



# ON THE FRONTLINES OF FAITH

SERVING THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

—by Open Doors SA

The ministry of Open Doors began when a young, Dutch, newly converted Christian, Andrew van der Bijl, was invited to a Polish Youth Festival in 1955. Other than a change of clothes and linen, his bag was filled with Christian literature for believers in Warsaw. What he found behind the Iron Curtain was a Church in desperate need of support and Bibles. It was in this moment that God spoke to Brother Andrew, as he is best known, through the words of Revelation 3:2, "Awake, strengthen what remains, which is at the point of death..."



Under Brother Andrew's leadership, Open Doors has gone, and today, 60 years later, still goes, where very few Western Christians dare to go. "I think we in the West, now this is a personal confession, I think we are cowards. We want a personal profit to come first and if that is at risk, we don't do anything. We ought to become people of guts, courage and strong convictions and [shouldn't] count our lives dear unto ourselves, if only we can fulfil the high calling of God on our lives. That's what I'm after," says Brother Andrew.

## THE PERSECUTED CHURCH TODAY

An estimated 100 million Christians worldwide suffer interrogation, arrest and even death for their faith in Christ. Christians like Seema\* who at age 11 was driven away by her family because she accepted Jesus. Ever since then she has had to survive virtually on her own, but recently received support from Open Doors to expand her tiny shop. "I am selling many grocery items now, and my business is running very well. I praise God for all His provisions."

Open Doors supports and strengthens many believers in the world's most difficult areas, enabling them to continue shining Christ's light in their families and communities. We do this through Bible and Christian literature distribution, leadership training and assistance, Christian community development, prayer and presence ministry and advocacy on behalf of persecuted believers.



## THE OPEN DOORS WORLD WATCH LIST

The Open Doors World Watch List highlights the top 50 countries where it is most difficult to live as a Christian. The list reports that persecution became more intense in more parts of the world in 2015. While North Korea remains the most difficult place in the world to be a Christian, persecution is growing most rapidly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa. In the Middle East, Islamic State violence in Iraq and Syria has increased the pace of the exodus of the Christian population from the region and is also having, as news headlines daily testify, a global impact.

In the 60 years since Brother Andrew's first mission trip, the world has







# YOU CAN STRENGTHEN WHAT REMAINS IN THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

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Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date account should be debited:

1<sup>st</sup>  17<sup>th</sup>

Debit order effective from: \_\_\_\_\_

My contribution should go towards:

Bibles  Where needed most


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changed. Radical and violent Islamism has taken over from Communism as the main source of Christian persecution. What the Open Doors World Watch List highlights is the plea of Christians being persecuted in Muslim dominant countries, which was unheard of in 1955. What does remain the same in 2015, as in 1955, is that many continue to witness the Gospel spreading even amidst martyrdom and struggle. (Visit [www.opendoors.org.za/eng/wwl](http://www.opendoors.org.za/eng/wwl) for more.)

## YOU CAN JOIN OPEN DOORS IN SERVING THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Most recently, in one year, Open Doors delivered over two million Bibles and pieces of Christian literature to persecuted believers. We served over 200 000 Christians in need and trained over 250 000 believers in the persecuted Church so that they in turn can continue to advance God's Kingdom where faith costs the most. And our mission continues.

Jesus told his disciples that "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33)." Since Jesus' ascension His Church has indeed faced much trouble and persecution. Although the forms of persecution have changed throughout the ages, and will continue to change, one thing remains the same: the mission that Open Doors and the worldwide Church is called for, "Awake strengthen what remains which is at the point of death..." As Brother Andrew says, "It's what Jesus told the disciples to do... He who spared not His only Son but gave Him up for us all, how shall He not freely give us all things, including guts..." 



For once off donations to Open Doors, please see our bank details:

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**OpenDoors**

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

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