Over 100 million Christians are persecuted for their faith worldwide.

Christian persecution is any hostility experienced from the world as a result of one’s identification as a follower of Jesus. These are a few examples of persecution experienced by Christians in some countries on a daily basis:

- Discrimination in education & employment
- Death
- Beatings
- Isolation
- Imprisonment
Dear Friend,

At the time, the year 2014 proved to be the worst year of Christian persecution in the modern era. With ISIS infiltrating Iraq and Syria and other groups following their lead, it was difficult to imagine it getting any worse... but it did.

In 2015, we witnessed ISIS behead 21 Egyptian Christians, and by the end of the year more than 43 terrorist groups had sworn allegiance to the group. In addition to this, countless governments and societies increased their persecution of Christians through fines, prison sentences and attacks. Though the situation may seem grim to some, I am amazed by what God is doing... and He is using friends like you to help expand His Kingdom.

Often, where persecution occurs, the gospel thrives. Supporting this are vital tools like Bibles, trauma counseling and refugee kits that strengthen those who choose to remain in the face of persecution. When friends like you give towards these programs, you are providing our brothers and sisters with the tools they need to survive and spread the gospel... even to their persecutors.

In this report, you will see the amazing impact your gifts are having and how many Christians you helped Open Doors serve this past year.

Thank you for being used by God in this way!

Blessings,

Dr. David Curry,
CEO, Open Doors USA
The Great Commission calls us to bring the gospel to all the earth—even the most hostile places.

*Open Doors* is on the ground in over 60 countries, working with local Christians to bring Christ’s light to their countries, and even their persecutors.

Because persecuted Christians have needs that vary by region, Open Doors strives to serve them accordingly. Here is a list of the services we offer Christians around the world:

### BIBLE & GOSPEL DEVELOPMENT
- Bible distribution
- Bible study materials
- Evangelism training
- Christian literature distribution
- Teaching & seminars

### WOMEN & CHILDREN ADVANCEMENT
- Support for persecuted orphans
- Women’s literacy training
- Microloans for Christian women
- Job training

### CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY RESTORATION
- Rebuilding churches & homes
- Socioeconomic support
- Refugee support for persecuted Christians
2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

3,008,811 BIBLES, TRAINING MANUALS AND BOOKS WERE DISTRIBUTED - 348 ITEMS EACH HOUR

22,446 Christians have been helped through microloans, savings assistance and business injections.

21,537 people benefited from the construction and renovation of Christian buildings.

239,164 people have received relief and aid, including food, medical help, emergency aid and safe houses.

Results shown throughout this report are the result of the world-wide efforts of Open Doors.
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
MALI
ALGERIA
TUNISIA
LIBYA
NIGERIA
EGYPT
SUDAN
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
TANZANIA
COMOROS
MALDIVES
SOMALIA
DJIBOUTI
ERITREA
YEMEN
OMAN
JORDAN
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
SAUDI ARABIA
TURKMENISTAN
IRAQ
SYRIA
TURKEY
KAZAKHSTAN
PAKISTAN
TAJIKISTAN
UZBEKISTAN
INDIA
CHINA
NORTH KOREA
BHUTAN
BANGLADESH
MYANMAR (BURMA)
VIETNAM
LAOS
MALAYSIA
INDONESIA
BRUNEI
QATAR
IRAN
AFGHANISTAN
AZERBAIJAN
KUWAIT
NIGER
BAHRAIN
MEXICO
COLOMBIA
2016 WORLD WATCH LIST

PERSECUTION AROUND THE WORLD

The Open Doors World Watch List ranks the top 50 countries where Christians face the most persecution.

Persecution is not only increasing — it’s spreading. In Central Asia (part of the former Soviet Union), Christians have faced fines, prison sentences, eviction from their homes and even threatening notes from ISIS... all because of their Christian faith.

In northern Nigeria, there has been a 62% increase in deaths of Christians by the extremist group Boko Haram.

Cartels and rebel groups see Christians as a threat in countries like Mexico and Colombia, because people are leaving lives of crime and drugs to follow Christ. As a result, believers are often attacked.

In Iraq and Syria, ISIS continues to destroy historical Christian communities, attempting to eradicate any trace of Christianity from the region.

In spite of spreading and growing persecution, God is at work... and He’s using friends like you! Turn the page to see some of the incredible things that happened last year.

North Korea has been #1 on the World Watch List for the past 13 years. It is illegal to be a Christian in North Korea — believers are often sent to labor camps or killed if they are discovered.

Christians have lived in Iraq for two millennia but are currently on the verge of extinction. Pray for the Christians who have been displaced internally and in neighboring countries.
ON THE GROUND IN
LATIN AMERICA

LIVING IN LATIN AMERICA

In countries like Colombia and Mexico, Christians face persecution from cartels and rebel groups. When Christians spread the gospel in these countries, they are viewed as threats, since converts are no longer willing to join crime rings or sell drugs. This threatens the groups’ power, and even their existence. As a result, there are many threats and attacks against Christians.

But the church in this region remains strong, and God is using Christians like you to equip and encourage them in the face of persecution.

Through the support of friends like you, Open Doors is able to provide resources like these to help persecuted believers in this region:

- Development of Biblical materials
- Construction of indigenous Christian schools
- Education programs
- Distribution of Bibles and other Christian literature
- Distribution of training materials
- Emergency persecution relief aid

You helped distribute 129,882 Bibles & training materials to adults and children in Latin America.

The Children’s Center in Colombia provides a safe place for children who come from areas where Christians are threatened and attacked by rebel groups.

2,983 people were helped through socioeconomic development programs like safe houses and the rebuilding of Christian homes in Latin America.

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PASTOR TRAINING IN COLOMBIA

More than 250 pastors in Colombia attended training on how to care for victims of trauma and sexual abuse. Most of them had never received training on these subjects before.

“I speak a lot about God, but when it comes to ministering to someone who is suffering, that’s a whole different thing... I needed tools like this training,” shared one participant.

STANDING STRONG THROUGH THE STORM TRAINING IN MEXICO

In Mexico, Christians can face a great deal of persecution for leaving their tribal beliefs. Training like Standing Strong Through the Storm equips them to stand strong in the face of persecution and to not lose faith.

CHILDREN’S HOME IN COLOMBIA

This home serves children who are at risk because of where their families live. Pastors and their families are at risk when they preach the gospel in rebel territory. This home provides a safe place for these children and others, in Jesus’ name.

Sophia’s parents were murdered by guerillas while training to be pastors, and she found herself at the children’s home when she was 8 years old.

“They were real role models. Our teachers were the parents I never had,” Sofia tells us.
Pascuala carries the scars of persecution... with 21 pellets embedded in her skin. When she was younger, she was shot and left for dead because she refused to deny her faith and follow the pagan traditions of the region.

Open Doors serves believers like Pascuala through trauma counseling and training to remain strong in the face of persecution.

“Continue to pray for Christians here; there are still many who suffer for their faith, but I am thankful for groups like Open Doors who have helped our ministry.”

– Pascuala, persecuted Christian from Mexico

LOOKING AHEAD As tribal antagonism and rebel groups continue to be engines of increasing persecution, Open Doors will continue to provide vital resources like trauma counseling, training seminars and projects like the Children’s Center to best serve Christians in this region.
CENTRAL ASIA

CHRISTIANS IN CENTRAL ASIA FACE PERSECUTION IN ALMOST EVERY FORM

Local governments will fine Christians with exorbitant fees for gathering without a permit. They have banned books and have shut down or refused registration to churches who have followed all of the rules. Those who come to faith from a Muslim background may be ostracized, threatened and even attacked by their family members. And recently, Muslim extremist groups linked with ISIS have been threatening Christians in this region.

Though Christians are facing unimaginable persecution in almost every aspect of life, they are able to stand strong because of the faithfulness of brothers and sisters like you.

You helped distribute over 1 million Bibles and training materials to adults and children in Central Asia in 2015.

11,368 Christians in Central Asia benefited from discipleship and ministry training.

You helped provide food and medical help to 403,007 people in need in Central Asia.
SAFE HOUSES

Open Doors provides safe houses for believers on the run in this region. Many are kicked out of their homes or have their very lives threatened when their faith is discovered. These safe houses keep Christians alive to spread the gospel in their region.

“Thank you so much for helping me by providing a temporary safe place to live. It is so wonderful to realize that children of God, my Christian family, are ready to come up and help in the midst of terrible circumstances. Thank you so much for praying for me. I know many people have prayed around the world.”

– Batima, persecuted believer in Central Asia

BIBLE AND LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION & TRAINING

Central Asia is one of the areas where Open Doors distributes the most Bibles and Christian literature. The church in this area is relatively young and is growing rapidly, in spite of the persecution, and is in need of these vital resources.

Standing Strong Through the Storm and many other forms of training equip believers to face persecution however it materializes.
Mia attended an Open Doors business training seminar and realized that God had called her to open her own salon. She took the practical lessons from this training to open and manage a successful business.

Now she shares the gospel with each client that comes in. And several are coming to Christ... including a woman who now works for her after being renounced by her family for leaving Islam.

“I am so thankful that I can not only spread the gospel, but that I can help other Christians who are facing persecution.”

– Mia, an Open Doors business training recipient

LOOKING AHEAD Persecution is growing rapidly and is spreading in this region. Since persecution materializes in almost all forms, Open Doors is equipped to provide trauma counseling, business assistance, Biblical training, Bibles and many other resources.
LIVING IN NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

As ISIS continues to spread across this region with the goal of extinguishing Christianity from the area, the church remains!

Christians in Iraq are actually choosing to stay in the country, so they can remain as lights for Christ.

And in Iran, people are coming to Christ in unprecedented numbers, in spite of a repressive regime.

Faithful friends like you are helping to make this happen. Food kits and refugee aid help Christians remain in their homelands. Training to withstand persecution helps countless other believers throughout the Middle East. And Bibles are being delivered at rapid rates due to a historical high in demand!

You distributed 1.2 million Bibles and training materials to adults and children in this region in 2015.

153,348 people participated in persecution preparedness and other vital training programs.

You provided food and medical help to 128,063 people in need.
WORKING WITH THE CHURCH IN ALGERIA

OD supports the persecuted church in Algeria through discipleship training and prayer support.

There are Bible study groups in the church and we offer discipleship training, but for some people this means traveling many kilometers to the nearest church. Open Doors has invested in the discipleship training program, the ‘Talmatha Training.’ Almost half of the churches in Algeria use Talmatha as their discipleship program for new believers. The good thing about Open Doors is that you don’t only give donations. No, Open Doors works together with us. That is what is best for the church.”

– Mustapha Krim, Algerian pastor

TRAUMA AWARENESS TRAINING

Open Doors organizes trauma awareness training through local partners in Iraq.

“The training helps participants reconnect with God in the midst of their pain and suffering. It shows them how to help others do the same. We use conventional and expressive (art) methods of therapeutic practice and also spiritual exercises such as reading and reflecting on Scripture, praying and singing.”

– Kyra, trauma care trainer
Edward and his family were displaced by ISIS in the summer of 2014 when the terrorist group invaded Iraq.

Edward wanted to remain in Iraq, but didn’t think it was possible, as they couldn’t live in refugee tents forever.

Through an Open Doors microloan, Edward was able to open his own market. The revenue allowed him and his family to move into an apartment in northern Iraq.

“I was the last person who wanted to leave Iraq... and I didn’t think it was possible to stay. I am so glad we have a place to stay here now.”

– Edward, microloan recipient

LOOKING AHEAD Bibles are being requested at unprecedented rates... especially in Syria. Open Doors will continue to provide Bibles and other vital resources to this region to equip the multitudes that are coming to Christ!
ON THE GROUND IN
THE GULF

LIVING IN THE GULF

In the Gulf region, there are few open communities of Christians. To be a citizen in most of these countries is to be Muslim.

But an underground church exists... and these believers are standing firm in their faith, even though it is at great risk.

When you give to Open Doors, you are helping believers like these stand strong through vital resources like training, Bible delivery and socioeconomic development.

You distributed 238,910 Bibles and training materials to adults and children in 2015.

You helped train 33,475 people in this region.

You provided food and medical help to 4,500 people in need.
THE WORD OF GOD

Since believers are often isolated in this region, Bibles are especially vital. God’s Word provides hope, peace and guidance to all of us, but especially to believers who are often alone in their faith.

The Bible provides God’s truth in the midst of a culture that is against Christians, which is why Bible delivery to this region is especially important.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

Open Doors sponsors the ALIVE Bible School for Christians across the Gulf who have not had the opportunity to receive formal Biblical teaching.

“Being at ALIVE Bible School has been a huge encouragement to me. The pastors and teachers really encourage us and I no longer feel like I am irrelevant to the Kingdom of God because I am a woman. I came here to learn more about Jesus Christ and I feel I have already done so after just a few hours of meeting with other believers.”

– Rashida, ALIVE participant
“I was born to Muslim parents. After my conversion, I went through pressure from my parents and siblings, but I was encouraged in the many seminars and trainings I have attended. SSTs is one of the best seminars I attended. All the topics are very relevant as I live my new life in Christ. I had a wrong understanding about my enemies; I thought they were those who stood against my faith, like parents and siblings. But now, I know that Satan is the real enemy, not the people of other religions. From now on, I will not regard any of my relatives as enemies, but I will develop relationships and share the love of Christ with them.”

– Sultan, Standing Strong Through the Storm participant

“I know that Satan is the real enemy, not the people of other religions.”
EAST & SOUTH ASIA

LIVING IN EAST & SOUTH ASIA

Persecution in this region varies greatly.

In Vietnam and Laos, Christians face persecution from the remnants of communist governments.

In Myanmar and Bhutan, Christians are often persecuted by Buddhist monks and other Buddhist leaders. Hindu extremists in India have increased their violent attacks against Christians. And Indonesia hosts the largest Muslim population on earth, with increasing numbers of extremists attacking Christians.

But God is at work in each of these areas, and He is using friends like you to make it happen.

You distributed 252,910 Bibles and training materials to adults and children in East and South Asia.

You helped train more than 66,453 people in this region.

10,819 people benefited from aid to persecuted Christian families in this region.
THE IMPORTANCE OF JOB SKILLS TRAINING

Many Christians in Southeast Asia experience systematic persecution. Since they are Christians, they are often denied access to education or jobs, which makes it difficult to provide for their families.

Job skills training allows believers to acquire skills that lead to employment, helping them to support themselves and their families.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY RESTORATION

Some Christians face violent attacks from their persecutors in this region. Christian homes, villages and churches are destroyed.

Through Christian Community Restoration, Open Doors is able to help rebuild these communities and strengthen the Christians who live in them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERACY

Due to systematic persecution, many believers do not have access to education. As a result, many are illiterate. Not only does this prevent them from accessing several jobs, but it also prevents them from being able to read God’s Word.

The gift of literacy training provides a solution for all of these issues while strengthening Christians in this region.

“I am thankful for the ability to read, but even more thankful for the truth I have found in the Bible.”

– Hannah, Christian in Vietnam
OD supports persecuted believers in North Korea by providing them with Christian literature and other vital support.

“Thank you for the Christian books you sent us. We live the victorious day with Christ who helps us and gives us double strength while facing struggles and difficulties. We appreciate your support with all our hearts. It helps us go forward in our calling in Christ. We, the North Korean believers, are taking such a violent battering from the storm, but we will overcome with our faith in Christ. We will sail into the ark of salvation with faith, hope, and love for the future.” – North Korean Believer

LOOKING AHEAD Job skills, literacy and persecution preparedness training programs are in increasing demand in this region. Open Doors will continue to reach out to Christians in this region with these and other vital resources.
ON THE GROUND IN EAST, WEST, & SOUTH AFRICA
EAST, WEST, & SOUTH AFRICA

LIVING IN AFRICA

This past year, Africa has seen the greatest spike in persecution and violence of any region. Even Christian-majority countries like Kenya are facing persecution from Muslim extremists. In Nigeria, there has been a 62% increase in the killings of Christians in the north since last year. And in the Central African Republic, Christian women are often the victims of sexual assault and rape at the hands of their persecutors.

Violence against Christians in this region is at an all-time high, but God is at work in spite of this.

You helped distribute 110,265 Bibles & training materials to adults and children in this region.

You provided training for 32,214 people in East, West and South Africa.

You provided socioeconomic relief to 70,946 people in need in this region.
TRAUMA COUNSELING

With violence on the rise in many African nations, Christians are in dire need of trauma counseling. Many Christians have encountered unspeakable horrors and need spiritual and psychological help.

This is why Open Doors has made trauma counseling a top priority in this region. And your support is helping us expand our reach to more people.

“Whenever we encounter those who have been through so much trauma, we know how vital trauma counseling is and how God is using it to rebuild His church.”

– An Open Doors worker

REBUILDING CHURCHES

An average of 5 churches are attacked every Sunday in Nigeria. In the aftermath of such a traumatic event, the congregants are instantly faced with another problem – how to rebuild their church.

Open Doors helps rebuild churches in Nigeria and other countries throughout Africa, equipping local churches to continue reaching their neighbors with the gospel.
LOOKING AHEAD Africa continues to see an upward trend of violence against Christians. Open Doors is prepared to meet the need through vital programs like trauma counseling and church rebuilding projects.

“We are trusting in God alone,” says a Chibok father and pastor in Nigeria as he speaks about an Open Doors trauma counseling seminar and the power of prayer.

_This seminar has really helped me. Through it we have been counseled, advised and comforted. I really liked it. When I returned to my home, I passed the knowledge on to my church. I organized a group of people and began to instruct them. The training impacted not only the parents of the abducted children, but also others in the church._

— Ayuba, Nigerian pastor and father of a Chibok abductee.
2015 OPEN DOORS USA FINANCIALS

**RESOURCES RECEIVED**

- Contributions: $20,788,457
- Books and tapes: $60,460
- Net change in investments: ($481,714)
- Other revenue: $45,732

**TOTAL REVENUE**: $20,412,935

**RESOURCES UTILIZED**

- Bible and literature distribution: $3,011,800
- Training: $1,298,753
- Public awareness and motivation: $4,353,659
- Research and advocacy: $485,590
- Socio-economic development: $6,428,400

**TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES**: $15,578,202

- Administration: $1,812,800
- Fundraising: $2,201,982

**TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES EXPENSES**: $4,014,782

**TOTAL EXPENSES**: $19,592,984

- Net assets at the beginning of the year: $4,708,896
- Net assets at the end of the year: $5,528,847
PROGRAM EXPENSES

- Socio-economic Development: 41%
- Bible & Literature Distribution: 20%
- Training: 8%
- Research & Advocacy: 3%
- Public Awareness: 28%

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY

- Administration: 9%
- Fundraising: 11%
- Programs for the Persecuted Church: 80%

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GET INVOLVED

ADVOCATE
Encourage your congressmen, leaders and other policy makers to act on behalf of persecuted Christians by checking out our latest advocacy campaigns.

You can also join letter writing campaigns and sign petitions at OpenDoorsUSA.org/advocate

VOLUNTEER
Help persecuted Christians with your time and skills. Learn more about our volunteer opportunities at OpenDoorsUSA.org/odvolunteer

DONATE
Change the lives of persecuted Christians by donating today. Visit OpenDoorsUSA.org/give

PRAY
Sign up for the World Watch Prayer Alert to receive weekly prayer updates from persecuted believers. And download the monthly Prayer Force Alert calendar to pray for persecuted believers every day. Visit OpenDoorsUSA.org/prayer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
David Curry                         President & CEO (Ex Officio)
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Steve Haas                         Director Vice Chair
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Caryn Ryan                         Director
Nathaniel Spoelman                 Director Chair
Colin Stewart                      Director
Daisy Szabo                        Director
Matthew P. Yates                   Director Secretary

OPEN DOORS CORE VALUES
We are part of the Body of Christ
A people to people people
We are persecuted church driven
We are people of the Bible
We are people of prayer
We live and work by faith
We are devoted to Jesus Christ and His commission
We are motivated solely for the glory of God

*Throughout the report, representative photos and names were used to protect the identities of persecuted Christians.*
If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it....

– 1 Cor. 12:26
"I MAY DIE FOR MY FAITH—BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, I LIVE FOR IT DAILY."

— Persecuted Believer