



## IMPOSSIBLE FAITH

THE OPEN DOORS MAGAZINE

**A story of impossible faith**

**And Evangelist Cho**



2026 VOLUME 1

# BJ's MyDay

(FORMERLY BJ'S CORNER)



## ***“Impossible.”***

You will see this word many times in this first issue of the 2026 Open Doors Magazine. Stories of brave Christians who dare do impossible things for the sake of the Gospel. You may even be uttering it after each story.

Thinking about this word, the stories here, and our persecuted brothers and sisters, two more words come to mind:

‘Logic’: when everything around is aimed against your faith, a growing relationship with Jesus does not stand a chance; and

‘Miracle’: that despite all the logical, realistic, and reasonable obstacles, not only does your faith grow, but the number of others who also put their faith in Jesus!

Yes, logic exists, and there are good reasons why it must be considered. But equally so evident in these places are the miracles in the lives of our persecuted brothers and sisters. Because as the verse and song declare, *“with God, all things are possible!”*

***Why would you go back to a dangerous place where you have already successfully escaped? Why would you faithfully risk your life for the sake of strangers? Why would you choose to believe in a faith that will literally cost you your head?***

***“It’s because of a Man named Jesus,”*** Open Doors partner and evangelist Cho\* says. The answer is true not just in the persecuted world, but in ours’ too. Jesus has always been the answer to everything.

Today, as you read these impossible stories of the Persecuted Church, may you be reminded of the miracles God has done in your life, of His power to continue to do wonders in your life, and that even in the most dangerous places for the Gospel, His love shines through. Because in Him and with Him, ***“nothing is too difficult for Thee”***.



# INVITE US IN 2026!

## QUARTER 1

January launches the **2026 World Watch List** – Open Doors’ annual list of the top 50 countries where Christians are most persecuted. Follow us in social media (@OpenDoorsPH) and visit us at [www.opendoors.ph](http://www.opendoors.ph) to know what places in the world today are most dangerous for Christians.

## QUARTER 2

Book your church to hear a persecuted Christian overseas testify in your church! E-mail us at [philippines@od.org](mailto:philippines@od.org) to know more.

## QUARTER 3

Form a travel group and join an Open Doors trip! Encourage Persecuted Christians and fly home inspired in your faith like never before.

## QUARTER 4

Block the first Sunday of November in your church calendar for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church 2026!

### CONTACT US AT:

SMS/Viber: 0998-8830821

E-mail: [philippines@od.org](mailto:philippines@od.org)

@OpenDoorsPH on Facebook, Messenger, Instagram, and YouTube

# PRAY FOR FAITH TO BE POSSIBLE

A thriving Somali church? Impossible, people said. And yet, something extraordinary is happening – and Christians need your prayers.



When Aweis' underground church in Somalia grew to 14 people, it was one of the happiest times of his life. He'd spent years following Jesus alone, listening to radio broadcasts in secret, and fervently prayed he might meet another Christian.

"What was once seen as impossible became possible because God was in it," says Aweis. "I had somebody I could sit with to learn the Bible. It felt like the whole world was open to me."

But within two years, it was all over – in the most shocking way imaginable...

"Twelve of the 14 people in our church were killed for their faith," says Aweis, his face dark with sorrow. "We had no doubt we were being targeted. You could be sitting in a café, enjoying your meal, and somebody could come and attempt to decapitate you... cut your head off." Amid such violent persecution, it's surely

impossible to follow Jesus. Somalia has been in the top 10 of the World Watch List since 1993. And yet, faith is not only surviving – it's thriving. And today Aweis, in exile in another country, is at the heart of it.

**"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

**MATTHEW 19:26**

"People thought it would be impossible for the Somali church to grow because of all the killings," says Aweis. "But what was impossible is, in fact, now possible. The growth of the church in Somalia is *huge*."

Aweis is currently working on the Somali Bible translation, and is developing discipleship material and leadership training. He is

open about his identity and ministry, despite receiving constant threats. Like persecuted Christians around the world, Aweis depends on your prayers.

*“Pray for us to be stronger spiritually,” says Aweis. “Pray we thrive in the midst of persecution, that we become more Christ-like, so when Muslim persecutors see us, they think, ‘Wow they are different, we want to be like them.’ Pray they see the light and become disciples of Christ.*

*“Because there is no place where Christ cannot be followed,” he adds with conviction. “It’s impossible.”*

### **WILL YOU PRAY WITH AWEIS FOR THE SOMALI CHURCH?**

Heavenly Father,

When you are with us, no one can be against us.



Because we have you, Father, everything we want to do in the Kingdom of God is possible.

I pray that no persecution, rejection or threat would prevent believers from following Jesus, even in the most dangerous places in the world to be a Christian. We know the gates of hell cannot prevail against the church.

I pray the Holy Spirit would be a guide, comfort and counsellor, and the church will thrive in places where – in human terms – it seems impossible.

Amen.



*North Korean Christians*

### **PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS WHERE FAITH SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE**

- In North Korea and most countries on the World Watch List top 10, Christians gather in small, secret groups. Pray God would protect these beautiful expressions of his church.
- Pray that believers in nations hostile to the faith will know they are not alone – even if they must follow Jesus without meeting another Christian.
- Ask God to give hope to our persecuted brothers and sisters living in countries on the World Watch List, that they have the strength and stamina to keeping serving Him.

# IMPOSSIBLE FAITH



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Evangelist Cho shares the gospel with North Korean refugees – but this ministry depends on your support.



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**Following Jesus in North Korea is so dangerous, it should be impossible. But with your support, faith will not only survive – it can thrive.**

Eun-Yeong\* was terrified. Crouching in the undergrowth, she watched the man approach. “Get away from us,” Eun-Yeong cried in fear. “Leave us alone!”

Eun-Yeong and her partner Cheol-Ho\* were in danger. They’d only just made the perilous journey to escape North Korea, and this stranger could send them back. As defectors, they would face severe punishment – including torture and even death.

 OpenDoors

 **WORLD  
WATCH  
LIST 2026**



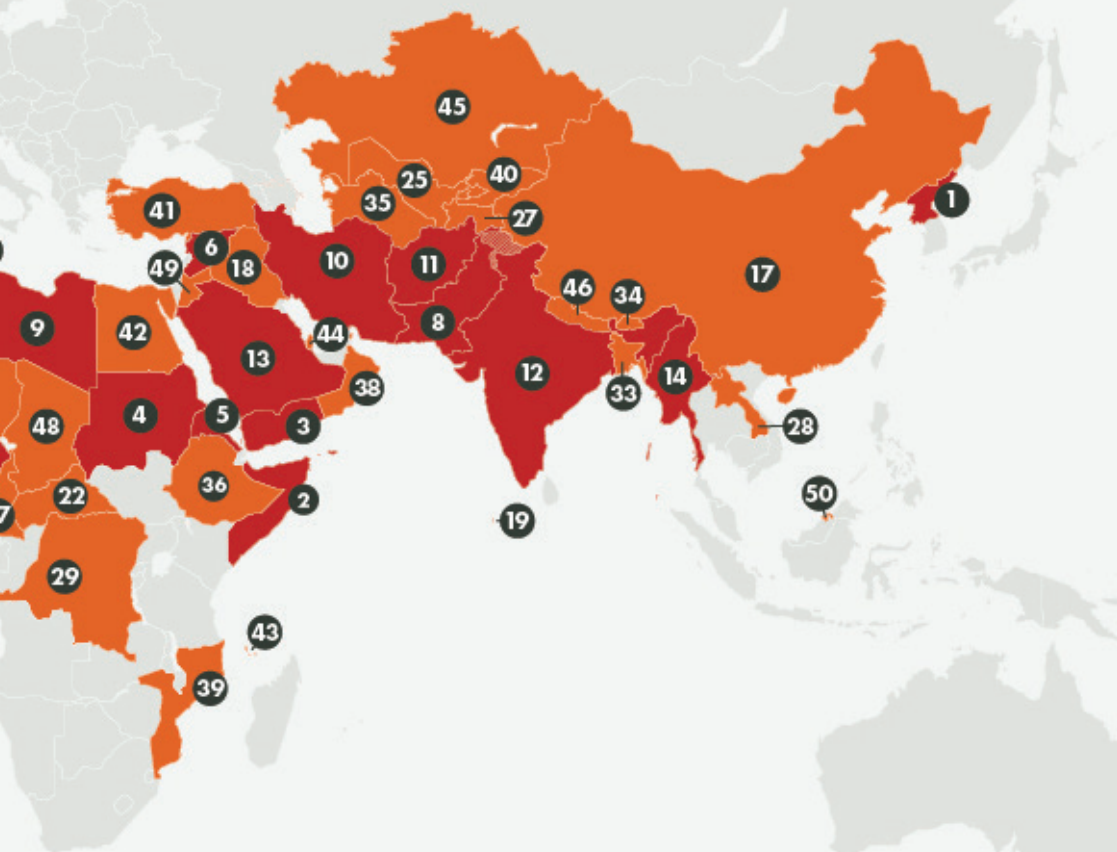
**Our vision is that  
no Christian suffers  
persecution alone.**

- 1 North Korea
- 2 Somalia
- 3 Yemen
- 4 Sudan
- 5 Eritrea
- 6 Syria
- 7 Nigeria
- 8 Pakistan
- 9 Libya
- 10 Iran

- 11 Afghanistan
- 12 India
- 13 Saudi Arabia
- 14 Myanmar
- 15 Mali
- 16 Burkina Faso
- 17 China
- 18 Iraq
- 19 Maldives
- 20 Algeria

## PERSECUTION LEVELS

- HIGH
- VERY HIGH
- EXTREME



- 21 Mauritania
- 22 Central African Republic
- 23 Morocco
- 24 Cuba
- 25 Uzbekistan
- 26 Niger
- 27 Tajikistan
- 28 Laos
- 29 Congo DR (DRC)
- 30 Mexico

- 31 Tunisia
- 32 Nicaragua
- 33 Bangladesh
- 34 Bhutan
- 35 Turkmenistan
- 36 Ethiopia
- 37 Cameroon
- 38 Oman
- 39 Mozambique
- 40 Kyrgyzstan

- 41 Türkiye
- 42 Egypt
- 43 Comoros
- 44 Qatar
- 45 Kazakhstan
- 46 Nepal
- 47 Colombia
- 48 Chad
- 49 Jordan
- 50 Brunei

But instead, the man placed a bag of food and water on the forest floor. He also left blankets and shelter, and promised to return.

The next night, as Eun-Yeong ate delicious white rice delivered by the kind stranger, she couldn't help but ask: why do you do this?

"It's because of a man named Jesus," came the reply, from Open Doors partner Evangelist Cho\*\*. "He is the Son of God, and he loves you very much. In fact, I brought you a book about him..."

## INDOCTRINATED

For years, Evangelist Cho had been helping North Korean refugees like this young couple. Every day, he hiked through the mountain forests. His mission? "To save souls," Cho said.

## "God is calling us."

But like most North Koreans he met, Eun-Yeong and Cheol-Ho had been taught to hate religion. Christianity is dangerous and evil, the regime insisted, and foreign missionaries



Owning a Bible in North Korea can mean a death sentence, but your support can give God's word to persecuted believers.

poison children and steal their organs.

And yet, Evangelist Cho's steadfast care challenged this couple's assumptions. In their makeshift tent on the North Korean border, Eun-Yeong and Cheol-Ho started reading the Bible...

One day, Cho visited with his usual delivery of food and Eun-Yeong ran to meet him.

"I had a dream," she said breathlessly. "A person called me by name – and I think it was 'Jesus' this book talks about. I want to know more... What can you tell me?"

Evangelist Cho smiled. This couple's lives were about to change forever.

## SAFE HOUSES

Cho took Eun-Yeong and Cheol-Ho to an Open Doors safe house. Here, North Korean refugees receive food and care, and have an opportunity to learn about Jesus. Eun-Yeong and Cheol-Ho threw themselves into Bible study. They gave their lives to Christ – and then made an astonishing announcement: "God is calling us to return to North Korea, to share our newfound faith with people desperately in need of the gospel," said Eun-Yeong.

It meant risking extreme danger. North Korea has been top, or near the top, of the World Watch List for more than 20 years. Christianity is completely forbidden, and owning a Bible can mean a death sentence. If a secret believer is discovered, he or she may face torture, interrogation or life in a labour camp.

But despite the danger, we estimate there are more than 400,000 Christians in North Korea. They operate in secret, and meet in

small, trusted groups.

Now, Eun-Yeong and Cheol-Ho are among them – and they've been faithful to God's call.

One year after Cho first met Eun-Yeong and Cheol-Ho, he received a coded message from inside North Korea. It said simply: *"Our family has grown to five."*

## ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

In human terms, faith shouldn't be possible in North Korea. Yet, even here, the Lord is at work.

Right now, people like Cho are waiting along the border to share the good news with fleeing refugees. Our secret network of safe houses can support thousands of people with relief aid and pastoral care. Christians who plan to return to North Korea can receive vital biblical training from Open Doors partners. And while some believers might re-visit a safe house in future, for many, this may be last chance to hear the gospel in their life.

None of this ministry can happen without your support.

**"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

**MATTHEW 19:26**

Your gifts and prayers can help the most persecuted Christians in the world. You can strengthen the church where it shouldn't exist. And you can join with Eun-Yeong, Cheol-Ho and evangelists like Cho, to be part of God's impossible plan.

\*Because of the extreme risk to North Korean believers, we've disguised identities. This is a true story based on Evangelist Cho's testimony.

\*\*Evangelist Cho, an Open Doors partner, died recently – but his ministry continues and his legacy lives on.

## Please give

**Every PHP 1,500** will provide a Bible and discipleship materials to believers.

**Every PHP 3,500** will support a refugee who fled persecution, receiving relief aid in a safe house.

**Every PHP 5,000** will support a leader to be trained to care and disciple other believers who have fled persecution.

## Please pray

- Lift up our brothers and sisters in North Korea, and give thanks for their extraordinary resilience. Ask the Lord to strengthen them with unshakeable peace and growing faith.
- Pray for evangelists like Cho, helping believers and refugees along the border and in safe houses. Pray they would be filled with wisdom and courage.
- Ask that, in the midst of fear, hunger and isolation, North Korean believers would find joy. May they know they are not alone – and that Christ himself walks with them.

The Open Doors World Watch List launches on **January 14, 2026**. Order your *World Watch List Top 50* and pray for believers in the places where faith should be impossible.

# DISCIPLESHIP MADE POSSIBLE

Faith should not be possible in Yemen. But your support is not only strengthening Christians here, you are raising up future leaders too.



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Thanks to your gifts and prayers, Khaled survived persecution and is now courageously following Jesus.

Khaled\* sat in the university director's office, processing the news that he'd been expelled after telling another student about Jesus. Suddenly, Khaled's father opened the door, crossed the room and slapped Khaled hard across the face.

It was a moment of pure humiliation. But Khaled's nightmare was just beginning...

When they arrived at home, Khaled's father exploded in a fury. He grabbed a whip and beat Khaled until the family begged him to stop. "It was like he'd lost his mind," remembers Khaled. Hours later, this young man was homeless – and all alone.

Khaled grew up in a family of strictly religious Sufi Muslims. It was only at university, with access to the internet, that he heard about Jesus. Khaled began following a Yemini Christian on YouTube, plucked up the courage to message him one day, and was introduced to Open Doors partners who began secretly discipling him. Khaled was even baptized in an online service.

Now, rejected by his family and with nowhere to go, Khaled turned to these Christian brothers – and they became a lifeline.

"These disciple-makers were like my backbone in those tough days," says Khaled. "We prayed together and they encouraged me. I had bruises on my back, arms, sides and face. Yet in those hardest days, I grew closer to my Father."

## **"I WANT TO BAPTIZE YEMENI CHRISTIANS HERE."**

Thanks to you, Khaled got the support he needed at a critical time. And today your gifts are continuing to help this young man, who our partners believe could become a leader in the Yemeni church. Khaled is being coached by a pastor in another country and receives financial aid. Our team are even helping Khaled start a business, to generate funds to support the church.

At one time, it might have been impossible for Khaled to remain in Yemen. The nation has ranked in the World Watch List top five for years. But because of your steadfast support, Khaled now cannot imagine leaving...

## **"THE DISCIPLE-MAKERS WERE LIKE MY BACKBONE."**

"My parents view me as a loser, a man with no future, an infidel," says Khaled. "But I want to stay. I want to start a local church among trusted followers of Christ. I want to baptize Yemini Christians here. If we leave to other countries, who will tell people that Jesus saved them? It's not easy, but it is necessary."

He added, "I used to be terrified, but now I know God is with me and will protect me."

\*name changed and representative images used for his safety



### **PLEASE PRAY**

- Give thanks for Khaled's brave faith and commitment to remain in Yemen to serve God.
- Ask the Lord to bless Khaled's plans and use him powerfully in the Yemeni church.
- Pray for Yemen's secret believers, who are among the most persecuted in the world.

# IMPOSSIBLE FAITH – THANKS TO YOU

**Kaveri and her children have been targeted by extremists in India not once, not twice, but three times. But she keeps following Jesus because you are with her.**



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Your gifts and prayers have strengthened Kaveri, and she has one message for you: *thank you.*

The first time Kaveri\* was targeted by Hindutva extremists, she was terrified.

“My palms grew sweaty and my throat went dry,” remembers the single mother, who’d been caught running a prayer group for 20 women. Kaveri had been falsely accused of converting people and was being interrogated by police.

“Fear crushed me. I was at the police station and didn’t know if I would ever return home.”

The second time, extremists accused Kaveri of spreading Christian literature through her small clothing business. Opposition was so intense, she shut down the shop and fled the village, in south-western India.

## “WHAT I AM TODAY IS BECAUSE OF YOU.”

The third time, persecutors went after Kaveri’s youngest son. He’d spoken to a fellow college student about Jesus and had been detained by the police.

It might seem impossible that Kaveri should keep following Jesus under the circumstances. Her husband, an alcoholic, had left before Kaveri converted to Christianity. So she had no income, no electricity in her basic home, and no one by her side.

But then you showed up for Kavari – and made the impossible possible.

### ‘Nothing will stop me’

Thanks to your gifts and prayers, Open Doors partners visited Kaveri, prayed with her, and brought her to persecution preparedness training to strengthen her faith. Your support helped Kaveri open a new clothing shop – and even provided her with sewing machines, so she can run a sewing centre for women.

Now, nothing is impossible for Kaveri...

“I can share Christ with the people who come to buy clothes, and with the women learning sewing,” says Kaveri. “I also share the gospel when I travel to neighbouring villages to sell clothes. God continues to open doors for me to witness, and nothing will stop me.”

She added, “We must be bold and share God’s truth. I hope to start a prayer group again when the time is right. I carry a burden for unreached people and pray for opportunities.”

Today, Kaveri and her children are busy with church and the family business. Faith is possible in one of the most dangerous places in the world to follow Jesus. And this courageous, faithful woman says it’s because of your support...

“I am truly grateful to you who have supported me,” Kaveri says. “What I am today is because of *your* support and prayers. Thank you.”

\*name changed for her safety



### PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks for Kaveri’s impossible faith, and pray she will continue as a powerful witness to Jesus.
- Ask God to open doors for a prayer fellowship to begin in Kaveri’s village, to encourage local believers.
- Pray for believers in India, where Hindu nationalists view Christianity as a threat and persecution is extreme.



# FAITH SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE HERE.

## AND YET...

*"... with God, all things are possible."  
(Matthew 19:26)*

In North Korea, following Jesus is so dangerous it should be impossible.

But along the border, evangelists like Cho\* are waiting to minister to fleeing North Koreans.

*Will you support them?*

**Strengthen the church where it shouldn't exist.**

**Every PHP 3,500** will support a refugee who fled persecution, receiving relief aid in a safe house.

Use the inserts to know what to pray for and how to support Persecuted Christians or visit [www.opendoors.ph](http://www.opendoors.ph). Reach out to us at **0998-8830821 (Viber/SMS)**, or [philippines@od.org \(e-mail\)](mailto:philippines@od.org).

\*Pseudonym and re-enactment image used for security reasons.