND THE GLOBE



Join the world's largest underground network and stay connected to persecuted Christians around the world. Your faith will change as you engage with the courageous faith of your brothers and sisters.

Around the world, there are people who share your faith — but not your freedom.

It is good to pray for them.

It is better to pray *with* them.

The Open Doors Prayer Calendar is a resource we share every two months, that passes along the prayer requests of your church family around the world. It's a way to stay up-to-date with what's going on in their lives, and to stand with them in the opportunities and challenges they face.

And one thing we can say with confidence: praying with them can change not only their lives, but also yours.

Download your Prayer Calendar today!

opendoorsus.org/getinvolved



Smuggle light into darkness

Joo Min* escaped North Korea – one of the darkest places on earth – to be a Christian. After meeting Jesus in an Open Doors safe house, she chose to risk everything by returning with the gospel.

Your support can help believers like Joo Min smuggle more light into darkness.

Every \$49 could help provide six months of safe housing and relief aid to a family of North Korean refugees fleeing extreme persecution.

Visit **opendoorsus.org** to make your gift today, or call 1-800-896-5285. Thank you.

*Name changed and re-enactment image used for security reasons

Visit **opendoorsus.org** for more stories, research, and prayer requests from places where Christians are facing the most extreme persecution.



opendoorsus.org

T 1-800-896-5285 **E** info@opendoorsus.org