One Church. One Family.
Open Doors started the day Brother Andrew smuggled Bibles to Christians living in places where following Jesus seemed impossible.

“Open Doors” wasn’t fully formed as an organization—but that was the day our DNA was born. From then on, that spirit bloomed into a ministry dedicated to helping Christians who were persecuted for their faith, no matter what. And now, more than 60 years later, Open Doors is on the ground in more than 60 countries, supporting Christians who are persecuted for their faith.

We are driven by the needs of brothers and sisters living in places where it’s hard to follow Jesus. What we do looks different from place to place, from context to context. In one place, we provide Bibles and discipleship materials; in another, we might help the local church offer emergency famine relief, leadership training or socio-economic support. Wherever the Church is suffering, and whatever She needs: That’s the intersection where God has called us to serve.

We’re driven by the reality that, in Christ, every Christian around the world is part of the same family. Christians who suffer for their faith are not alone, and the courageous example of Brother Andrew calls us to remind them of that fact, every day. It’s in the DNA of Open Doors, and we are so thankful that caring for the persecuted is in your DNA, too. When we see our brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers and other spiritual relatives suffer because they follow Jesus, we grieve with them—and we get to work.
Dear Friends,

In 2018, more than 245 million Christians around the world experienced high levels of persecution. That number is staggering—it’s 1 in 9 Christians worldwide, suffering opposition simply because they follow Jesus.

Imagine you’ve just attended a big family reunion—you know, the kind with fourth cousins you’ve met once in your life. Your family, gathers at the park or the church gym; you’ve got a pretty big family, so there are around 100 people there. You would know some people more than others, but you would know every person in the tent was family.

Now, imagine all of them were killed in 2018.

And imagine 40 other families, just like yours, were killed the same year.

That’s the reality we’re facing. In 2018*, 4,305 Christians were killed for their faith around the world. Some 1,847 churches and other Christian buildings were attacked. And 3,150 believers were detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned.

It’s heartbreaking. Add to it the overwhelming number of Christians who face pressure and violence every day for their faith and it’s easy to get discouraged.

But thank God, that’s not the whole story—because God is at work in the midst of these shocking statistics. He’s telling His story, and it’s one where He is making all things new. His story is about believers who are unwavering in their faith and finding joy in the darkness, because following Jesus is worth it. His story is about Christians returning to their homes in Iraq and Syria after being chased out by ISIS. His story is about women in Nigeria who have suffered unspeakable crimes against them but are finding healing and restoration through Christian trauma counseling. His story is about the rapid growth of Christianity in India, even as persecution rises to meet that growth.

He’s telling the story of His family caring for each other as brothers and sisters, telling the world that Jesus has come, risen from the dead and will one day come again to restore everything to Himself. God’s story is a radical story of hope and faith, and He has invited us—you and I—to help tell it, if we have the courage.

We hope that the following pages also tell part of God’s story. We are honored that God has entrusted us to help with what He’s doing around the world, and we’re honored you’ve chosen to join that mission. This report is all about how you’ve stood with believers living in places where believing in Jesus is hard—how you’ve reminded your sisters and brothers they are part of one Church and one Family.

Dr. David Curry,  
CEO, Open Doors USA
Our Work

We believe God’s people are part of a global family, and that God calls all Christians to bear one another’s burdens.

We trust God has called us to be a ministry of hope to the worldwide family of God, that through your prayers and support, our brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers know they are not on their own.

We are present in over 60 countries—wherever Christians are suffering because they follow Jesus, so are we.

We believe in the hope of Christ, and know it will never fail—and we believe God has equipped Open Doors to be a minister of that same hope. We listen and learn from God’s Church around the world.
Our work is never outside the beautiful diversity of God’s people—whatever is needed in a particular place is where our priorities lie.

We believe that when one part of God’s family suffers, all of us suffer—and when God redeems the impossible, we get the opportunity to rejoice with our joyful family members.

We are Open Doors, and we strengthen God’s family, no matter what.
Persecution Facts

There was a jump in persecution in 2018. There was more violence and pressure, and more countries joined the list of countries with a high level of persecution. One in nine Christians worldwide experienced “high” levels of persecution for their faith—a significant jump from 2017.

The following is just a snapshot of what Christians went through around the world. This is what the Church of Jesus is facing as it seeks to follow Him and live out the gospel:

OVER 245M followers of Jesus experience “high” levels of persecution for their faith.

That’s 1 in 9 Christians worldwide.
4,305 Christians killed for faith-related reasons

1,847 Churches and other buildings attacked

3,150 Christians detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned

3,731 Christians killed for their faith in Nigeria

1,131 Christians detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned in China
Global Impact

Your gifts in 2018 helped Open Doors continue its vital ministry in supporting God’s family in every situation. You provided Bibles and discipleship materials for people who have never had access to God’s Word; you helped provide for Christians beginning the long—and expensive—process of rebuilding homes and communities; you’ve helped counsel people traumatized by sexual violence and death.

In short, you’ve helped your family members know that God is with them—and that you are, too.

Here is just a brief glimpse at what God accomplished through your support in 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bibles Distributed</td>
<td>335,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibles, New Testaments, Study Bibles and Children’s Bibles distributed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Materials</td>
<td>414,966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training materials, Sunday school materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Literature</td>
<td>1,175,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books, Bible reference books, tracts, magazines, music and movies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
People benefited from social-economic development

**Relief & aid**
- 223,565 People received food, medicine or shelter; safe houses; or medical/healthcare

**Livelihood, education & training**
- 98,499 People received microloans, support, credit or grants; literacy and job training; or school support/education

**Community support**
- 50,330 People were served through community development

**People discipled, trained, mentored and counseled**

**Discipleship & training**
- 256,305 People were discipled through biblical & leadership training; mentoring

**Persecution preparedness**
- 194,627 People were trained in persecution awareness and preparation

**Trauma & family counseling**
- 83,069 People were helped with trauma counseling and family ethics
Thirteen-year-old Noeh can dream big in his small village of Karamles in Iraq.

“I am happier here,” the eighth grader says, smiling big. “I love my Karamles.”

The village has come a long way from the bombed-out versions of the town left in the wake of ISIS. When militants invaded the Nineveh Plain in August 2014, Noeh and his family were among the 12,000 families who fled for their lives. For three years, they lived in an internal displacement camp. In August 2017, they returned to find their home completely burned out.

The hard work of rebuilding began and last year, life started anew for Noeh and his family

“We are very thankful to you—with your support, we were able to go back to our home again,” says Noeh’s father, Haithem.

A Church Resurrected

Throughout the Nineveh Plain, life continues to get back to normal for its former residents. Hope is rising.
Because of your support, Open Doors has restored 1,274 homes in Iraq. But the story is even bigger.

God is restoring and rebuilding His people in Iraq and the Middle East. The same church whose future existence was questioned five years ago is alive once again!

In total, over 8,300 Christian families have been able to return. Together, they are following Jesus, being salt and light in their homes, churches, schools and communities. Yes, their story is still being written. There is much work left to do. But because of you, they have hope.

Because of you, Noeh and his family—and nearly 10,000 more believers on the Nineveh Plain—have life again.

“We are very thankful to you — with your support we were able to go home again.”

— Noeh’s father, Haithem
Pastor Vikas* dreams of an India where every person belongs to God.

Ten years ago, the 34-year-old church leader left Hinduism to follow Jesus. Since then, he has been a persecution target of Hindu extremists—most recently arrested for sharing the gospel. Fortunately, through your partnership, Open Doors partners helped secure Vikas’ release and then invited him to persecution preparedness training—developed to help the church in India thrive in the midst of persecution.

Now Pastor Vikas knows he isn’t alone.

Meeting the church’s biggest need

“When I went to the training, I came to realize that there are many people standing next to me,” he says. Vikas is sharing what he learned with other converts. “I now encourage people [that] they are not alone,” he says. “They are also supported by prayers. I try to help prevent them from backsliding.”

With your support, Open Doors was able to increase the number of Christians receiving persecution preparedness training by 38 percent. We can’t reveal the actual size of the ministry due to security concerns, but it is growing exponentially and helping Indian believers across the region. This increase
enables richer and more robust persecution preparedness training—learning, among other things, what the Bible says about persecution, and the power of prayer and Scripture. Recipients—and seminar trainers—also learn how to gauge the opportunities and threats in their area, as well as how to seek legal aid.

The training is vital, says Abishek*, a Christian convert and Open Doors local partner in East India.

“Today, the biggest need of the church is persecution preparedness,” he says.

“We need to give training to church leaders. It will boost them to be persistent in their faith.”

With your help, the church in India is learning how to stand strong for Christ.

— An Open Doors local partner in East India

*representative names used for security
Aisha paints her self-portrait, making sure to draw herself without a smile.

No, it’s not an art class. Aisha and the women around her are participating in trauma care in northern Nigeria where tens of thousands of Christians have been affected by violence.

Together, and with the help of trained counselors, the women are working through the pain of violence they have suffered because they follow Jesus. Aisha was beaten and raped by two men when Muslim Fulani militants attacked her mostly Christian village.

“After the first seminar, I began to feel peace of mind,” Aisha says. “The hatred is gone.”

Since that night, she has been part of two trauma care events.

“Living in the Wake of Violence

When trauma is dealt with, restoration and growth can take
place. Victims begin to live again, not simply survive.

Through your support, 728 believers in Nigeria have received counseling and training, including recipients and pastors who have been trained to identify and help trauma victims.

As you extend compassion to men, women and children, you equip and empower them to rebuild and hold tight to their faith.

Your support is strengthening the church in Nigeria—Christians like Aisha and those who offered her counseling—to stand strong in the fire and ultimately, be used by God to storm the gates of hell and advance His Kingdom.

“If I hadn’t attended this program, I don’t know how my life would have been,” she says. “I have seen the love of God ... Even when I go back home, I want to show this love to the people around us.”
Each year, Open Doors releases its World Watch List, a breakdown of the 50 countries where it is most difficult to follow Jesus.

For the 2019 release, Open Doors USA held a press event in Washington, D.C., where several persecuted Christians told us what it’s like to live in the day-to-day reality in some of the most difficult countries.
Father Daniel, Church leader Iraq

When ISIS spread through Iraq, they traumatized the people, Father Daniel shares. “Now, as the people return to their cities and villages and see the devastation, they are traumatized a second time.” There’s such a great need for healing, counseling and care, as well as rebuilding, in Iraq today.

Elisha, a women’s ministry leader India

“We face hardships from Hindu nationalists who often attack us with little or no consequences. Many Christians are arrested for their faith or driven out of their villages. Some are unjustly accused and imprisoned. We face extreme persecution in India today. From the government, the community and sometimes even from our own family members … Please don’t forget us.”

Hana*, field representative South Asia

“I serve in a cluster of countries that are under the great influence of Islam and Islamic extremism and where the church bears the burdens of that extremism,” Hana shares. She wears a burqa to conceal her identity and protect the community of believers she works alongside in the region. “It is completely forbidden in parts of South Asia to be a follower of Christ. If the faces of these dear sisters were to be exposed … it could mean the lives of their husbands, the lives of their pastors, it could mean their own lives and the lives of their children. It really is a matter of life and death.”

Helene Fisher, gender persecution expert

“The persecution of women is characterized by being violent, complex and hidden,” Fisher says. Persecution against Christian women is devastating. “But if there’s any glimmer of good news, it’s that these ripples of damage can actually be stopped and contained by how the Church responds.”

* name changed to protect the identity of the person
Equipping Christians with legal aid

Our field partners in Iraq are working with the local church to establish a legal center to help Christians develop a better understanding of their legal rights; to assist local lawyers in defending Christians’ rights; to provide a way to document incidents and violations against Christians; and to help present the evidence of their persecution. Our partners hope that gathering evidence and information like this will result in being able to provide greater evidence in court cases, and to help explain persecution and pressure felt by Christians in Iraq.

Please pray that the establishment of the center and training of its staff goes smoothly.
Sharing at the ministerial

In July 2018, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo hosted a ministerial focused on international religious freedom. Drawing delegations and leaders from around the globe, together with representatives of nonprofit organizations working to advance religious freedom, the summit resulted in both discussions and commitments to action to increase religious freedom around the world.

Open Doors was able to share about the problems confronting persecuted people of faith, and some of the efforts we are engaged in, including trauma counseling and practical and spiritual support for those who are persecuted.

Meeting with Noeh from Iraq

In December 2017, Vice President Pence met with Noeh, a courageous Christian boy from Iraq, at the White House. In mid-2018, advisors from the vice president’s office planned a trip to the Nineveh Plain in Iraq, and we were able to set up a time for Noeh and his family to spend with members of the administration.

The family shared with leaders about the current conditions for Christians in the region.
Resources Received

Contributions ......................................................... $26,495,822
Books and ministry products ..................................... $13,461
Other revenue and reclassifications ........................... ($98,530)

TOTAL REVENUE .................................................. $26,410,753

Resources Utilized

Bible and literature distribution ................................. $3,546,434
Training ....................................................................... $4,137,463
Public awareness and local ministry ......................... $6,779,077
Research and advocacy ............................................. $778,335
Socio-economic development .................................. $4,049,825

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES ............................. $19,291,134

Administration ......................................................... $2,831,845
Fundraising ................................................................. $4,702,149

TOTAL EXPENSES .................................................. $26,825,128

Net assets at the beginning of the year ................. $5,710,534
Net assets at the end of the year ............................. $5,296,159

These financial results are for Open Doors USA only.
God did an amazing work through your support in 2018.

With your help, Open Doors gave more money to programs in the field than any time in our history. We continue to grow and expand through strategic decisions and much prayer. Christian persecution is the issue of our day—and the mission is great—but God is leading the way.

It’s such an honor to share the needs and the stories of our persecuted family—and to stand with them. Because, through Christ, we truly are One Church, One Family.
Get Involved

Open Doors recognizes you’re probably already one of those Christians who seeks to intentionally donate time, resources, and volunteer hours to worthy causes.

We hope that you will consider making “persecution” one of the areas that you are determined to impact over the course of your life. Our team would love to resource you with opportunities to do that. We literally couldn’t do this important work without you!

Right now, increasing numbers of Christians around the world continue to be discriminated against, harassed, falsely imprisoned, assaulted and even killed. That’s why we’re praying God will move in the hearts of thousands of American Christians to volunteer to stand with their persecuted brothers and sisters.

But we realize, when you learn of complex world issues like persecution, it might not seem like there’s anything an average American could do to help believers living on the other side of the world. But that’s not true.

Open Doors offers several cost-free, practical ways for you to support persecuted believers.

1. Using your Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram to help spread awareness and support as a Social Media Influencer.

2. Helping your church, Sunday school class, or other group learn about and connect to the persecuted church as a Connector.

3. Engaging in letter writing, petition signing, and other advocacy activities as an Advocate.

4. Praying for persecuted Christians as a Prayer Partner.

VISIT OPENDOORSUSA.ORG/VOLUNTEER TO SIGN UP TO HELP IN THESE AREAS
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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