



Salt and Light

2022: A YEAR IN REVIEW



“You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...”

MATTHEW 5:13-14



Thanks to your support, Nadia's family is able to remain in Iraq and be salt and light in the community. Mimi (on the left) now has a future in her country.



About Open Doors

It was back in 1955 that a young Dutch missionary 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 and opened his Bible – and found these words: “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 made countless journeys across Europe in the following years, smuggling Bibles in his blue VW Beetle. He developed a trademark prayer:

“Lord, in my luggage I have Scripture I want to take to Your children. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Do not let the guards see those things You do not want them to see.”

As the ministry grew, other needs emerged. As well as Bibles, persecuted Christians around the world needed leadership, education, practical support.

Today, your generous support means Open Doors works 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 BJ Candole



As I look back at 2022 and all that we've achieved together, two words come to mind: *thank you*.

Thank you for standing with your persecuted brothers and sisters.

Thank you for your gifts and prayers, which help them know they are not alone.

Thank you for strengthening faith and bringing hope.

In a year when persecution increased and intensified in violence, you responded by standing resolutely alongside our brothers and sisters. **Your support reached more than 7 million believers with training, practical support, advocacy and Scripture material.**

You helped Open Doors reach 14% more Christians than in 2021, particularly growing activities to help people deal with persecution through programmes like preparedness training. The number of people who received Bibles and Scripture items also increased by almost a third, compared to the previous year.

But while the numbers tell one story, the real measure of your impact is in the lives of every persecuted believer touched by your support. Your gifts and prayers matter so much to each person. I'm deeply grateful for all your help.

Finally, and importantly, 2022 will be marked in history as the year our founder Brother Andrew went to be with the Lord.

We give thanks for his remarkable 93 years of life, for his huge commitment to the persecuted church, and for the incredible legacy he left us at Open Doors.

Together, we continue Brother Andrew's life's work and mission to support our persecuted family, serving as he did, with faithfulness and dedication.

Yours in Christ,

BJ Candole
Development Manager
Open Doors Philippines



MEHR, INDIA

Mehr* was viciously attacked in the street near her home in India. Beaten and strangled because she is a Christian. Hospital nurses refused to treat her injuries. Mehr's whole family lost their jobs.

But you were there when it mattered – and Mehr's faith remained unshakeable.

"God sent you as divine helpers. When everything looked dark, your prayers uplifted my family and me," said Mehr. "God's plan for my life is big and I will be used for His glory. Jesus Christ is everything to me."

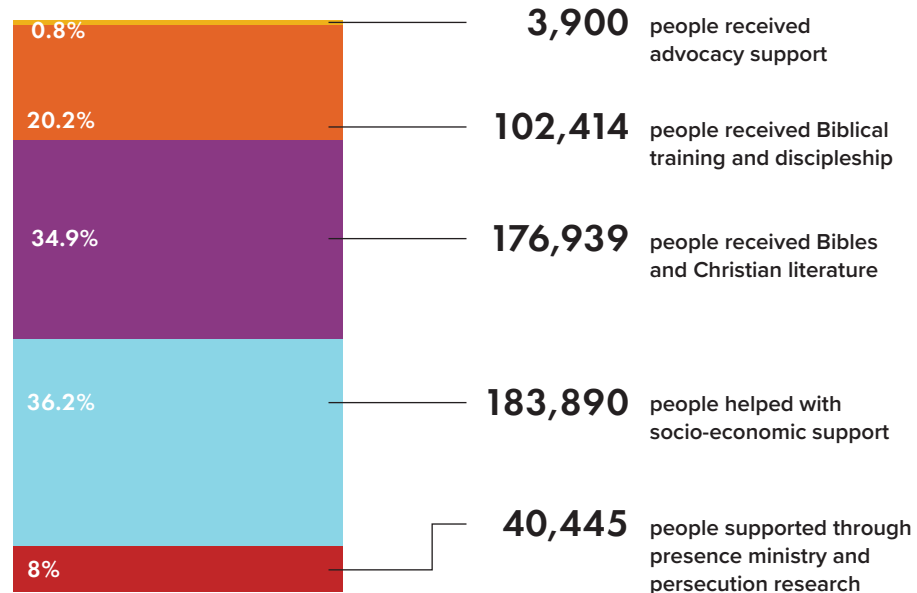
**name changed for security reasons*

Mehr is now well on her way to full recovery. She recently got a new job and continues to attend church and spend time with God.*

Your impact in Africa

Violent persecution in Sub-Saharan Africa is unprecedented. Christians are being murdered, raped and kidnapped on a scale not seen before. In this dangerous, volatile region, your support reached believers under extreme pressure.

How you helped in 2022



The majority of Open Doors' work in Africa in 2022 was about strengthening Christians to be powerful witnesses in challenging circumstances. Three-quarters of our budget was directed to this vital work, and 87% of beneficiaries were reached for this purpose through programmes such as discipleship training. Your support is enabling the African church to be resilient, resourceful and influential.

Biblical training was also a key focus, and increased by almost a third compared to 2021. Your support ensured Christians do not face persecution alone, through programmes such as creating places of safety for believers in northern Nigeria. In fact, Nigeria, where deadly persecution is most intense, was where you helped the most people; 261,456 Christians were supported there.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION: CHARITY'S STORY

Charity fled when Boko Haram attacked her village in Nigeria, killing Christians and torching homes. Her children were lost in the panic. They were missing for two weeks before returning home. Others were not so fortunate.

"The attack put a wound on our heart that would not be healed," said Charity.

Your support turned Charity's life around. Restored through trauma counselling, Charity stayed to rebuild her village. A community rose from the ashes. Now Charity is helping others impacted by persecution.

"You have given us a hope of life in the future," she said.



Your support helped people in the most dangerous places to be a Christian...



NIGERIA
261,456 people



ETHIOPIA
35,599 people



CAR
24,667 people



32%
increase in biblical training compared to 2021



87%
of beneficiaries strengthened to be powerful witnesses to Christ



3x
more people helped in Ethiopia compared to 2021

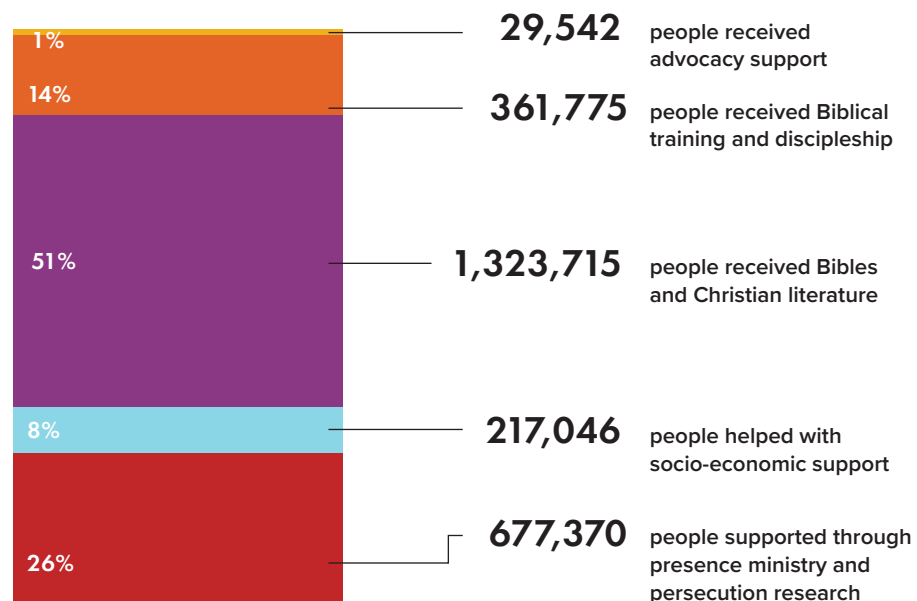


507,588
persecuted Christians supported

Your impact in Asia

Asia is home to the most dangerous place on earth to follow Jesus. In North Korea, believers face imprisonment, brutal torture and death. But persecution is not confined to this secretive state. Across the region, millions of Christians are under pressure as regimes seek to exert authoritarian control over their populations. *Your support ensured our Asian brothers and sisters were not alone.*

How you helped in 2022



The most significant area of support was strengthening the church to be salt and light in the region. This was done through raising up new leaders, discipling Christians and supporting biblical leadership.

Around half of the beneficiaries in Asia were reached through distribution activities – the handing out of Bibles, Christian literature or media players with Christian messages. Other help, such as providing economic

assistance so believers can start businesses and generate sustainable incomes, means Christians stay in their nations to witness to God's love.

Another key focus was speaking out for persecuted believers (just under 30,000 people were helped through advocacy). This is important in countries like Sri Lanka and Indonesia, where Christians need support to uphold their religious rights.

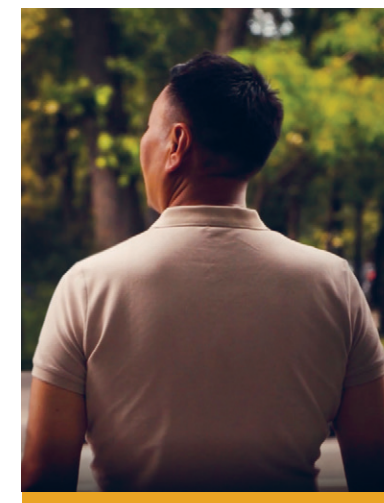
YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION: RUSLAN'S STORY

Every time Ruslan* opens his home, persecution could come in. But for this church leader in Central Asia, it's worth it.

Ruslan courageously shares his faith with Muslims who want to know Jesus. He meets new believers in secret, to worship behind closed doors. And many follow Christ, no matter the cost.

Your gifts and prayers provide vital support to these isolated believers. "Thanks to you, we are able to survive in this hostile environment," said Ruslan. "You are not ordinary people, but an answer from the Lord."

**name changed for security reasons*



Your support helped people in the most dangerous places to be a Christian...



7,500
Afghan Christian refugees supported with relief aid in Central Asia



50%
more people received Christian literature in Asia compared to 2021



42%
more people reached in Asia in 2022 compared to 2021

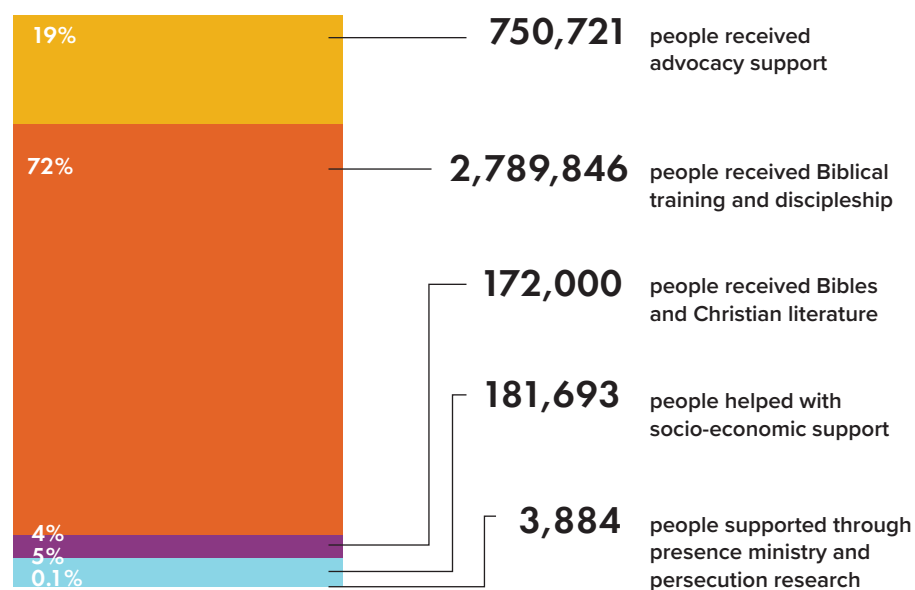


6
regions in China had covert congregations who received persecution preparedness trainings

Your impact in the Middle East and North Africa

Islamic radicalism is not as visible in the Middle East as it was during the ISIS regime, but the church is yet to recover from the devastation it left behind. Our brothers and sisters in this region remain under pressure – and the church is reduced. *But in 2022, your gifts and prayers brought hope to believers.*

How you helped in 2022



Our focus in the Middle East and North Africa was to ensure that Christians are never alone. Isolated believers are often not able to connect with their brothers and sisters because of fear, self-censorship or social hostility – so helping Christians meet online is vital. Your support helped to provide discipleship training, study groups and fellowship.

Advocacy initiatives reached more than

double the number of Christians in 2022, compared to 2021. This was due to a new presence on social media sites like Facebook and Instagram, which gave young people a platform to voice their concerns and hopes for the church in the Middle East.

Centres of Hope in Syria and Iraq are providing trauma counselling, education and spiritual support to believers – thanks to your gifts and prayers.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION: FERIAL'S STORY

Ferial, a 52-year-old mum of two, lived in Aleppo when war broke out in Syria. Bombs cracked the walls of her home, and militants shot at her family. For three months, they survived with no water. Even after moving to safety, Ferial grieved the life she'd lost.

But when Ferial visited an Open Doors Centre of Hope, everything changed.

"They took us under their wings spiritually and financially," said Ferial. "They motivated me to love Jesus even more than I used to. We didn't feel abandoned, they made us feel loved."



Your support helped people in the most dangerous places to be a Christian...



287
Centres of Hope in Syria



4x
more people helped in Yemen compared to 2021



18
countries brought youth together with Youth-to-Youth Forum

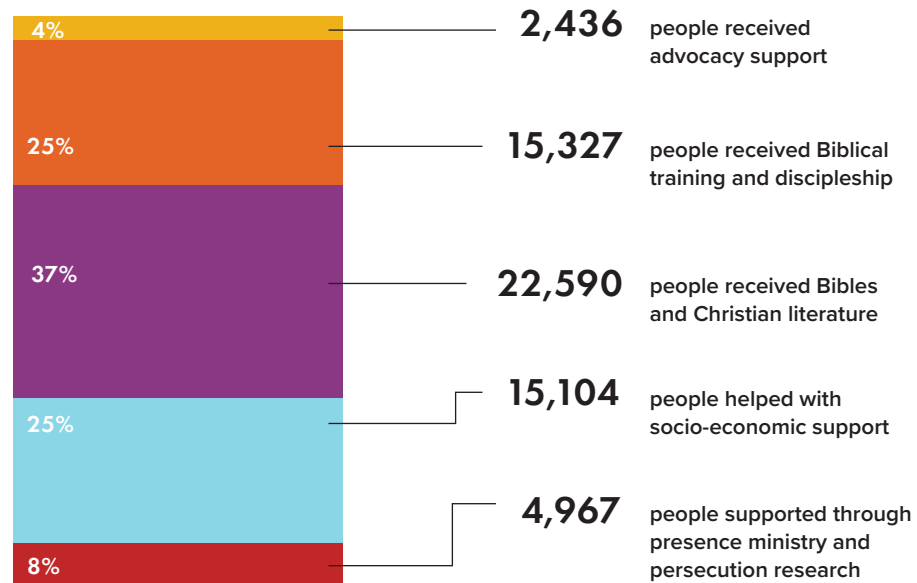


52%
of funding helped ensure persecuted Christians were not alone

Your impact in Latin America

Conditions have worsened for the church in Latin America, and four countries now rank in the top 50 most dangerous places to be a Christian (Nicaragua, Colombia, Cuba and Mexico). In the midst of persecution, especially in rural areas and among indigenous people, *your support made a difference.*

How you helped in 2022



More than half of people helped by Open Doors in Latin America were strengthened to be salt and light in their communities. This was achieved through virtual training and the distribution of digital content.

One of the strongest growth areas – reaching more than double the number of believers in 2022 compared to 2021 – was biblical training. Psychological First Aid

training was provided to thousands of the most persecuted Christians in regions of Colombia, thanks to your support.

Meanwhile, more children of persecuted church leaders attended our Children’s Center in Colombia – and 2022 saw an increase in support for income-generating projects in Venezuela.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION: VALENTINA’S STORY

At home in the Colombian mountains, 15-year-old Valentina is at risk of sexual assault, trafficking and forced marriage. Why? Because her father is a church leader – and she’s a target for persecution.

But because of your support, Valentina has a future. Your generous gifts mean this shy teenager can attend Open Doors’ Children’s Center, in Colombia. There, she’s safe, she can go to school, and she has hope.

“I’ve always understood that everything in life has a purpose,” says Valentina.



Your support helped people in the most dangerous places to be a Christian...



4x
increase in believers reached through the distribution of Christian literature in Bolivia



3x
more Christians reached in Venezuela in 2022, compared to 2021

Your global impact

More than 360 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith. That's one in seven Christians in the world. But the faithful support and prayers of the worldwide church makes a difference.

When our brothers and sisters are brutally attacked, discriminated against, affected by societal unrest, natural disasters or war – your support means Open Doors is there to respond to their needs. Thank you.

YOUR IMPACT IN 2022



786,599
people received
advocacy support



3,269,362
people received
biblical training



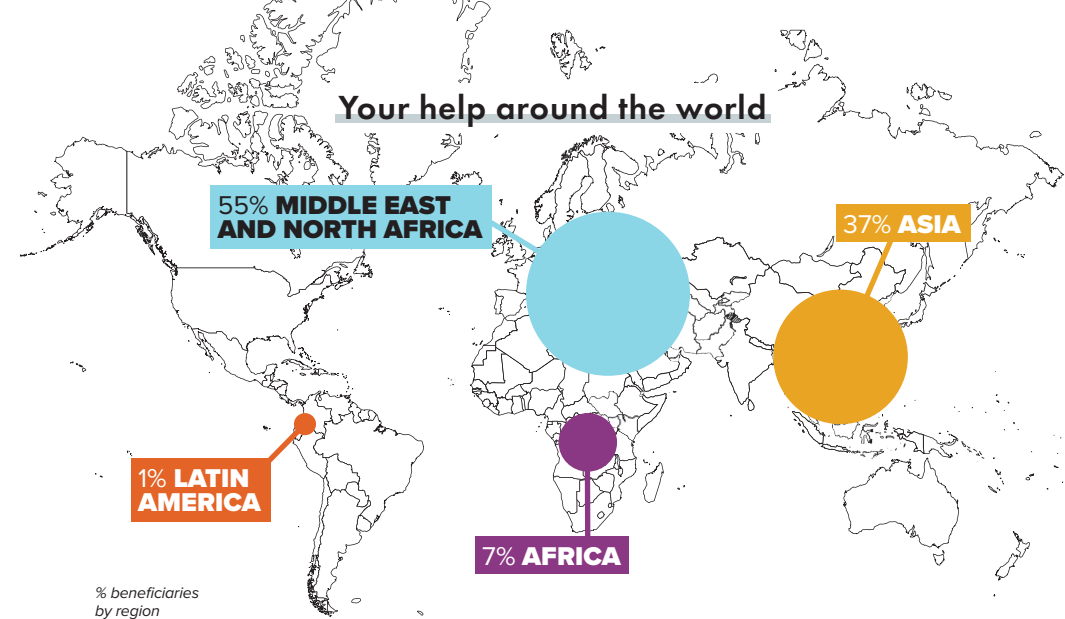
1,695,244
people received Bibles
and Christian literature



597,733
people helped with
socio-economic
development



726,666
people supported through
presence ministry and
persecution research



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION: REBECCA'S STORY

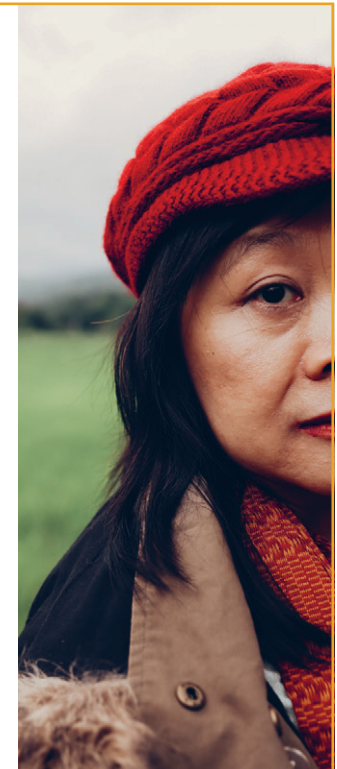
Rebecca* speeds along a darkened track, deep in the Chinese countryside. She's on her way to a secret location to visit her 'sisters', a group of North Korean women who've fled or been trafficked into China.

The trip is fraught with danger. "Others like me have been caught and imprisoned," says Rebecca. "But it's a risk I'm willing to take to share the Gospel. After all, the women take a far worse risk in coming to hear it."

Rebecca is one of Open Doors extraordinary partners ministering to Christians who could be imprisoned, brutally tortured or even killed if their faith was discovered. How does she do it? The answer: Because of your support and prayers.

"God compels our love, despite the danger. Being with the women is my greatest joy," she says. "I would make the journey every time. Even for one."

**name changed and representative image used for security reasons*



Thank you for supporting your persecuted family

"In Christ we, though many,
form one body, and each member
belongs to all the others."

ROMANS 12:5



www.opendoors.ph

SMS/Viber: 0998-8830821

E-mail: philippines@od.org

@opendoorsph

