

Open*Doors*

2024: A YEAR IN REVIEW

A photograph of a man and a woman standing outdoors. The man, on the left, is wearing a dark green polo shirt and has his right arm around the woman's shoulder. The woman, on the right, is wearing a yellow top and a dark purple shawl. Both are smiling warmly at the camera. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green foliage.

**SUPPORTING
COURAGEOUS
FAITH**

www.opendoorscanada.org

"THEREFORE, MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, STAND FIRM. LET NOTHING MOVE YOU."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58



Persecuted believers in Mali celebrate after 320 Christian families were provided with relief aid in June 2024, thanks to you. Terrorist groups, once confined to the north of the country, are moving across Mali – and Christians are under growing pressure.



ABOUT OPEN DOORS

"Strengthen what remains and is about to die."

Those were the words given to a young Dutch missionary 70 years ago – and they've shaped a global ministry to the persecuted church ever since.

It was back in 1955 that Andrew van der Bijl went to Communist Poland with a suitcase full of gospel tracts. Behind the Iron Curtain, he found isolated Christians who thought the world had forgotten them, and churches desperately in need of Bibles.

He prayed, opened his Bible and this is what God said: *"Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die."* (Revelation 3:2)

That man became known as Brother Andrew, that verse became his mission – and his trip changed the world.

Brother Andrew founded Open Doors and made countless journeys across Europe, smuggling Bibles in his blue VW Beetle. As the ministry grew, other needs emerged. As well as Bibles, persecuted Christians around the world needed leadership, education, practical support.

Now, in 2025, Open Doors is marking a milestone: seven decades of serving the persecuted church – all thanks to the faithful support of people like you.

Today, we work in more than 70 countries to support Christians who dare to follow Jesus no matter the cost. With your gifts and prayers, millions of persecuted believers know they are not alone.

Thank you for standing with them.

A LETTER FROM PASTOR GARY STAGG

You are such a blessing. In a world where Christian persecution is intensifying, you stand with our brothers and sisters to strengthen their courageous faith and show they are not alone.

Last year, your support reached more than 9.5 million persecuted believers in 70 countries with training, practical support, advocacy and Scripture material.

The words ‘thank you’ don’t seem enough...

- Every minute you prayed for your persecuted family made a difference.
- Every kind donation helped someone in desperate need.
- Every time you signed a petition, shared a story or talked to someone in your church about Open Doors, you ensured our suffering brothers and sisters were not forgotten.

And your faithful support is vital.

In 2024, we’ve seen more nations using sophisticated technology to control Christian activity. Nationalist ideologies, such as in India, are putting Christians in real danger. Almost 5,000 believers were killed because of their faith around the world, while attacks on

churches, Christian schools and hospitals increased seven-fold.

As persecution worsened, your support grew stronger. Because of you, Open Doors reached 19% more Christians than in 2023.

You’ve offered trauma healing, encouragement and fellowship where it’s needed most. You’ve provided biblical training, much of it online, to strengthen faith. And you’ve put millions of Bibles into people’s hands, in the most dangerous places to follow Jesus.

In future, I fear religious persecution will increase, driven by political and economic turmoil, violent nationalist ideologies, increased use of surveillance technologies, and the drift towards dictatorships among governments.

But I know you will not forget your brothers and sisters risking everything to follow Jesus. Together, we will stand with Christians facing persecution and discrimination, so their faith remains resilient. Thank you.



Pastor Gary Stagg
Executive Director

Rumana and Moryom celebrated Christmas with joy in 2024, thanks to your support.

The girls, who live in Bangladesh, face daily persecution. Death threats have even been directed at their families. But because of you, they keep following Jesus.

“It’s because of Jesus’ love that I have survived,” says Rumana.



YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

More than 380 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. That's one in seven Christians in the world. Your faithful support and prayers make a difference.

Thank you for standing with believers counting the highest cost for following Jesus.



9.5M+ PEOPLE

WERE SUPPORTED AROUND THE WORLD, A 19% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2023



1 IN 3 BELIEVERS

WERE SUPPORTED TO BE SALT AND LIGHT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES



57% GROWTH

IN BIBLICAL TRAINING, DUE TO AN INCREASE IN ONLINE TRAINING



ALMOST DOUBLE

THE NUMBER OF WOMEN WERE SUPPORTED IN 2024 COMPARED TO 2023



2.5M BIBLES

AND CHRISTIAN LITERATURE WERE PROVIDED, AN INCREASE OF 36%



1.6M+ YOUNG PEOPLE

WERE SUPPORTED IN 2024, 42% MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

YOUR HELP REACHING AROUND THE WORLD

5,771,220 BENEFICIARIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

3,201,153 BENEFICIARIES IN ASIA

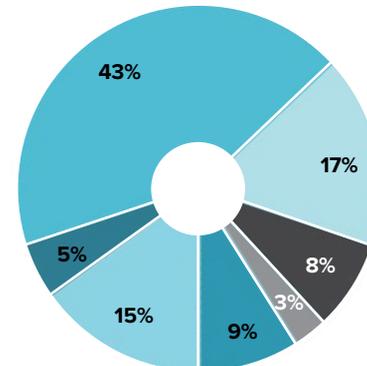
581,267 BENEFICIARIES IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

■ Countries experiencing extreme persecution

OPEN DOORS CANADA IMPACT

Your gifts in 2024 helped Open Doors continue its vital ministry in supporting God's family in every situation. You've helped your family members know that God is with them – and that you are, too.

- **Bible Distribution (9%)**
Strengthening the Church by providing Bibles and other Christian literature
- **Mobilizing Prayer and Awareness (15%)**
Informing Christians in Canada so they can pray and be bold in their faith
- **Monitoring and Protecting the Rights of Persecuted Christians (5%)**
International research and advocacy for persecuted Christians
- **Christian Community Development and Field Ministry (43%)**
Relief and emergency aid, supporting persecuted Christians and families
- **Training (17%)**
Biblical training, discipleship, trauma and legal counselling
- **Administration (8%)**
Finance and ministry costs
- **Fundraising (3%)**
Mobilizing the Canadian church to support persecuted Christians



YOUR IMPACT

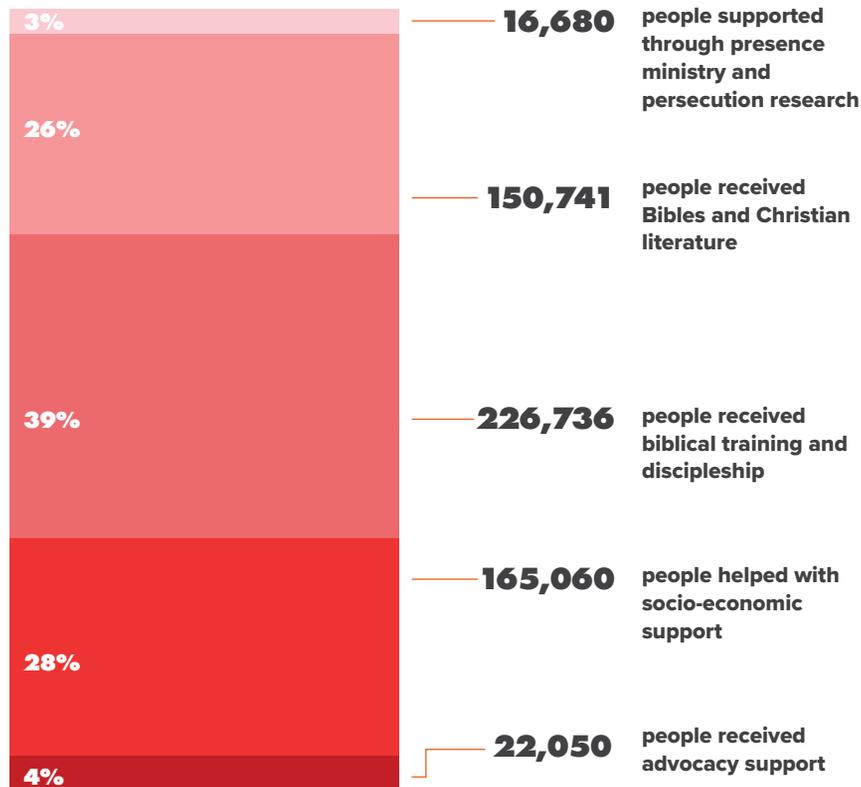
IN AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

Africa: home to the largest number of Christians in the world – and the most violent persecution on the planet.

95% of believers killed for their faith in 2024 were killed in Sub-Saharan Africa. The region was home to 75% of the world’s destroyed, damaged, looted or closed churches.

Meanwhile, in Latin America, violent persecution has increased and instability in places like Mexico and Venezuela means the future looks uncertain.

Your support reached believers under extreme pressure.



15,000

believers supported in Sudan, thanks to new ‘safe zones’ for aid distribution



\$15M+

spent on socio-economic development work in this region in 2024



330,000

persecuted Christians were helped in Nigeria, 2.5x more than 2023

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2024

Your generous support for the Arise Africa campaign meant almost 50% more persecuted Christians in Africa received help in 2024.

Nigerians account for more than half of all beneficiaries, reflecting the size of the persecuted church in this nation. Christians who are uprooted and displaced in their own country have been supported with emergency aid and trauma care. Many say without this support, they would be begging – or women would have to sell their bodies – to survive.

In Sudan, amid insecurity and ongoing civil war, we found new ways to reach the persecuted church, and work there increased significantly. Thanks to you, more people have also been helped in Burkina Faso, Chad and Tanzania.

In Latin America, the focus was on supporting Christians in Bolivia, Mexico and Nicaragua.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

PASTOR SORÉ’S STORY

Pastor Soré* had no choice but to flee his village in Burkina Faso when extremists attacked. Thanks to you, this faithful pastor and his small community of believers are now thriving.

“We bought land with your support, and have taken the decision to settle here,” said Pastor Soré. “We are grateful to the Lord. Our plan now is to acquire more space and build a house.

“Four new converts have been added to our family, and I would like a field for agriculture. All this I put to the Lord who has always provided. I pray God would help me open a church in the neighbourhood.”

**name changed for security reasons*

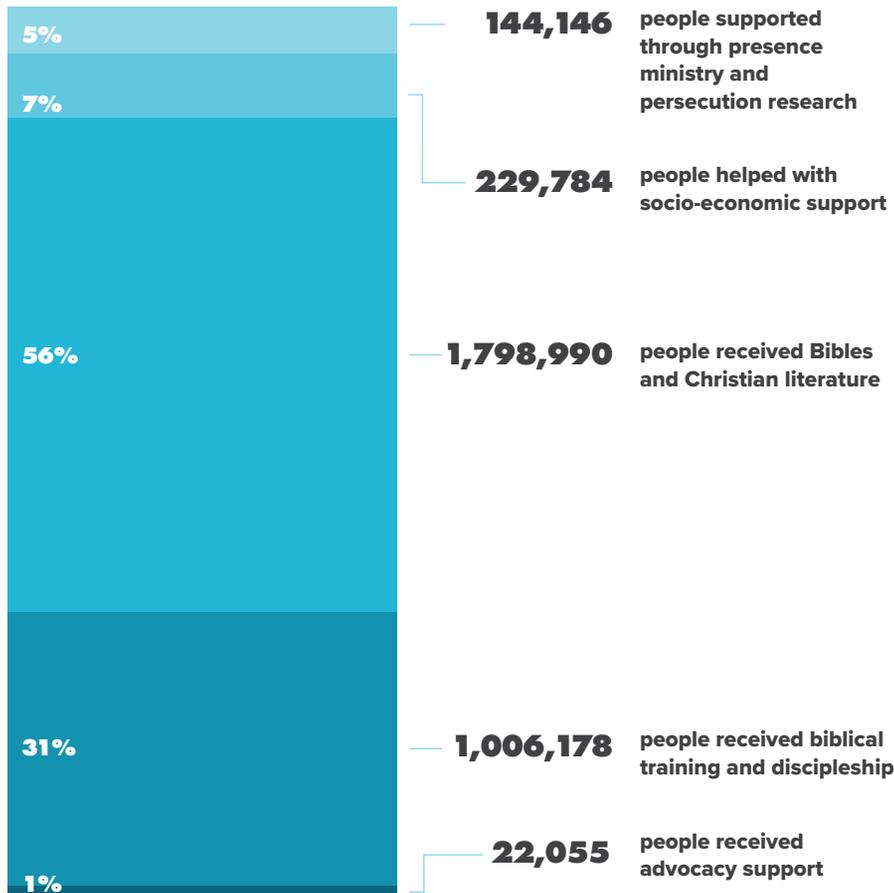


YOUR IMPACT IN ASIA

In North Korea, believers face torture and death. In China, Christians are monitored with surveillance technology. In Laos, at least eight house churches have been forced to close.

But it's Myanmar which stands out in 2024. When a country is in political and economic turmoil, Christians suffer deeply. Since the outbreak of civil war, persecution of Christians has become persistent and more extreme.

You stood with Christians tightly squeezed by persecution.



MORE THAN 40%
of Open Doors' global funding is spent in Asia (\$40m+)



90% MORE
persecuted Christians helped in the Gulf in 2024



\$13M
was spent on biblical training and discipleship in Asia

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2024

Your support boosted the provision of Bibles, Christian literature and online training in Asia.

In hard-to-reach places like Afghanistan, digital ministry is growing. 2024 saw more downloads of digital Scripture and almost twice as many phone calls with people interested in Jesus.

Security issues remain a challenge. But twice as many Christians were supported in China, compared to 2023, and we continue to reach believers in North Korea. Even amid armed conflict in Myanmar, we helped Christians stand strong.

We saw churches in Laos run social action projects in their communities, repairing village buildings and repaving roads. Women in Vietnam shared the gospel in parks and markets. And in the Philippines, an isolated group of indigenous believers heard about Open Doors and approached us for help to deal with persecution.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

LAXMAN'S STORY

Laxman* was leading a prayer service in India when police burst in and beat him. He was jailed, tortured and mocked. Hindu extremists destroyed the church and the believers scattered.

But Laxman has your support – and he will not be held back.

With his church under surveillance, Laxman has started meeting believers in secret. Amazingly, he now runs six small house churches, each with up to 70 members.

"I am strengthened to serve God in every possible way, and I will continue to praise the Lord in all circumstances, wherever I am," says Laxman today. "What can stop me from fulfilling the purposes of God?"

**name changed for security reasons*



Re-enactment image

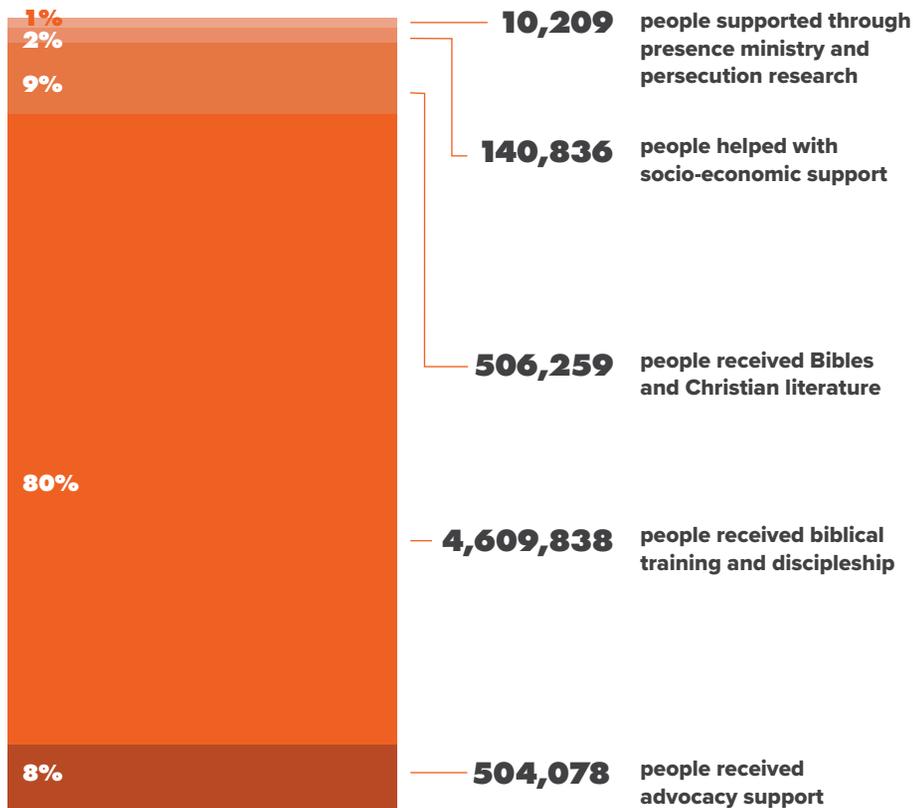
YOUR IMPACT

IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Instability and conflict have sparked a rise in radical Islam across this region. In Syria, Iraq, Libya, Jordan and Yemen, more power in the hands of Islamic militants is putting Christians at great risk.

The Israel-Palestine conflict puts added pressure on the church. Even in countries like Egypt and Turkey, online hate campaigns against Christians are growing. In North Africa, surveillance of believers is now disturbingly common.

Your support ensured persecuted believers are never alone.



24%
more persecuted Christians supported in the Middle East and North Africa



1/3
of Open Doors' global budget was directed to Christians in this region



44%
of global expenditure on biblical training and discipleship is in this region

HOW YOU HELPED IN 2024

Your support enabled a 50% increase in biblical training and discipleship in the Middle East and North Africa in 2024. More support was provided in Egypt, home to the largest number of Middle East Christians, and the Arabian Peninsula through Open Doors' online presence.

We connected with more local churches, to help them become Centres of Hope. Often these churches are small, with up to 15 members. Your support provided livelihood support, scholarships and practical training, so Christians can positively engage with their workplaces and neighbourhoods.

You helped provide visits, phone calls, online prayers, legal support and counselling to persecuted believers across the region. We have also invested in supporting children and their parents who face discrimination in the classroom, so they can take action with the authorities.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

SIMIN'S STORY

Simin* was mocked and shamed for following Jesus. Rejected by the people she loved. Made to feel worthless because of her faith.

But today, thanks to your support, this Iranian woman is a powerful witness for Christ.

"My heart dances with joy when I hear that brothers and sisters around the world are praying for me," says Simin, who now lives outside Iran and has an online ministry with other Iranian women.

"Your prayers give me new power to stay faithful in my path and move forward. I'm blessed and thankful to see God working in the midst of persecution, challenges and difficulties."

**name changed for security reasons*



Representative image

**"IF ONE PART SUFFERS,
EVERY PART SUFFERS
WITH IT... YOU ARE THE
BODY OF CHRIST, AND
EACH ONE OF YOU IS
A PART OF IT."**

1 CORINTHIANS 12: 26-27

"I chose the path of Christ," says Khada, in Afghanistan. But this secret faith comes at a price. Your support has strengthened Khada during 2024, and she keeps following Jesus. Thank you.

Representative image



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION KHADA'S STORY

It has never been more dangerous to follow Jesus in Afghanistan. But thanks to you, Khada is holding onto faith.*

Khada paid the highest price for faith in Jesus.

She'd given her life to Jesus alongside her beloved husband Ehsan, and the couple were baptized together. But one day, Ehsan didn't come home. He'd been tortured and killed.

When our partners met Khada, she was broken and vulnerable. As a widow, she had no agency to find work. As a secret believer, she was in extreme danger.

But your support in 2024 has strengthened this courageous woman. Because of you, Khada continues to walk with Jesus – and she is bringing hope in a dark place.

"Under the Taliban, there is no forgiveness, and these harsh conditions have profound effects on people. Many have lost their joy," says Khada, in an update sent to Open Doors partners.

"Yet those who have found faith in Christ hold onto hope. We believe one day things will change,

and God will deliver us from this oppression.

"I shared the gospel with my family and they chose to follow Jesus. Now they have a good life; they embraced Christ and are experiencing true happiness. They feel a sense of freedom and love from God that they never felt before.

"Spiritually we are very strong. We see God at work and the Holy Spirit is our guide and protector. The Taliban government enforces severe punishments on Christian gatherings, including death or stoning. So we remain cautious and have ways of avoiding attention. It is wise for us to meet discreetly."

Your gifts and prayers in 2024 have provided Bibles, discipleship training and run vital livelihood projects for people like Khada, in Afghanistan and around the world.

Khada added, "We are so grateful for your encouragement and support in helping us. Thank you for always thinking of us and inspiring us to remain servants of Christ. May the grace and blessing of Jesus Christ be upon you."

*name changed to protect her identity

THANK YOU FOR FAITHFULLY SUPPORTING YOUR PERSECUTED FAMILY.

*“Strengthen what
remains and is
about to die.”*

REVELATION 3:2



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