

**RELEASE DATE
60TH ANNIVERSARY**

Around the world, millions of Christians have to keep their faith secret. The Secret Church Leader's Guide gives you everything you need to introduce your church or small group to the world of the persecuted church. Meet in a secret location, worship in whispers... and wake up to the reality of life in the Secret Church.

★★★★★

"Our Secret Church was the single most impactful thing we have done... far better than any talk could ever be."
Stefanie, Tunbridge Wells

★★★★★

"Many attendees spoke of how the event had given them a greater appreciation of how generous God was to them, and that they should be more trusting in Him. I suddenly realised how lucky we are to have even the most basic Christian resources, like Bibles and orders of service. Short summary: please run a Secret Church event wherever you are!"
Gerry, Salisbury

★★★★★

"This is a challenge. Every Sunday I expect the comfort of a warm building, a cup of coffee, a sermon from the preacher. This reminds me that there are so many brothers and sisters around the world that don't have that. It's not my right to have those comforts."
James, Pontypool

SECRET CHURCH

Leader's Guide

ABOUT OPEN DOORS

Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. We supply Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services. We also seek to mobilise the church in the UK & Ireland to serve Christians living under religious persecution, through both prayer and action.

You can discover more about our work and how you can support your persecuted family at www.opendoorsuk.org

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"THE FIRST RULE OF
SECRET CHURCH IS THAT
NO-ONE TALKS ABOUT
SECRET CHURCH."

Fight the Good
Fight Club



"I meet with the others at night, from midnight to two o'clock. We do this because of safety reasons, but also because most of us work during daytime."
Pasha, a secret Christian in the Middle East



RUNNING TIME: 1955 - the present day.

LOCATION: Houses, cafés, apartments.

IN SHORT: Christians in the UK and Ireland discover that there is a world they knew nothing about. All around the world other Christians have to meet in secret. Will they join them? Will they enter their world?

SYNOPSIS

WORSHIP WITH THE WORLD'S HIDDEN CHRISTIANS

AROUND THE WORLD MILLIONS OF CHRISTIANS HAVE TO KEEP THEIR FAITH SECRET.

In societies that are hostile to Christianity, the cost of following Jesus is violence, imprisonment, or even death. The result is that believers meet in secret, pray in silence, worship undercover.

Like Brother Ugyen*, the pastor of an underground church in Nepal. If we were to go to his church, we would make our way to a house under cover of darkness. Up the creaking steps and three knocks on the door. The grey-haired door-keeper peeks out.

Recognising us, he bows, hands clasped together: 'Jaimashi,' he says – a Nepali expression meaning 'Praise the Lord.'

Inside, songs are quietly sung, the Bible studied, a meal shared. This Secret Church meets every Thursday, but only once a year in this house. They change houses every week. This is a church which is always on the move.

Secret Church is a way for Christians in the UK and Ireland to enter into the world of the secret believers. Many people have already discovered the power of Secret Church. Youth groups, churches, home groups, Christian Unions have gathered together

to sing hymns in whispers, share Bible verses from memory, pray in silence...

This year we want even more groups to engage with the Secret Church. But we've added a twist. We want you to put on not only a Secret Church service, but also a Secret Screening. We want you to show a film.

SECRET CHURCH 2015 IS ALL ABOUT THE MOVING IMAGE

For many persecuted Christians, films, TV and DVDs are a lifeline. Watching Christian TV programmes or smuggled DVD copies of the *Jesus* film in secret is the only form of spiritual nourishment for many persecuted believers around the world.

For a long time, Open Doors has not only smuggled Bibles, but also whole media libraries of films and books in digital formats. A memory card for a phone can hold the *Jesus* film and many other programmes. "I am grateful you made these memory chips," said one recipient. "Now I can listen all the time and wherever I am."

This can be dangerous. In Bhutan, pastors who have shown the *Jesus* film have been arrested and charged with 'showing a film without certificate of approval'. The last person to be convicted of showing it was released in 2013 after three years in prison.



SECRET CHURCH IS ALL ABOUT THE COST

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of Open Doors, we've made a special film, *The Cost*, which shows a little of our origins. In 1955 Brother Andrew, who founded Open Doors, dared to go behind the Iron Curtain and seek out the hidden church of the Communist world. *The Cost* tells the story of Brother Andrew's decision to say 'yes' to God – and also shows how Christians in the Middle East are making the same costly decision today.

*Name changed for security reasons

HERE'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO:

1. Invite people to the Secret Screening.
2. Show the film.
3. Experience something of what it's like to be a secret Christian by praying and worshipping as the Secret Church does. This guide includes a selection of ideas and activities drawn from real Secret Churches around the world.
4. Encourage people to find out more about how they can support their persecuted church family. You'll find information on how to do this on p.14.

This Leader's Guide tells you all you need to know about setting up a Secret Screening and holding a Secret Church event. How you put it all together is entirely up to you. Of course, you do not have to show the film – a Secret Church service can stand on its own – but that's the joy of Secret Church. No two events are ever the same.

So, are you ready to enter their world?
Right then. Lights, camera, action.



"HIDE ME IN THE
SHADOW OF YOUR
WINGS"

Psalm 17:8

★★★★★

"I remember waking up one night when I was six. Our house was very small, so we all slept in the same room. When I opened my eyes, I saw my father and mother under the blanket and I could hear the soft noise of the radio. Later I learned they were listening to a broadcast from a Christian radio station."

Kim Sang-Hwa*, a North Korean secret believer

RUNNING TIME: A few months.

LOCATION: A room, a café, anywhere where plans can be made.

IN SHORT: There are rumours, whispers. Something is being arranged – a secret meeting of some sort: undercover worship, hidden prayer. Talk of a film being shown. No one knows where or when the event is taking place, but something is definitely happening...

PRODUCTION

SETTING UP YOUR SECRET SCREENING

Setting up a Secret Church event is not hard. But it does require some planning and preparation.

1 CHOOSE A DATE AND TIME

Choose whatever time you like. A late night screening might work well, since many Christians have to meet in the dead of night.

2 FIND A VENUE

All around the world, secret believers meet in remote and unusual locations. So, find somewhere unexpected and out of the way. Get creative. If you're showing the film, you'll need to set up a Secret Cinema space. You'll find loads of ideas for venues on p.6-7.

3 SPREAD THE RUMOURS

In many parts of the world Christians cannot publicly advertise their meetings. Instead they use mobile phones, or simply word of mouth. We can be a bit more public, so in this pack you'll find a poster to help you promote the event! In any case, let people know that something is happening. Decide how much you're going to keep secret – maybe you tell them when it is happening, but not where.

4 PLAN YOUR EVENT

As we've seen, many secret believers rely on films and DVDs for their Christian teaching. So we'd love it if you could show the film as well as doing some Secret Church-style worship. But it's up to you how you put your event together: choose which ideas you are going to include. You'll find them on pp.10-13.

5 PREPARE THE VENUE

Finally the time comes to get the venue ready. Do you need sheets on the windows? A secret symbol on a doorway or gate? Ideas for transforming your venue into a Secret Cinema are on p.7.

6 GATHER TOGETHER

Showtime! Show the film. Pray. Share the Bible. Worship with the world's hidden Christians.

7 TAKE THE NEXT STEP

At the end of the event, encourage people to continue their journey with the persecuted church by ordering a free copy of Brother Andrew's best-selling book, *God's Smuggler*. You can find out how on p.14. And after that, let the secret out. Tweet it. YouTube it. Facebook it. Serve the Secret Church by telling the world that it exists!





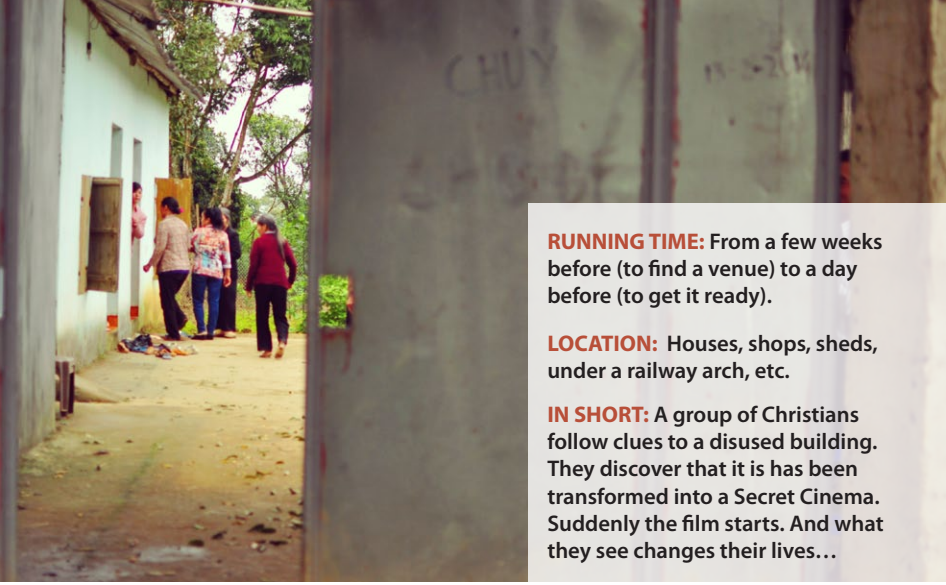
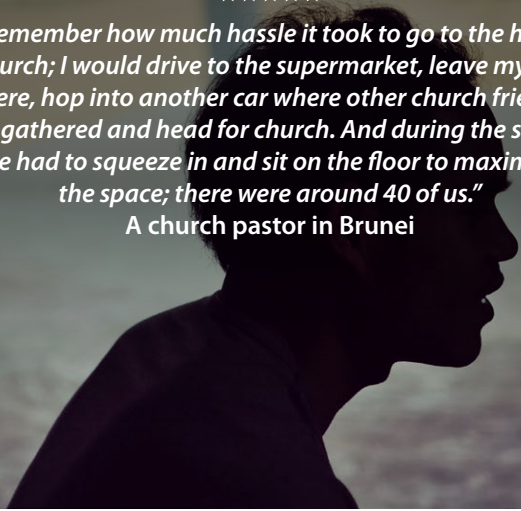
"LOOK FOR THE PRAYER NECESSITIES, THE SIMPLE PRAYER NECESSITIES..."

The Hidden in the Jungle Book

★★★★★

"I remember how much hassle it took to go to the house church; I would drive to the supermarket, leave my car there, hop into another car where other church friends had gathered and head for church. And during the service we had to squeeze in and sit on the floor to maximise the space; there were around 40 of us."

A church pastor in Brunei



RUNNING TIME: From a few weeks before (to find a venue) to a day before (to get it ready).

LOCATION: Houses, shops, sheds, under a railway arch, etc.

IN SHORT: A group of Christians follow clues to a disused building. They discover that it is has been transformed into a Secret Cinema. Suddenly the film starts. And what they see changes their lives...

LOCATION

CREATING YOUR SECRET CHURCH VENUE

As in any good film, the locations matter. People have held Secret Church events anywhere from a barn to a basement, a shed to a subway. And what will make a Secret Screening special is watching it in a really unusual Secret Cinema.

FINDING YOUR VENUE

Around the world secret Christians meet in all kinds of locations. Most members of the hidden church meet in homes or apartments. Some gather in restaurants and make it look like they are sharing an ordinary meal or a birthday celebration. We have heard of Christians meeting in half-finished buildings on abandoned building sites. In North Korean prison camps, ultra-secret churches meet in the toilets.



1 CHOOSE THE VENUE

Be inventive with your choice of your venue. Here are a few possibilities:

- stable or farm building
- in the woods
- disused shop
- garage or lockup
- basement or cellar
- coffee shop
- a partially built house
- shipping container

Of course, you can use your church building – but give it a ‘Secret Church’ feel. You might use ‘NO ENTRY’ tape across the church doors to make it look as if the church has been closed. Force people to enter by another door.

Whatever your choice, make sure your location is safe and that you have permission. We want you to experience something of the nature of Secret Church, but not by being arrested or injured!

2 PREPARE THE VENUE...

Once you have your venue, it’s time to turn it into a Secret Cinema.

- Put up a sign so that people know this is the place. (You might want to use the Open Doors logo!)
- If you are showing the film you will need – obviously – a screen, a projector and amplification.
- Black out the windows. Close the curtains or put up sheets or blankets. Use candles or low light.
- You don’t have to have chairs. In most Secret Church meetings around the world people sit on the floor.



"IN THE WORLD YOU
FACE PERSECUTION. BUT
TAKE COURAGE; I HAVE
CONQUERED THE WORLD!"

John 16:33

★★★★★
"The Jesus film was and is a very good tool, because the film was translated in the Kabyle* language. Today, satellite TV allows us to reach a multitude of people everywhere in the Kabyle region... Because of this, Algerians have access to the gospel and understand the message."

Algerian believer

*The Kabyle are a Berber ethnic group in the north of Algeria



RUNNING TIME: About 45 mins.

LOCATION: Your secret cinema.

IN SHORT: The film tells a story of persecuted Christians around the world. At the conclusion, those Christians attending start to reflect on what they have seen. Together they pray for Christians in the world who cannot openly express their faith.

SCREENPLAY

PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR SECRET CHURCH SERVICE

You can arrange your Secret Church service how you like – we're sure that every event will be different! But here is a suggested outline.

1

ENTER

Put a guard on the door. People have to be allowed in. Turn off mobile phones, tablets or other devices – or even hand them in. Keep your voices low. Start with a brief explanation of what is going on.

2

WATCH

If you are doing a Secret Screening, this is when you show *The Cost*, about the origins of Open Doors and the cost of following Jesus in Syria. It is less than 20 minutes long. If you would like to show a shorter film, you will find an alternative at www.opendoorsuk.org/secretchurch



3

WORSHIP

Experience a little of what it is like to be a secret Christian by praying and worshipping as the Secret Church does. Pray, worship and share Bible verses using any activities you wish from the list on pp. 10-13.

4

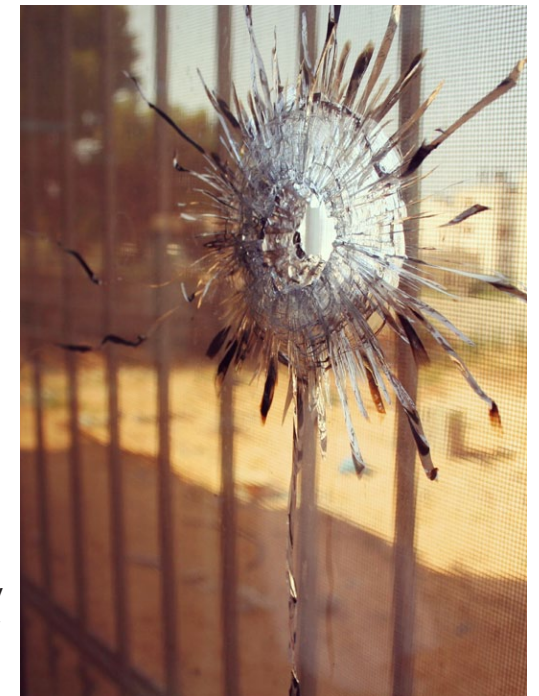
REFLECT

End with a short reflection on the life of persecuted Christians or simply discuss how people are feeling. Has this experience given them an insight into the lives of secret Christians? Has God spoken to them in this time? Tell people about the work of Open Doors. (A talk outline and discussion questions are available at www.opendoorsuk.org/secretchurch)

5

RESPOND

Encourage people to find out more about how they can support their persecuted family by ordering a free copy of *God's Smuggler*. You can find out how to do this on p.14.





"THE FIRST RULE OF SECRET CHURCH IS THAT NO-ONE TALKS ABOUT SECRET CHURCH."

Fight the Good Fight Club

★★★★★

"I meet with the others at night, from midnight to two o'clock. We do this because of safety reasons, but also because most of us work during daytime."

Pasha, a secret Christian in the Middle East



RUNNING TIME: As long as you like.

LOCATION: In your Secret Church venue.

IN SHORT: After watching the film, Christians pray for the Secret Church throughout the world. Hymns are sung in whispers, Bible verses shared, silent prayers exchanged. It is as though they are transported into the world of the secret Christians.

ACTION

WORSHIPPING WITH THE SECRET CHURCH

Here are some ways to support our persecuted brothers and sisters through prayer, worship and Bible reading. You can use some of these as a response to the film, or put them together as a stand-alone 'Secret Church service'.

1 SECRET CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

In small groups, as you pray, share Bible verses from memory. Perhaps ask people to share Bible verses that have helped them in tough times. You could ask someone to smuggle in a passage of the Bible – maybe handwritten and hidden in their clothing. They get this out and share it. Maybe even challenge people to memorise the verses. Use the Bible verses as prayers for our persecuted family.

In Afghanistan, possessing a Bible is difficult and dangerous, so believers memorise the Scriptures. In Vietnam, one Christian group had such a shortage of Bibles that they had to prove how much they really wanted one by learning Psalm 119 off by heart – a total of 176 verses! Even then, that only got them on the waiting list.

1 SECRET CHURCH SINGING

In many places, when Christians meet in houses, they worship in silence for fear that their neighbours might hear. So they 'sing' without actually making a sound. So, sing a song but sing it in whispers or mouth it silently.

"We chose a song that people know well and sang it normally. Then we shared about North Korean Christians meeting in toilets and singing in whispers and complete silence. I told people to 'give it all you've got, but now let's sing in complete silence from your heart and soul... like those who meet in North Korea's prison camps – they mean every word they sing'. After this, we encouraged people to really go for it, to raise the roof, as we have the freedom to worship God with our voices and mean it completely, too." Emma, Oxford

3 SECRET CHURCH COMMUNION

Celebrate Communion using non-traditional elements, for instance tear and share flatbread and dip it in olive oil. In North Korea, bread and wine are rarely available so they use biscuits or fruit and juice. In Vietnam, Christian prisoners used 'food and honey to represent the bread and wine'.

"We found the exercise very humbling and a real sense of spirituality in the silence, especially singing hymns by just mouthing... We blackened the doors, searched people and identified them on entering, shared Communion with fruit and biscuits, prayed in silence and lit candles." Carol, Nottinghamshire





"WE ARE HARD PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE, BUT NOT CRUSHED; PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR; PERSECUTED, BUT NOT ABANDONED; STRUCK DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED."

2 Corinthians 4:8-9



4

SECRET CHURCH SURVEILLANCE

Many groups who have held a Secret Church event have added a visit from the 'secret police'. Arrange for someone to hammer on the door. Shout, 'We know you're in there...' Add a bit of movie drama to your Secret Church event!

"Last night our youth group met in a derelict office in the dark for our Secret Church. We discussed the most dangerous places to be a Christian and challenged ourselves to pray for the persecuted church. One of our deacons played the part of the secret police, he was able to find us and even though we knew it was 'just pretend', it was still frightening!" Andrew, Luton

5

SECRET CHURCH PRAYER

In underground house churches around the world, Christians pray in whispers to avoid being heard. In North Korea 'church' can mean

two people standing next to each other, praying silently. Some Christians even pray in public places, like cafés and restaurants, only they keep their eyes open, so it looks as if they are having a normal conversation. Pray for the secret Christians using these kinds of prayers.

6

SECRET CHURCH SELFIE

Above is a picture from a Secret Church meeting in Somalia, East Africa. Here, where being a follower of Jesus can cost everything, the only safe, anonymous way these believers could find of showing they were together was to take a picture of their shoes. So, step into their shoes by taking off yours. You are on holy ground, after all. Take a #secretchurchselfie of your shoes and post it on your social networks later as a reminder of how risky going to church can be.

Want more ideas? You can find more resources for your Secret Church activities at www.opendoorsuk.org/secretchurch



"HOW DO WE SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE KOREA (NORTH)?"

The Sound of no Music

★★★★★

"These are people that are part of the body of Christ. And the wonderful thing is, the moment you begin to pray, sooner or later, God says, 'Hey how about answering your own prayer? You pray that they will get a Bible, well why don't you give them a Bible? They pray for food – you have enough...'"
Brother Andrew, Founder of Open Doors



RUNNING TIME: After the event.

LOCATION: In your real life.

IN SHORT: Those who gather in the secret venue respond to what they have seen, heard and felt. They commit to pray for and support persecuted Christians around the world.

SEQUEL:

RESPONDING TO THE SECRET CHURCH

We hope that your Secret Church event will be a powerful, inspirational, Spirit-filled experience.

We hope that through it, you and those you gather together will come to a richer, more profound understanding of what it means to be a secret believer following Jesus in the most difficult places on earth.

But most of all, we hope that this will just be the start of the journey. At the heart of every movie, there's a story. It is our prayer that the film, the words, the worship and the prayer will be the start of a new story for you and your brothers and sisters in Christ – one that will cause you to walk ever more closely with persecuted believers around the world. So please encourage all those who have taken part in your Secret Church event to find out more about how they can support their persecuted church family.

In 1955, Brother Andrew said 'Yes' to God and travelled behind the Iron Curtain to meet secret and persecuted Christians for the first time. Today, 60 years later, Open Doors – the organisation he founded – serves hidden and persecuted Christians in over 50 countries – including some of the most dangerous places in the world.

To mark Brother Andrew's venture of faith, we've created a 60th anniversary edition of *God's Smuggler*, the best-selling book Brother Andrew wrote about his journeys. We are giving copies of this book away absolutely free to anyone willing to join us on this adventure of supporting the persecuted church. All we ask is that people fill in a card, reflect on what God might be calling them to, and read the book that has inspired generations to step out in faith and walk with their persecuted family.

This is a great way for people to respond to their Secret Church event, or to seeing the film. And there are two ways that you can put these books into people's hands.

1. PEOPLE FILL IN A CARD, YOU HAND THEM A BOOK.

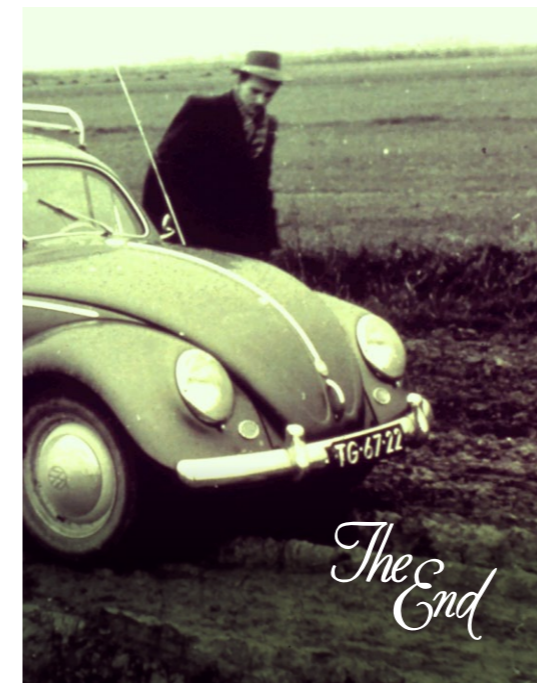


Ask people to fill in their details on the response cards and give them a book in exchange for each card. Then send the cards back to us so we can send them more information about supporting their persecuted family. With this option, all you have to do is make sure you have enough books and response cards for everyone. To order books and response cards call our Inspire Team on **01993 7773000**.

2. PEOPLE FILL IN A CARD, WE SEND THEM A BOOK.

Ask people to fill in their details on the response cards and send the cards back to us. We will then send them a copy of *God's Smuggler*, along with more information about how they can support their persecuted family.

With this option, all you have to do is make sure you have enough response cards for everyone. You can order extra response cards using the attached form, or by calling our Inspire Team on **01993 7773000**, or online at www.opendoorsuk.org/secretchurch



ORDER EXTRA RESOURCES

YOU CAN USE THIS FORM TO ORDER MORE RESPONSE CARDS

AT MY SECRET CHURCH EVENT I WOULD LIKE PEOPLE TO ORDER FREE COPIES OF GOD'S SMUGGLER FROM OPEN DOORS.

Please send me response cards.



Title	First Name	Surname
Address		Country
Postcode		Date of Birth (if under 21)
Phone*	Email*	

* Please enter these details if you're happy to be contacted in this way. We won't pass on your details or send you mail if you decide you don't want any more information.

GOD'S SMUGGLER – 60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

This best-selling book tells the story of how a young Dutchman was inspired to smuggle Bibles into Communist Eastern Europe. Brother Andrew's work was the start of Open Doors' ministry supporting persecuted Christians around the world. *God's Smuggler* is an inspiring and even life-changing read and this 60th anniversary edition includes previously unpublished photographs from Brother Andrew's travels and an exclusive interview with him about the history of Open Doors, as well as his thoughts on the challenges facing the church today.

