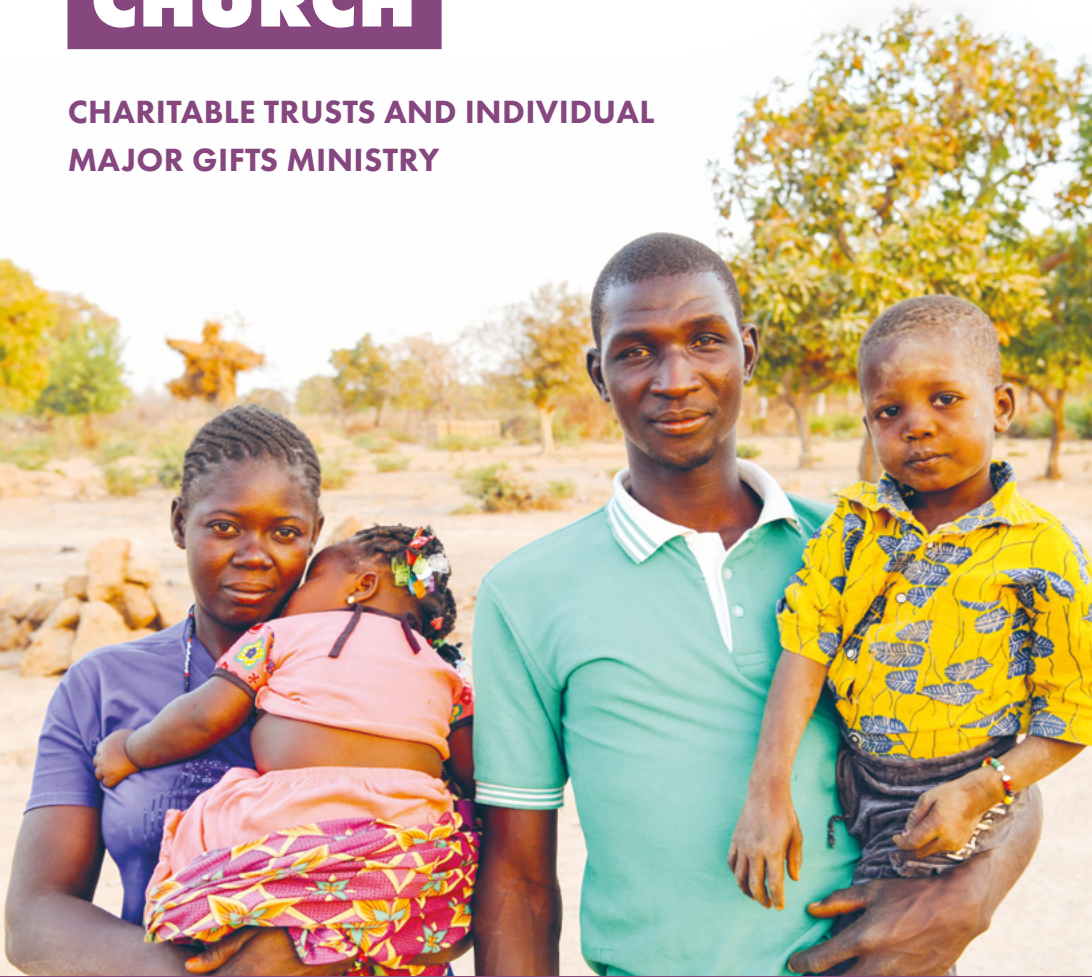


# PARTNERING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND INDIVIDUAL  
MAJOR GIFTS MINISTRY



**OpenDoors**

SERVING PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE

Thank you so much for exploring how you can strengthen the body of Christ around the world. By supporting our persecuted brothers and sisters, you enable the light of the gospel to keep shining in some of the most broken and dangerous places on earth.

The work of Open Doors is driven by the requests of the persecuted church, working closely with them in each specific context to ensure the church can be strong, hopeful and resilient.

I am reminded of Paul's words in Romans: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need" (Romans 12:12-13). As we share with those in need in the persecuted church, we can, in turn, learn so much from their joy, patience and faithfulness. I am constantly challenged and inspired by their stories, as I know you will be.

Every gift makes a precious difference to the lives of the persecuted church, and I'm so grateful to all who give and pray. Trusts and individuals who are in the position to make more significant contributions have the opportunity to further multiply the work of Open Doors. Whether you already stand with your global family through supporting this work, or are exploring how you can most effectively serve the persecuted church, thank you for responding to the testimonies of our church family and how God is moving.

Every blessing,



*Henrietta*

**Henrietta Blyth**  
CEO, Open Doors UK & Ireland

Please contact the team at [partnerships@opendoorsuk.org](mailto:partnerships@opendoorsuk.org) or **01993 777 303** if you'd like to discuss anything further. We'd love to hear from you.

# PARTNERING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

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## WHY SUPPORT THE PERSECUTED CHURCH?

**Around the world, millions of Christians face persecution and discrimination because of their faith – from their government, their community and even their family. Courageous believers keep following Jesus, even where this decision could cost them their job, their family, their freedom or their life. Through Open Doors, you can support and stand with them.**

“The church is closed but my ministry continues,” says Pastor Laxman\*, who has faced arrest and beatings for leading a church in India. “This is God’s work. No one can close it or shut it down.”

Open Doors exists to support those, like Pastor Laxman (pictured above), who count the cost of following Jesus. The gifts and prayers of Christians in the UK and Ireland, like you, can mean vital relief and long-term support gets to persecuted believers in more than 70 countries around the world. It’s the body of Christ in action.

This international ministry had small beginnings. In 1955, a young man known as Brother Andrew started smuggling Bibles behind the Iron Curtain in his blue Beetle (pictured). As he says, “Our mission is called ‘Open Doors’ because we believe that any door is open, anytime and anywhere, to proclaim Christ.”



Today, Open Doors still distributes much-needed Bibles – alongside strengthening the church through business microloans, trauma care, emergency relief, training and more.

**“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.”**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:26

Pastor Laxman is so grateful for the encouragement and support he is receiving from Open Doors local partners. He says, “We were even struggling for food. Open Doors partners – whom I never knew before this incident – provided my family with groceries and helped us start a small farm. They helped us financially and strengthened us with prayer and the Word of God.”

With your help, believers like Pastor Laxman will get the support they need – to keep going today, and to stay strong for years and generations to come. You can be part of ensuring the future of the church where following Jesus means counting the highest cost. You can help courageous believers shine the light of Jesus into their communities.

\*Name changed for security reasons

**“The church is closed but my ministry continues.”**

PASTOR LAXMAN



CAPTION: Pastor Laxman baptises a member of his church (re-enactment image)



# HOW DOES OPEN DOORS WORK?

Open Doors is a global ministry, driven by the needs of the persecuted church and strengthening the body of Christ around the world.

Your gifts and prayers mean that persecuted Christians can be supported by **Open Doors local partners** in more than 70 countries. This support and the projects depend on the local context, and the requests and information received from the persecuted church.

**Open Doors International (ODI)** connects these local partners and field teams with development offices like Open Doors UK and Ireland. ODI research potential projects and robustly monitor and evaluate them – to ensure supporters’ donations are used well, and the persecuted church is strengthened. In turn, they share inspiring stories and testimonies to connect people like you with those who count the cost of following Jesus.

You’ll be directly in touch with the Partnerships team at **Open Doors UK and Ireland** as your main point of contact for any questions. The UK&I base raises prayer, funds and support for the persecuted church, as well as engaging in advocacy with UK and Ireland decision makers.



## HOW CAN THE

## PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

## WORK WITH YOU?

Your generosity is crucial in making a difference in the lives of men, women and children who count the cost of following Jesus. All forms of support are essential to this ministry, and larger financial gifts can accelerate and multiply the effect of Open Doors’ work.

The Partnerships team serves individuals, companies and trusts who contribute a significant value to the ministry. The team’s role is to ensure you’re fully equipped to support your church family. If you partner with us to support the persecuted church, you’ll be offered:



**Personal contact:** as a trusted partner, you’ll have a personal contact at the ministry



**Travel:** connect with courageous believers through trips and key events



**Bespoke service:** you can have confidential conversations with the team about your giving



**Specific giving opportunities:** we can let you know restricted areas of funding



**Exclusive webinars:** hear from and pray for persecuted Christians and Open Doors fieldworkers



**Impact reports:** detailed statistics and testimonies on how your support is changing lives.

You can contact the team via [partnerships@opendoorsuk.org](mailto:partnerships@opendoorsuk.org) or **01993 777 303**

**“For we are co-workers in God’s service”**

1 CORINTHIANS 3:9

## WHY DOES PRAYER

## MATTER TO THE

## PERSECUTED CHURCH?

When persecuted Christians learn that their brothers and sisters around the world are praying for them, they are often overwhelmed. Often they have been told by their families, communities or even national leaders that they don't matter.

Your prayers show them that isn't true. Your prayers show persecuted believers that they are seen and loved.

That includes courageous people like Nadia\* from the Arabian Peninsula. She is a secret believer who has converted from Islam. Where she lives, it's incredibly difficult to connect with a community of Christians. She takes risks to meet with others – but she is also sustained by the prayers of people in her global family, like you.

“The idea of so many people around the world praying for me and for the people in this area really gives hope as to how connected we are as the body of Christ,” she says. “The more people in this area know this, the more encouraged they'll feel that they're not by themselves. Those prayers have affected me and other people living in this region who've found the truth and seen the light.”

CAPTION: Nadia is a secret believer from the Arabian Peninsula



Prayers are a powerful way of showing your love. As Brother Andrew said, “Our prayers can go where we cannot... there are no borders, no prison walls, no doors that are closed to us when we pray.”

And, as our trusted partner, we will send you prayer requests and invitations to online events that we aren't able to share more widely – because of security. We'll also make sure to pass on the good news when God answers the prayers you've been praying, and the persecuted church see change in their lives.

\*Name changed for security reasons

**“The idea of so many people around the world praying for me and for the people in this area really gives hope as to how connected we are as the body of Christ.”**

NADIA





## HOW ARE YOUR GIFTS ALLOCATED?

While being led by the needs of the persecuted church, OD UK&I offers you three ways to financially support those who count the cost.

1

### WHERE MOST NEEDED

Most often, people give to 'where most needed'. That means that the generosity of Open Doors supporters can be best used to meet the needs of persecuted Christians – sometimes where we cannot share openly about the work. It prevents projects being neglected, or given more funds than they can use. It also covers the overheads that ensure Open Doors staff can raise prayer, funds and awareness for the persecuted church.

CAPTION: Women attend an adult literacy class in Bangladesh, giving them both skills and fellowship



2

### CAMPAIGNS AND APPEALS

Every two months, Open Doors general communications (including the magazine and website) focus on a particular appeal area. That might mean raising gifts and prayers for a particular region (sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East) or demographic (children, women, secret believers). For instance, during a period focusing on World Watch List top 10 countries, Pastor Zachariah (pictured) shared his story of his wife and son being killed and his village destroyed by Islamic militants.



3

### ALLOCATED GIVING

You may want to give to a particular region, demographic or type of ministry – or you may be looking to help fund specific projects. If you want to give in this way, you can talk with the Partnerships team about possible options.

CAPTION: Open Doors partners broadcast Christian radio programmes into North Korea



Donations to appeals and allocated funds go entirely to ODI to distribute to Open Doors local partners. For a financial breakdown, you can find Open Doors' Annual Review at [opendoorsuk.org](http://opendoorsuk.org).

Whichever route you choose, Open Doors partners and the Christians they serve are deeply appreciative – **thank you!**

# HOW DOES YOUR SUPPORT CHANGE LIVES?

The full impact of your gifts and prayers is much more than simply sending a food parcel or repairing a building. Your gift is a link in a longer chain, making a greater impact than you may know.

Here are just some of the ways that lives are transformed, helping the global church to thrive and grow.

## BIBLE DISTRIBUTION SO BELIEVERS CAN TREASURE THE WORD OF GOD

"I pray for everyone that contributed for the Bible to reach me. I will share it and win souls for Christ." – Dorcas is one of the next generation of the church in northern Nigeria.



## EMERGENCY FOOD AND MEDICINE SO THE CHURCH SURVIVES CRISES



"This is like serving God for me, as I serve my fellow brothers and sisters in the camps. The goods your organisation provided are the best in terms of quality and quantity." – Open Doors local partners provide Pastor Lian\* with the means to minister to survivors of violence in Manipur, India.

## TRAUMA CARE AND TRAINING SO PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS CAN HEAL AND GROW

"You came just at the time we needed – the teaching on trauma has helped us a lot." – Charity in Nigeria is one of many who've had Open Doors trauma care, after suffering from Islamic militant attacks.



## MICROLOANS AND INCOME-GENERATING PROJECTS SO BELIEVERS CAN SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES



When Rivan and his family fled so-called Islamic State in Iraq's Nineveh Plains, they lost their everything. After eight years, they could return home - and an Open Doors income-generating project helped him develop a farm to support his family. "The microloan is a big encouragement," he says. "I want to thank the people who supported this."

## SAFE HOUSES TO PROVIDE SECURE SHELTER FOR CHRISTIANS IN DANGER

"Thank you, everyone! I am grateful to God. I could truly feel His and your love. Even though we do not know each other, it feels like we know each other in Jesus Christ. Your loving support has helped me to remove my burdens." – Hoon\* was able to stay at a safe house for North Korean believers run by Open Doors fieldworkers in China.





# CONNECTING

# WITH THE

# PERSECUTED

# CHURCH

Interview with Caroline,  
who travelled to Egypt  
with Open Doors



Caroline and John have supported the work of Open Doors for many years. By connecting with the Partnerships team, you'll have opportunities to travel and meet believers who count the cost of following Jesus. In this interview, Caroline shares how a trip to Egypt deepened her connection with the persecuted church.

## WHERE DID YOU TRAVEL WITH OPEN DOORS?

My husband John and I went to Egypt, and it had a huge impact on us. It was a concentrated time of thinking about the persecuted church, and about our own faith. Many of us have stayed in touch, and it was very important.

## DO ANY ENCOUNTERS STAND OUT?

I was talking with one lady, eminent in her church, and asked what she wanted prayer for. I thought they'd want prayer about persecution and their mission, which of course we were praying for anyway, but she asked for prayer for her family, and for various aches and pains. It made it much more real. We realised persecution is on top of everything else.

I also learned that a lot of persecution isn't always dramatic – it's drip, drip, drip – wearing you down, like water on a stone. The difficulty of getting a job, or not being able to guarantee your children's safety. Making a sacrifice yourself is one thing, but it's another when it's family.

## HOW HAS CONNECTING TO PERSECUTED BELIEVERS BLESSED YOU?

Hugely! They're our brothers and sisters. We've learned about priorities. It doesn't mean we've become saints – but we see their awesome example, on that trip and at Open Doors events. Particularly so from those countries where Christianity formerly was quite a strong force – Syria, Iraq, Iran and even North Korea. We heard a lady from North Korea at Standing Strong, and her story is full of joy, which is not what you'd expect. Her story was extraordinary.

## HAS CONNECTING WITH THE PERSECUTED CHURCH CHANGED HOW YOU PRAY?

You are different, therefore you pray differently. It changes you; it really does. I do find that if I meet somebody, I go on praying for them – they become people, not an abstract issue. Prayer is amazing, isn't it?

## WHAT MAKES PARTNERING WITH OPEN DOORS REWARDING?

It's really important that we know people at Open Doors – that relationship with people makes it very different. Open Doors has been very open for us. There's a binding between everybody. We're doing an incredibly small part of it, but we're part of the jigsaw.

You can contact the team via [partnerships@opendoorsuk.org](mailto:partnerships@opendoorsuk.org) or 01993 777 303.

CAPTION: A cave church in Egypt, used during winter for up to 2,000 people



**“It is such a huge privilege and opportunity to be able to share through Open Doors in these ministries that are so close to the heart of Father God.”**

JOHN AND LIZ,  
OPEN DOORS SUPPORTERS

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