

OpenDoors®

IMPACT REPORT

Here's how you made a difference in 2020.



opendoors.org.au

Thank you for all of your support in 2020. You have strengthened the Church, rebuilt lives, and brought hope to the body of Christ. You've made a difference for persecuted Christians living in the most dangerous places to follow Jesus. You did this!

HELLO,

The year 2020 was significant for all of us, including the persecuted church. I heard many saying it was going to be the year of perfect vision. Instead, it was a year with challenges none of us saw coming. Christians the world over wrestled with how best to follow Jesus in uncertainty.

In the most dangerous places to follow Jesus, Christians faced increased persecution as many of them were denied access to aid and medical support because of their faith in Jesus.

And the Western expression of faith was thrown into chaos as we learnt what it meant to trust Jesus when we're not in control of our surroundings.

Many of us were left questioning whether our understanding of faith inadvertently found its baseline in safety and comfort. But could it be, we are finally coming to realise that suffering is not so much a betrayal of the gospel, but the essence of it?

It's something the persecuted church have been teaching us for decades as they have been running churches in their own kind of 'lockdown' for years. 2020 gave us more capacity to understand what Christians all over the world experience on a daily basis as they live out their faith with externally forced restrictions.

But even in a time of great difficulty, you went above and beyond and helped our brothers and sisters navigate both persecution and pandemic. Because of your support over the last year, we were able to raise more money than ever before to strengthen and respond to the needs of the persecuted church.

Thank you for your generosity! I hope this Impact Report shows you the significant part you play in the body of Christ, and how we can continue to learn from the persecuted church as we follow Jesus, no matter the cost.



Mike Gore

CEO, Open Doors Australia and New Zealand

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HOW YOU HAVE IMPACTED PEOPLE

In 2020, you helped 7,772,740 people continue to follow Jesus – thank you!

Your support helped persecuted Christians in the most dangerous places by providing discipleship, emergency relief, and community development.



DISCIPLESHIP
6,673,698 PEOPLE



EMERGENCY RELIEF
808,092 PEOPLE



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
290,950 PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP



You helped 6,673,698 people follow Jesus by strengthening their faith, providing Bibles and equipping them to share the gospel.

Building strong disciples of Jesus is the cornerstone of our mission. Through our local partners, your support has strengthened the faith of persecuted believers, helping them follow Jesus by giving them exactly what they need to do so. But what does that look like?

In 2020, you helped build Christian libraries and book shops.

You prepared people for persecution as they held on to Jesus. And you were there when a believer needed prayer after experiencing persecution.

You delivered Sunday school materials and mentored new leaders.

You ran family counselling sessions.

Building strong disciples of Jesus is the cornerstone of our mission.

You also provided Bibles to secret Christians living in the Arabian Peninsula. Here, getting a Bible into the hands of a Christian can be difficult. Even illegal.

Smuggling the Word of God is dangerous, so for security reasons we can't tell you exactly where a lot of these Bibles go.

Judah* is one of our field partners who continually risks his life to get the Bibles you provided to Christians in the Arabian Peninsula.

He said, "If it wasn't for you, we couldn't have distributed these Bibles. You are standing behind us in supporting the church here."



EMERGENCY RELIEF



**You helped 808,092 people follow Jesus,
even in the most dangerous places, as they
faced persecution, poverty, and war.**

In a year when crisis became the new normal, you delivered food and medicine to those in desperate need, especially during COVID-19. You ran trauma counselling sessions for those who had been attacked or kidnapped. You provided families with safe havens to flee from war and violence. And you created awareness about what the persecuted church endure for their faith.

Across Asia, many Christians have been denied access to medical support and emergency relief because of their faith in Jesus.

In India, Open Doors' partners delivered emergency relief to over 126,000 people who had been impacted by COVID-19. In Nepal and Sri Lanka, you helped distribute packages of soap, rice, dahl, biscuits, and milk to families who lost their income due to the pandemic.

One of our local church partners in India, Pastor Nihal,* was on the ground, making sure your generous support reached those families who needed it most. "I've never seen them so happy," he said. "Some of these children have not tasted milk in years because their parents can't afford it. Thank you for helping us."



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



You helped 290,950 people follow Jesus by giving them the tools to stay in their communities and be the light of Christ.

You gave training and job opportunities to believers facing discrimination and persecution. You helped parents send their children to school. You made sure Christians had access to clean and safe drinking water.

You gave Christians access to job training so they could provide for their families. You provided legal assistance to victims of persecution. And you ran literacy classes to help believers find work and understand the Word of God.

For Stephen,* following Jesus in Laos nearly cost him everything. But, because of faithful supporters like you, Stephen and his family were able to stay in their community and make a difference.

You helped support them as they sheltered new Christians experiencing persecution. Stephen's wife was also given literacy training and now helps teach other Christians to read in their village.

"There are times when I feel like the world is against me," Stephen shared. "But God sent people. He used Open Doors."



HERE ARE SOME OF THE INCREDIBLE THINGS YOU DID IN 2020

Over the past year, you stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the Church as they faced persecution, poverty, war and the pandemic.

You Watched House Church By Open Doors

Nearly 2,300 people joined us in learning from the persecuted church when lockdowns forced us into homes.

You Stood One With Them

1,161 of you stood One With Them at Easter to strengthen believers in countries where Christians suffer the most.

You Distributed Bibles To Children In India

You gave to deliver Bibles to over 9,000 Christian children in India, strengthening the next generation of faith.

March

April

July

You Subscribed To The Survival Of The Persecuted Church

To our community of 4,827 people giving monthly to the persecuted church – you went over and above in 2020, continuing your commitment despite a global pandemic and unpredictable challenges.

Your faithfulness and generosity inspire us.

Our monthly community gave \$2,540,608 in 2020. You are on the frontlines of courageous Christianity, helping people follow Jesus all over the world. Thank you!

You Joined International Day Of Prayer

Along with around 500 Australian Christians and 61 churches, you partnered in prayer with the persecuted church.

You Brought Joy To Persecuted Children

You gave \$133,378 to provide persecuted children with Bibles, education, and Christmas presents.

November

December

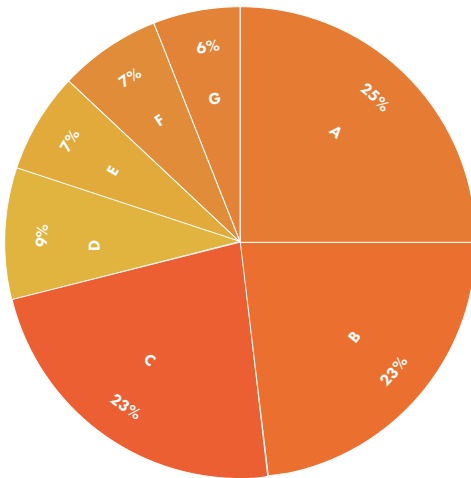


ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Your charitable giving deserves to be stewarded well.

Open Doors has been helping people follow Jesus all over the world for 65 years. We have been fundraising and making a lasting, effective impact for the persecuted church since 1955.

Below, you can discover how we spend your generous donations.



Serving the Church

- A 25% Community Development**
Emergency relief, microloans, and job creation.
- B 23% Training**
Bible training, discipleship, and trauma counselling.
- C 23% Local Ministry**
Mobilising the Australian church to pray and be bold in their faith.
- F 7% Research and Advocacy**
International advocacy for the persecuted church.
- G 6% Bibles And Christian Resources**
Strengthening the Church through the Word of God and other Christian resources.

Practical Costs

- D 9% Administration**
Finance and ministry costs.
- E 7% Fundraising**
Engaging the Australian church to raise funds.

YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR HANNAH

If you were a Christian living in Central Asia, the government would suppress every aspect of your Christian life. You could be arrested for showing “suspicious” religious behaviour and would be forced to follow Jesus in secret. Persecution could come from anywhere, even from within your own family.

When Hannah* decided to follow Jesus, the persecution came quickly. Her husband started to beat her, trying to get her to renounce her Christian faith. But she refused to give up on Jesus.

Hannah’s husband kicked her and their two children out of their home. They had nowhere to live and no way to support themselves.

But that’s where you came in.

Through your generosity, Hannah received assistance to begin building a new house. You provided her with food, gas, and a stove to make sure her two kids didn’t go hungry.

Hannah’s life looks different today, thanks to you. Thank you for helping people like her follow Jesus in the most dangerous places. Because of you, the future of faith looks bright for the persecuted church.

*Names changed for security purposes.



YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

These are the places in which you made an impact in 2020 through the global ministry of Open Doors.

As an organisation, we don't exist to end persecution. Instead, we go to the most dangerous places to help believers remain, and be the light of Christ in the darkest places.

Because of the global impact of COVID-19, your support was more important than ever in 2020.

Here are just three of the ways you practically strengthened the Church.



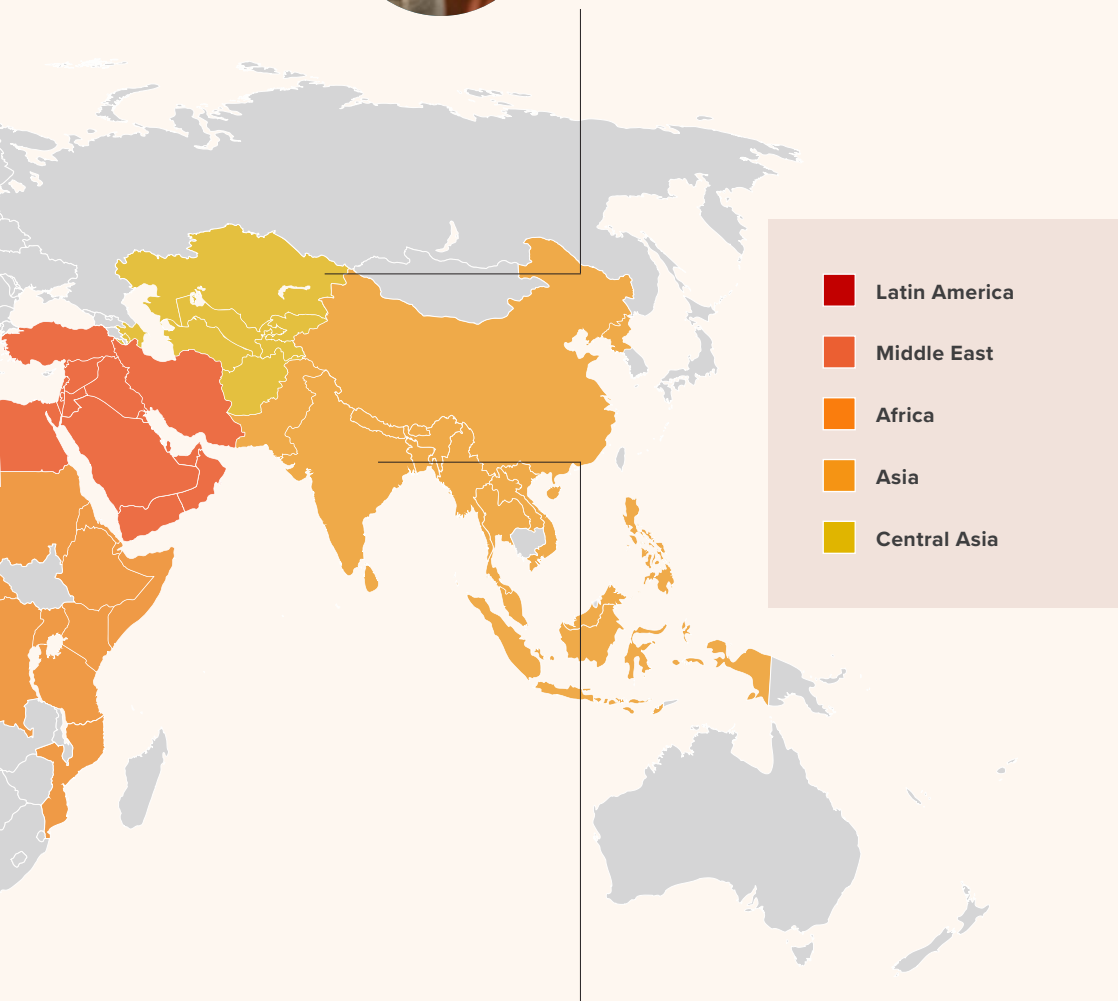
Sudan

You provided microloans and job training for 1,633 believers, empowering them to provide sustainable income to support their families.



Central Asia

You delivered 15,217 Bibles into a region where sharing the gospel with the next generation is a radical and illegal act.



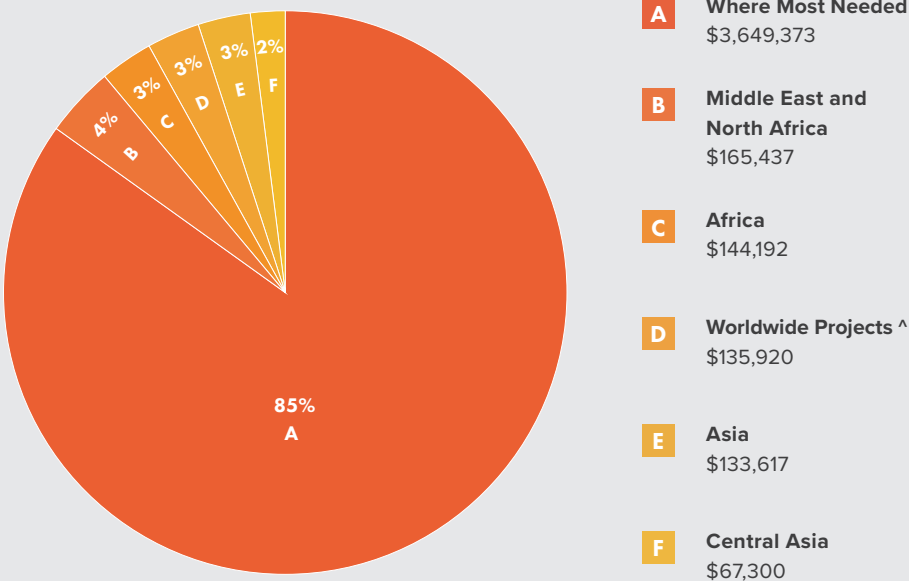
India

You gave emergency food relief and other practical aid to 126,000 believers, where severe persecution continued throughout the pandemic and lockdowns.

WHERE YOUR MONEY WENT IN 2020

In 2020, your generosity made a difference all over the world. Together with other Australian supporters, you raised more than ever before for Christians facing persecution and discrimination for their faith in Jesus.

Below is a breakdown of the destinations where your money went in 2020. You can read more about each of these destinations on the following pages.



^"Worldwide Projects" are thematically-based projects run across multiple locations in the following categories: advocacy, distribution, education, women, relief, social-economic development, Sunday School materials, and training.

WHERE MOST NEEDED

You Sent \$3,649,373

Persecution is not predictable; it can happen at any time and can look different all over the world. Our Where Most Needed Fund allows us to equip our local partners to best meet the needs of local believers suffering discrimination and persecution, where and when it is most needed.

In 2020, you made a huge difference for persecuted Christians who desperately needed it most.

Even with borders shut and travel restricted, by allocating resources to 'Where Most Needed' we were able to ensure your generous gifts were used as soon as possible in countries our partners could reach.

During the pandemic, you helped us respond immediately to families suffering from a lack of medical support in India. You provided persecuted Christian nurses with the correct PPE to keep them safe in COVID wards.

And when lockdowns hit families hard in Central Asia, our local partners could visit with food supplies.

All of this was made possible because of your generous support.



AFRICA

You Sent \$144,192



1 in 6 Christians in Africa are persecuted for their faith. In countries like Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon, the church is facing more violence and extremism than ever before.

In 2020, you, together with others like you, provided counselling for trauma survivors, funded microloans for struggling families, and gave hope to women widowed through extremist attack – and that's just the beginning.

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

You Sent \$165,437



Persecution, poverty, conflict, and the pandemic have made Christians in this region extremely vulnerable. In 2020, lockdowns forced many new Christians back into the homes of Muslim families who persecuted them. In some places, Christian doctors and nurses were forced to run COVID-19 clinics with no protective equipment.

But you made a difference. From smuggling Bibles and discipling new Christians, to starting businesses and delivering emergency relief, you helped people follow Jesus, no matter the cost.

ASIA

You Sent \$133,617



2 in 5 Christians in Asia face persecution and discrimination – the highest proportion of any region. While some nations monitor churches, other countries have outlawed them and detain anyone suspected of following Jesus.

In 2020, your support ensured believers excluded from aid distributions received the food and medicine they needed. You empowered Christians exiled by their communities to be self-sufficient and made sure they received training and equipment to build a sustainable income.

CENTRAL ASIA

You Sent \$67,300



Across Central Asia, authorities suppress all Christian activity, monitoring and arresting anyone showing “suspicious” religious behaviour. In some parts of the region, it is even illegal to share the gospel with anyone under the age of 16.

But in 2020, you made a difference. You sent Bibles and provided Christian training. You started businesses and provided food to those struggling to survive lockdowns. You even gave vulnerable children safe spaces to learn about Jesus.

YOUR IMPACT ALL OVER THE WORLD

Below is a breakdown of the countries and regions where your money made an impact in 2020, through Open Doors' local church partners. For security reasons, we are unable to give more specific location details for some donations.

Destination	Amount Sent
Africa	\$144,192
General	\$80,859
Cameroon	\$2,813
Central African Republic	\$8,000
Eritrea	\$32,479
Ethiopia	\$2,128
Nigeria	\$17,461
Sudan	\$452
Asia	\$133,617
General	\$90,817
Bangladesh	\$50
India	\$30,222
Sri Lanka	\$5,260
Vietnam	\$7,268
Central Asia	\$67,300
Middle East/ North Africa	\$165,437
General	\$56,698
Egypt	\$5,225
Iraq	\$59,121
Palestinian Territories	\$1,990
Syria	\$42,403
Where Most Needed	\$3,649,373
Worldwide Projects	\$135,920
Total	\$4,295,839

Daniela lost her father when gang members murdered him for sharing the gospel. Your financial and prayerful support helped her family get back on their feet.



Hello,

My name is Daniela, I'm 12 years old and I live in Colombia. I thank God and each one of you for everything you have done for me, my brother and my mother.

Last year, I was at the Children's Centre to celebrate Christmas. My family and I felt good there. It was an honour to share with everyone, to know that they care and pray, not only for us, but for children all over the world.

This year we received help to live in a new house. I like the house because it's comfortable and simple.

I have no words to express my gratitude to everyone who prays for us. I want to say to those who suffer persecution that our God is faithful and helps us in all times.

Daniela

CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

Help people follow Jesus in the most dangerous places for Christians.

You can make a difference for Christians from places like China, Iraq and India.

Smuggle Bibles, provide emergency relief, and help persecuted Christians survive:

opendoors.org.au/impact



Open Doors Australia



@opendoorsau



opendoors.org.au



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