

OPEN DOORS

MAGAZINE



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A photograph of three young boys standing with their backs to the camera, holding hands in a line. They are positioned in front of a large, weathered stone relief depicting the Nativity scene. The relief shows Mary seated on the right, Joseph on the left, and the infant Jesus in a manger. Two white oxen and two white donkeys are also visible in the scene. The background is a stone wall with a tiled roof above. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given.*

Isaiah 9:6

Alex's Corner



**"HIS MERCY
EXTENDS TO
THOSE WHO
FEAR HIM, FROM
GENERATION TO
GENERATION."**

Luke 1:50

Alex Kan
Church Relations
Officer
Open Doors
Hong Kong

Christmas is traditionally a time of celebration with our loved ones and with our Christian brothers and sisters too. It's such a joy to be able to celebrate the birth of our Saviour together. But Christmas isn't always smooth sailing, is it? It definitely isn't for our persecuted church family, nor was it for Jesus. When He was still a toddler, His family were forced to flee as refugees to Egypt, alone and afraid. So our God not only sympathises with the outcast, but knows from His own human experience exactly what being an outcast is like.

Which is why Robin's* story (p4) resonates so strongly with me. He's a young boy persecuted and ostracised by his school peers and relatives – only his mother, Moly*, has stood by him. As a child, your friends and your family mean everything! So for Robin, it is devastating to face rejection from both groups.

But Robin and his mum are not in despair and hold on to hope.

In Luke, Mary sings of God's faithfulness to every generation for those who fear Him. No matter what persecuted children face, God is faithful – and Moly's courage, not only to share her faith with Robin, but to continue to build him up, is a beacon of light in the darkness. And through you and Open Doors partners, Robin and his mum know that they are part of a wider church family who will support them no matter what.

Thank you for standing with our persecuted family all through this and previous years. The Open Doors Hong Kong team wishes you and your loved ones a joyful and blessed Christmas!

**name changed for security reasons*



Torn apart by persecution

For children like Robin, in Bangladesh, the cost of faith is heartbreaking. But Christmas is one day they look forward to – and this year, you can bring hope.

Eleven-year-old Robin* sits alone at the edge of a field watching children play football. He longs to join in. But it's not possible.

"I am a Christian," Robin explains in a quiet voice. "So no one talks to me, no one plays with me. They see me watching but don't invite me, and I can't ask them out of fear."

It's the same at school, where Robin is simply known as 'the Christian'.

His eyes follow the laughing group of boys chasing the ball. "I feel sad," he says. "I just sit here and feel very lonely."

Persecution has torn Robin's life apart in the most heartbreaking way. But it's not just his friendships that have suffered..."



BROKEN FAMILY

Robin's mum, Moly*, was the first in the family to become a Christian. She'd seen a neighbour carrying a Kitabul Mukaddas, a Bible, and it sparked her interest. Moly borrowed the book and read in secret.

Soon after, Moly fell desperately ill. She prayed for healing, and when she woke the next morning, she was completely well. That day, Moly gave her life to Christ, and her husband Jubayer* came to faith too.

But this family's joy was short-lived.

Last August, violence broke out across Bangladesh and radical Muslims began targeting Christians. Moly, Jubayer and Robin were in their small house church when a mob of 50 people approached,



led by local imams. The family fled – but raiders destroyed the church and burned every Bible they could find.

That was the last time Robin's mum and dad were together. Shaken by the attack, Jubayer returned to Islam and divorced Moly. Now Robin and his mum are alone – vulnerable, isolated and facing financial hardship.

MOST PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Officially, people in Bangladesh are free to follow Jesus. But 91% of the population is Muslim, and in reality Christians are persecuted for their faith.

According to Robi*, our local partner, “Religious and political leaders have a dream to make Bangladesh a Muslim country. There is no place where Christians can live entirely safely.”

Children who convert from Islam, like Robin, face the most severe hostility and ridicule. “They lose confidence,” says Robi, our partner. “Without support, they lose hope. It is very difficult for a person to survive when they are alone.”

And if the smallest followers of Jesus give up, the very future of the church is at risk.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Today, Robin and his mum get by with support from Moly's brother. “I miss my father but I have a mother who takes care of me,” says Robin. “She reads to me from the children's Bible and prays for me every day.”

Life is hard and lonely – but soon it will be Christmas and the family can forget their suffering for one day. Robin can hardly wait...

“On Christmas morning, I wash my hands and face, my mother cooks good food, then we go to church wearing new clothes,” smiles Robin, his eyes shining with excitement. “We have fun, wear party hats, eat cake and play with everyone as we celebrate Jesus' birthday.”

UNWRAP HOPE

This year, you can unwrap hope for Robin at Christmas. Your support can help pay his school fees, so he has an education and a future, and provide vital relief to ensure this family survives.

Open Doors' vision is to strengthen persecuted children so they are resilient, courageous followers of Jesus. Your gifts and prayers will provide shelter, trauma counselling and aid to children like Robin. Because of you, they will not be alone.

“We are strangers, yet you are praying for me so that we can be well,” says Robin gratefully.

**names changed to protect this family*



Christmas is one day Robin looks forward to; a time to celebrate Jesus' birth with his church family. You can unwrap hope for Robin and other persecuted children today.

PLEASE GIVE

Every HK\$265 could give vital aid to two persecuted families facing financial hardship.

Every HK\$345 could bring a child to a special Christmas gathering, and give them joy.

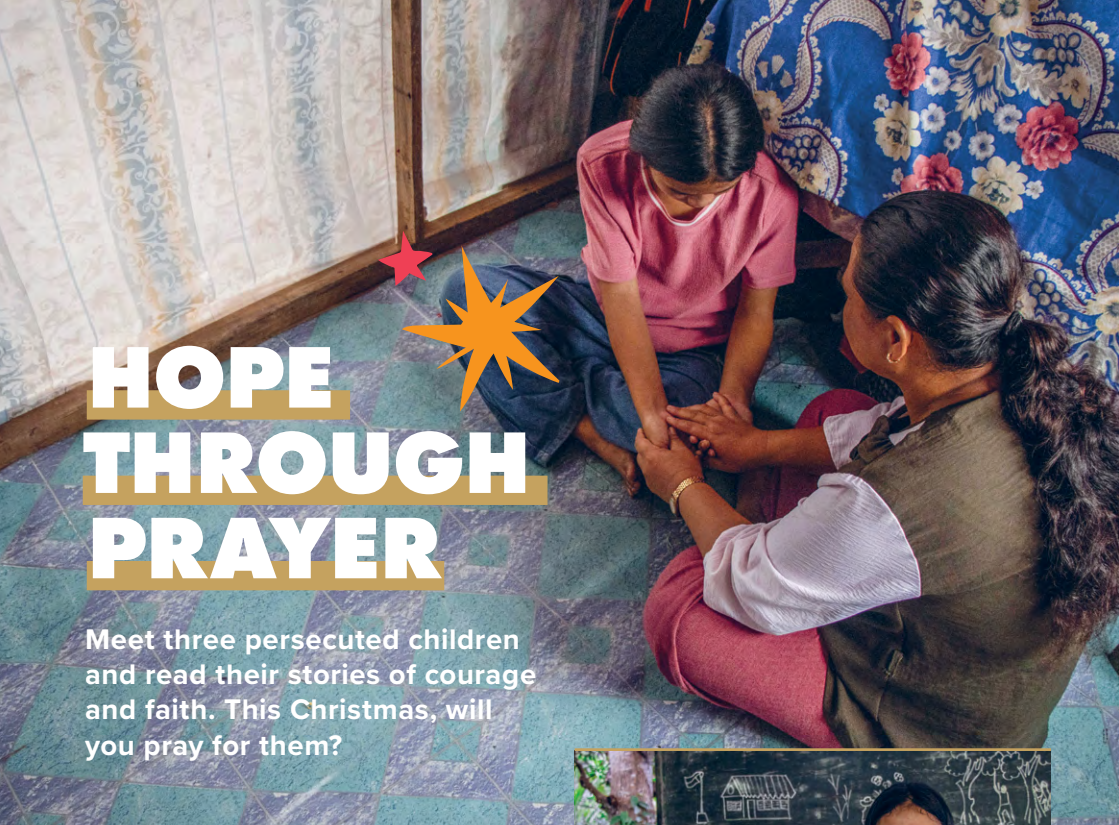
Every HK\$630 could give Bibles to 10 children, to nurture their faith.



Give now at
donation.opendoors.org.hk

PLEASE PRAY

- * Robin has a simple prayer request this Christmas: that people will stop mocking him, and he will make new friends.
- * Ask God to give strength to Robin's mum, Moly. And pray for Robin's dad, that he would find his way back to Jesus.
- * For children around the world whose lives are torn apart by persecution. Pray Christmas would be a time of joy and respite.



HOPE THROUGH PRAYER

Meet three persecuted children and read their stories of courage and faith. This Christmas, will you pray for them?

REJECTED AND ATTACKED

Fifteen-year-old Dayang* knows the pain of rejection. Most people at school, in the southern Philippines, avoid her. “Because of my tribe, they say I should be a Muslim,” says Dayang.

But it’s not just rejection; this quiet teenager has experienced violence too. One afternoon, classmates followed Dayang home and threw stones her, shouting, ‘Traitor! Traitor!’ “It hurt,” remembers Dayang with a sigh. “But I won’t let go of Jesus.”

Dayang’s faith is being strengthened through an Open Doors youth leadership programme – and she’s counting down the days until Christmas. “When we’re together at Christmas, it’s a moment of joy,” says Dayang.



PLEASE PRAY

- For God’s protection over Dayang and her mum, also a believer.
- That Dayang’s father will come to know Christ through his daughter’s faithful witness.
- Ask God to bring hope to persecuted families in the southern Philippines this Christmas.

**Names changed to protect their identities*

CIRCLE OF SILENCE

It's hard to imagine life for 10-year-old Alissa, in Mexico. She lives in the so-called 'Circle of Silence' – a part of Mexico so risky there are virtually no Christians. Her parents, both missionaries, keep their faith secret. But still, rumours spread...

Not long after the family arrived in the region, their pets were poisoned by neighbours who suspected them of being Christians. The puppies died, and Alissa's sister became gravely ill. Now Alissa is left out at school and she has no friends.

"God is my friend," says Alissa. "Jesus is always with me, and I've learned to be brave."

PLEASE PRAY

- Alissa has attended persecution training with Open Doors. Pray this will strengthen her.
- For God's protection over believers living out their faith in the most dangerous places.



BREAKING POINT

Mina* was ready to step onto the stage and receive first prize in a singing competition, near her home in central Asia. She'd been told



about the award and attended the ceremony specially. But at the critical moment, it wasn't Mina's name that was announced as the winner...

"They said only Muslims can take first place," said Mina. "I felt very hurt. Sometimes it brings me to tears." This injustice is just one example of the relentless bullying Mina endures for her faith. One day, persecution brought her to breaking point. Mina's mum discovered Mina had secretly been searching online: 'how to convert to Islam'. Today, Mina urgently needs your prayers.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray that, this Christmas, Mina will be able to worship Jesus without fear and risk.
- Mina added, "I would like you to pray that people will understand us and treat us kindly."

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

We lift up every child facing persecution because of their faith in you.

This Christmas, we ask that you surround them with your joy, peace and fellowship.

For those living in hostile places, unable to celebrate, fill their hearts with the light and unending hope of your coming at Christmas.

Amen.





“WE WERE NOT ALONE”

When Alicia’s family were cut off by villagers because of their faith in Jesus, your support provided the answer to their prayers.

“What scared me most was that they would kill us. Burn us alive, one by one.”

No one should face this fear – but especially not a child. Yet these words are spoken by 12-year-old Alicia*, from Oaxaca, Mexico, as she remembers the terrifying persecution directed at her family.

“THEY STRIPPED US OF EVERYTHING.”

Alicia’s father had refused to take part in indigenous worship practices – and it sparked fury among villagers.

“They debated whether to tear down our house or burn it,” remembers Alicia. “In the end they stripped us of everything. They cut off our electricity and water, seized our land, and banned us children from going to school.”

It left the family penniless and desperate. “I felt deeply worried because we were losing everything. Even members of our family turned against us,” said Alicia.

But, when everything seemed hopeless, you stepped in and became the answer to this family’s prayers.



Thanks to you, Alicia and her sister are staying in their village – and have hope this Christmas.

Alicia too started a diary, writing the names of people who hurt the family so she could pray for them. “I prayed they would realise what they were doing was wrong, and God would show them He is the only God,” she said.

“GOD SPEAKS TO CHILDREN WHO ARE SCARED.”

Then one day, incredibly, the village leaders agreed to talk. The family’s electricity and water was reconnected. Some rights were restored. Now Alicia’s family have chosen to remain in the village, living as salt and light amid ongoing adversity.

“We saw it as an answer from God,” says Alicia. “God is telling me, Don’t be afraid, I’m here, I’m your Father, I’m taking care of you and I have a plan for you.”

**Names changed to protect the family*

Forgiveness and a future

Open Doors workers heard what was happening and visited Alicia’s community. Thanks to your support, 12 Christian families attended our ‘persecution preparedness’ training.

“We felt we were not alone – that God sent some of his children to comfort us and give us strength,” says Alicia. “They gave us words of encouragement. That was what we needed.”

Alicia’s mum Flor* added, “They taught us how to forgive those who hurt us. My heart began to heal. We understood God was with us.”

Your gifts also helped Alicia’s family start a small sheep-breeding project, giving them an independent livelihood, as well as dignity and a renewed sense of purpose.

All this strengthened the faith of the Christian community, and they started fasting and praying about their situation.



Alicia and her family have hope for the future, thanks to your gifts and prayers.

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for Alicia and her family this Christmas, that they will have freedom to worship God.
- Lift up local community leaders in Oaxaca, Mexico, that they will allow the building of a church.
- Pray for emotional healing for Alicia and other children who have suffered persecution this year.



In the Benue and Bokkos camps in northern Nigeria, your support has delivered food, medicine and aid to Christians. Thank you.

'GLIMMERS OF HOPE'

As the Arise Africa campaign enters its third year, we look back at what your amazing support has achieved so far.

Pastor Barnabas is clear: you are the reason he is here today.

Since he and his family were driven from their home, in northern Nigeria, by violent persecution, Pastor Barnabas has been struggling to survive in a displacement camp. Thanks to you, he's among 124,000 families who received relief aid, including food, medical care and shelter last year.

"I want to use this opportunity to say thank you," he said. "If not for the help of your ministry, I don't think it would be

easy for us to live. They cared for us as a mother, as fathers and sisters. Many people were dying, sick, no food. They made provision. They took us along as brothers and sisters."

In 2024, more than 545,000 Christians like Pastor Barnabas received vital help because of your gifts and prayers. You provided trauma care, education and training, as well as emergency aid. You stood alongside the church in Sub-Saharan Africa, and highlighted an issue no one was talking about.

Shining a light

More than 14,000 schools in Sub-Saharan Africa have closed because of violence – but last year, you helped 3,000 children return to school, by paying fees and buying uniforms. More than 700 young people in Mali and Nigeria received training to help them find work.

You also shone a light on the crisis facing the church. Nearly 100 people from African churches, Christian organisations and national governments attended an Open Doors conference in Kenya in November, to discuss pressures on Freedom of Religious Belief. Now, we're seeing leaders start to proactively respond to

the challenges of persecution.

One lawyer, Ibrahim*, set up a Christian Lawyers Fellowship in his country following the conference. "It has been a real success," he said. "Previously I was the only lawyer standing up for the persecuted church. Now we are more, and are getting better results."

Meanwhile, a report about displaced Christians in Nigeria, called No Road Home, caught the attention of politicians in the European Union and United Nations. In the UK alone, the report was distributed to 150 MPs.

Thank you

"We see glimmers of hope," said the Arise Africa leadership committee, in a statement. "Because of the Arise Africa campaign, millions of Christians responded generously in prayer and giving. Thank you for joining hands with us to make the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Africa a priority in the hearts and minds of the global church."

**name changed for security reasons*

494,901

people like you prayed
for Arise Africa last year

545,098

Christians directly
supported in 2024

890,000

Christians directly helped
so far in the campaign

2.72 MILLION

people indirectly reached
with vital support

PLEASE PRAY

- Pray for the coming year as we aim to reach every family directly affected by violent persecution in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Pray we'll see the global church awakened, united, praying and speaking out about the crisis facing the church.
- Pray that governments and leaders acknowledge and take action to tackle violence against Christians in the region.

KEEP SHARING THE FAITH OF THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Thank you for standing with your persecuted church family.

Your prayers, gifts and actions will strengthen persecuted Christians living in the countries where following Jesus comes with the greatest risk. Here are some other ways in which you can continue your journey.

KEEP ON PRAYING

Sign up for weekly emails which will inform and inspire you with news and prayer requests from the world of the World Watch List. On the Open Doors website you can also find a range of resources to help you and your church pray with the persecuted church.

KEEP ON SUPPORTING

Your gift can give an isolated Christian

a precious Bible, help rebuild shattered homes and churches, provide persecuted Christians with vital food and medicine. Whatever you give will make a difference.

KEEP ON SHARING

Tell others what is happening. Tell your church about their persecuted brothers and sisters, using our resources for churches.

Find out more at opendoors.org.hk

INVITE AN OPEN DOORS SPEAKER

Why not invite an Open Doors speaker to come and help your church connect with the persecuted church?

[opendoors.org.hk/getinvolved/
invitespeaker](https://opendoors.org.hk/getinvolved/invitespeaker)



WORLD WATCH LIST 2026

The World Watch List is Open Doors' annual ranking of the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution.

The 2026 WWL will be launched on Jan 14, 2026. Mark your diary to explore each country profile for in-depth information about following Jesus in the most dangerous places. Read their stories and learn how you can stand with them in prayer and action.

MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT

1m signatures for displaced Christians in Africa

BREAK THE SILENCE

STOP THE VIOLENCE

Stand with Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa. Call upon the global community to ensure dignity and respect for them.

Please share this petition with others if you have already added your voice.

GO TO [LEAVESOFHEALING.ORG](https://leavesofhealing.org) TO FIND OUT MORE

MAKE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

You can give your persecuted family hope of a brighter future by including Open Doors as one of the beneficiaries in your Will. It won't cost you anything right away but it will mean a lifetime of support for those who will suffer for following Jesus.

You can make a FREE Will with ForeverGift, if you donate HK\$10,000 to Open Doors Hong Kong. Find out more at opendoors.org.hk/getinvolved/leavelegacy or forevergift.hk/opendoorshk.





UNWRAP HOPE

FOR A PERSECUTED CHILD

The lives of children like Robin*, in Bangladesh, are torn apart by persecution.

He's been rejected and targeted with violence. Now Robin and his mum face financial hardship.

Will you unwrap hope at Christmas?

Every HK\$265 could provide vital aid to two persecuted families.

Visit donation.opendoors.org.hk to give now.

Thank you

**Name changed for security reasons*

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