

Open Doors

MAGAZINE | September/October 2024

**STOP THE
VIOLENCE.
START THE
HEALING.**



ARISE AFRICA
CAMPAIGN SPECIAL

Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide.

Open Doors supplies Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services. We also mobilise the church in the UK and Ireland to serve Christians living under religious persecution.

If you have any questions about the work of Open Doors, or would like to reprint any of the articles in this magazine, please do get in touch.

Contact us:

England and Wales
PO Box 6, Witney
Oxon OX29 6WG
T 01993 460015

Ireland
PO Box 873
Belfast BT15 1WZ
T 02890 751080

Scotland
T 01292 800006

E contact@opendoorsuk.org

Find us on:

opendoorsuk.org



Open Doors UK & I

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COVER: Abraham is chairman of a displacement camp in Nigeria. He's been there with his family for three years, ever since their village was attacked by militants (see p10 of Prayer Diary)

LETTER FROM HENRIETTA

Arise Africa

“You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.” MATTHEW 10:22

When Jesus spoke the words in Matthew 10:22, He definitely wasn't sugarcoating the future of His church. He warned that following Him could mean being hated – being rejected, attacked and forced to flee. Today, that danger is escalating.

Over 16.2 million Christians in sub-Saharan Africa have been displaced by conflict and violence. Persecution is a major driver of this displacement. I'm shocked by the scale and speed of this persecution. It's rising sharply, raging like a wildfire across the region.

But Jesus doesn't stop with the warning of being hated for loving Him. He encourages His followers to 'stand firm to the end'. When I read Pastor Barnabas's story, I'm struck by his determination to do exactly that. Even in the horrendous IDP camp where he has already lived for five years, he and thousands of other Christians are praising God and clinging to Jesus.

But they desperately need support. The African church has called for the *Arise Africa* campaign, and are urgently asking all of us to unite with them in prayer and action.

As Pastor Barnabas says, “Nobody is talking about this.” So I cannot emphasise enough how important it is for us to speak out. Please sign the enclosed petition – which we hope to take to the UK government, the African Union and the United Nations. Please support Open Doors partners as they respond to this humanitarian crisis. And please, please keep praying.

I've never met Pastor Barnabas – but, if I ever do, I want to be able to look him in the eyes and tell him I've heard his story, I've fervently prayed, and I've done everything in my power to stand with him and the church in Africa.

Today, please join African Christians to stop the violence and start the healing.

Every blessing,



Henrietta Blyth
CEO, Open Doors UK&I

ARISE AFRICA



Pastor Barnabas lives with his wife and children in an IDP camp in Nigeria.

Please be aware that you may find elements of his story particularly distressing.

**MILLIONS OF
AFRICAN CHRISTIANS
ARE DISPLACED
BY VIOLENCE.
NOBODY IS TALKING
ABOUT IT.**

As Pastor Barnabas walks through the camp where he lives, he points out the makeshift tents in every direction. There are hundreds of them with people huddled inside, seeking refuge from the sun. These are the women, men and children he pastors.

Thousands of people live here: an informal camp for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Benue State,

northern Nigeria. “Each and every one you are seeing here, we are all Christians,” says Pastor Barnabas. “We are displaced because of violence.”

You can see the compassion register on his face as he talks, but there is something else, too: an authority that comes from a righteous anger that he and his church family have ended up in a camp like this.

It’s one of many similar IDP camps across sub-Saharan Africa, where 16.2 million Christians have been forcibly displaced by violence and conflict. It’s an astounding number. But most of the world doesn’t even know it’s happening.

“Millions of Christians are displaced, here in Nigeria,” says Pastor Barnabas. “Millions of Christians are displaced in Africa. The news doesn’t care about it, politicians don’t talk about it, governments don’t talk about it, global politics don’t talk about it. Nobody talks about it.”

That’s why Open Doors’ *Arise Africa* campaign is so desperately needed.

“A TERRIBLE PLACE TO LIVE”

Pastor Barnabas gets to his tent, and stoops down to show it. Even though he and his family have lived in the camp for almost five years, their home is made of whatever materials were available – mostly palm leaves and mosquito nets. “It’s smaller than a double mattress,” Pastor Barnabas says. It’s far too small for a large family of eight.

“The IDP camp is a terrible place to live,” says Pastor Barnabas bluntly. “We don’t have good hygiene, we don’t have water, we don’t have toilets. Many people are dying. Only last week, as I am talking, we lost eight people in this IDP camp.”

People wouldn’t live in a camp like this if they had any other choice. They only live here because it’s too dangerous outside the camps. Because of the horrendous persecution that has displaced them.

A HORRENDOUS ATTACK

Last year, and for many years, more Christians were killed for their faith in Nigeria than in the rest of

ARISE AFRICA

The *Arise Africa* vision is to see that the global community acknowledges and acts against extreme violence and supports the church to persevere – and to be resilient, resourceful and influential.

JOIN WITH THE ARISE AFRICA CAMPAIGN:

Give your support: every £35 could help sustain a displaced believer with food, clothing, hygiene products and medical care

Sign the petition: join with voices from around the world against violent persecution.

Share a prayer: you can find a month of prayer for sub-Saharan Africa in your prayer diary, and add a prayer leaf to the prayer tree at opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica



ABOVE Thousands of Christians live in this camp, struggling to get enough food for their families

the world combined. The same violent persecution is quickly spreading across other parts of sub-Saharan Africa, as Islamic extremist ideology spreads: as well as these murders, huge numbers of believers are injured, abducted, sexually assaulted or forced to flee from their homes. Pastor Barnabas can easily empathise with the people in the camp who have faced this violence. He’s been through exactly the same experience himself.

“I was on the farm with my brother, Everen, and his wife, Friday,” he remembers. “We heard shooting. We saw people running in different directions. We didn’t know what was happening.”

The community was being attacked by Fulani militants, a group of Islamic extremists who are responsible for many

of the violent attacks in north central and central Nigeria. Pastor Barnabas and his family tried to run, but Everen and Friday didn’t manage to escape. “My brother was shot by the militants, and my brother’s wife was also shot and then macheted and killed by the militants,” he says. It’s been almost five years, but the pain of loss is still raw.

“This attack is because we are Christians.”

LASTING INJURIES

The attack kept going. Pastor Barnabas couldn’t stop to help his brother and sister-in-law, or even to retrieve their bodies. “I kept running,” he remembers. “Then the militants divided themselves and one of them followed me.”

This man tried to attack Pastor Barnabas with a machete, but accidentally dropped it. “He proceeded to remove his stick and hit me on my hand, and my hand was badly broken.”

Years later, he is still affected by these injuries every day. The attack caused long-term damage and, while he managed to gather enough money to pay for initial surgery, he can’t afford to have the metal in his hand removed. Without a second operation, he can’t use his hand properly. It’s a daily reminder of the horror he experienced at the hands of the militants.

Despite the ordeal, Pastor Barnabas is grateful to God that his life was saved. “If not for God’s intervention, if not for God’s love, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” he says.

BELOW Pastor Barnabas and his family have lived in a tent for five years



WHY WERE THEY ATTACKED?

The motive of Islamic militant violence like this is clear: to destroy as many Christians and Christian communities as possible. “This attack is because we are Christians,” says Pastor Barnabas. “When they come to attack us, they call us ‘capari’. It means you don’t have any religion.” The militants don’t value their lives, because they are considered infidels.

“We have been starving. If not for the help of your ministry, I don’t think it would be easy for us to live.”

“In this camp, many people are affected, many are injured, many are killed or their loved ones have been killed,” he says. “This affected not only my family, not only in the particular IDP camp I’m living, but there are millions of Nigerians that are being displaced. And it is not only in Nigeria these things are happening. They are happening in the whole of Africa.”

The effects of this persecution are long-lasting. As well as the terrible loss of life, it removes any means of getting an income, or future opportunities for the children of affected believers. It threatens the future of

the church. “Now, I have lost everything that I had. Everything in my home and village was burned,” says Pastor Barnabas. “I cannot take care of my children. I cannot feed them. Most of the men go looking for work to do, in order to get daily food. But yet, it will not be enough for one meal.”

DESPERATE HUNGER

“If you are hungry, you will lose your confidence in God,” he says. “If you are sick, if you are not strong, you may lose your confidence in God.” As a pastor in the camp, he sees many believers struggle to remain faithful to God, because they don’t know where their next meal is coming from and have to watch their children suffer. He has even seen some women in the IDP camp turn to prostitution, in order to get money to feed their families.

Pastor Barnabas is desperate to help believers in his camp. “I don’t have anything to give them,” he says. “We can only pray together and share the Word of God together. How can you preach to someone who is hungry, and tell them that God will provide, when you cannot take a step to help them? How will they be encouraged?”

Persecution remains a real danger. Every day, Pastor Barnabas sees the men in the camp weigh up a terrible choice. “This hunger leads many of them to go in search of food to eat where they are being attacked by the militants,” he says. “They



ABOVE Pastor Barnabas still has scars from the militant attack that killed his brother and sister-in-law

have no option, they have to go back there again – and when they go, they are attacked again.” Even while he was speaking with Open Doors partners, Pastor Barnabas heard the terrible news that Ifa, another of his brothers, had been attacked by Fulani militants while trying to gather food. The militant struck him on the head with a machete, and he suffered terrible injuries.

It’s a stark reminder of the constant dangers facing

Pastor Barnabas and the other Christians in this camp – and millions of other believers like them throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

ARISE AFRICA

The African church is calling on their global church family to stand with them against this persecution. It seems to them that nobody is talking about it – and that’s why the global *Arise Africa* campaign is so crucial.

You can join with Christians in sub-Saharan Africa today. With your help, Open Doors local partners can continue providing emergency food and aid to Pastor Barnabas’s IDP camp, and many more like it.

“Brothers and sisters, you have been very supportive in the area of food, particularly in this IDP camp,” he says. “We have been starving. If not for the help of your ministry,



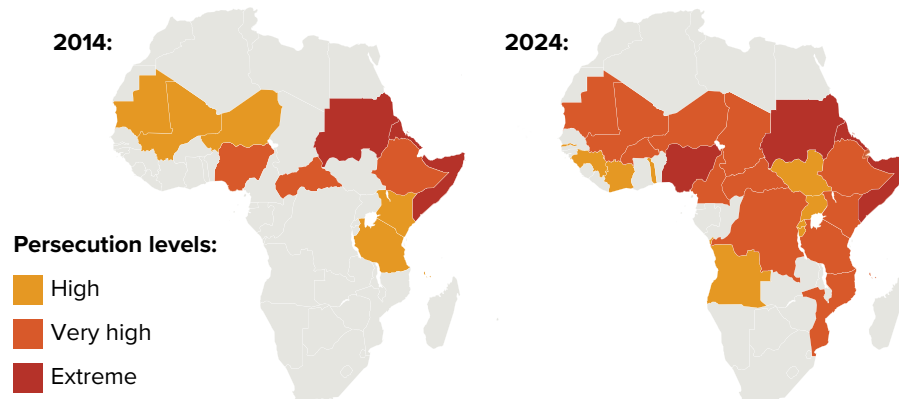
ABOVE Pastor Barnabas prays with and supports believers in the camp as they face ongoing dangers

I don’t think it would be easy for us to live. But you assist us. We are very grateful.”

Arise Africa isn’t just meeting people’s physical needs – it is helping believers persevere spiritually too, giving confidence that God hasn’t abandoned them when He uses local Open

Doors partners as His hands and feet. Local partners are also planning to provide skills training and trauma care, to support long-term resilience and self-sufficiency. They’ve also helped with Ifa’s urgent medical bills, and are paying for Pastor Barnabas’s operation on his hand.

The Open Doors World Watch List map shows how violent persecution is spreading across countries in sub-Saharan Africa.



GRATITUDE AND PRESSING NEED

Pastor Barnabas is keen to send thanks to Open Doors supporters – people like you – who are starting to make this possible through your prayers and gifts. “We are grateful as a family. I am grateful. As an individual, I am grateful,” he says. “On behalf of the IDP camps, we are grateful. Thank you, thank you. God bless you.”

There is still so much danger and persecution in the region, and the believers Pastor Barnabas cares for long for a time of safety, security and plenty. They want to go home. They want the violence to end. And they want to heal.

“I will not lose my confidence in God,” says Pastor

Barnabas. “I will always encourage the Christians here that, no matter what should be the situation, they should still believe God that, one day, we shall come back to our ancestral homes.”

STOP THE VIOLENCE. START THE HEALING.

Pastor Barnabas knows how vital the support and prayers of his worldwide church family are. “If there is any way you can contribute yourself, contribute in a way to help us Christians in the IDP camp, please do it and God will bless you,” he says, “and join together with us to pray that God Himself should be our defender and sustain us and keep us.”

You’ve heard a snapshot of one man’s story in one IDP camp – and there

are 16.2 million Christians across sub-Saharan Africa who could share their own painful stories. This violent displacement is an escalating crisis that needs an equally urgent response. The African church is urgently calling for your support, your prayers and your voice – to make sure people are talking about it. Today, will you help Pastor Barnabas stop the violence and start the healing?

You can watch Pastor Barnabas’s story at opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica



BELOW Pastor Barnabas continues to minister to believers in the camp – you can help Pastor Barnabas stop the violence and start the healing



ARISE AFRICA:

STOP THE VIOLENCE. START THE HEALING.

You can help stop the violence and start the healing for Pastor Barnabas and persecuted Christians like him in sub-Saharan Africa by giving your support, signing the petition and sharing a prayer. Thank you!

GIVE YOUR SUPPORT

You can give to support African Christians at opendoorsuk.org.

- **Every £19** could give emergency accommodation to a displaced believer.
- **Every £35** could help sustain a displaced believer with food, clothing, hygiene products and medical care.
- **Every £58** could provide a day’s training to two church leaders to equip them to disciple believers effectively.

SIGN THE PETITION

“Millions of Christians are displaced – and nobody

talks about it,” says Pastor Barnabas. You can join him in making sure that people do talk about it.

The *Arise Africa* petition aims to gather voices from across the globe, and we hope to take it to the UK government, the African Union and United Nations.

Add your signature to the global petition, asking that vulnerable Christians in sub-Saharan Africa get:

- 1. Protection:** Providing robust protection from violent militant attacks
- 2. Justice:** Ensuring justice through fair prosecutions of the attackers
- 3. Restoration:** Bring healing and restoration to all affected communities.

You’ll find a petition sheet enclosed with your magazine, or you can sign digitally at opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica

SHARE A PRAYER

Please share a prayer or message of encouragement by adding your prayer leaf to the virtual prayer tree at opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica. You can use one of the prayers below, or write your own. You’ll also find a month of prayer for sub-Saharan Africa in your September/October prayer diary. Please pray:

- For Pastor Barnabas to remain confident in God’s love, power and goodness, and to receive holy wisdom as he cares for Christians in the IDP camp
- That persecuted believers in IDP camps across sub-Saharan Africa will be able to return to their homes
- For decision-makers and those in power around the world to recognise the displacement crisis and work to tackle the problem.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.” ISAIAH 60:1-3

**"I WILL NOT LOSE MY
CONFIDENCE IN GOD.
IT DOES NOT MATTER
HOW LONG WE HAVE BEEN
IN THIS CAMP - A DAY WILL
COME WHEN GOD SHALL
TAKE US BACK TO OUR
ANCESTRAL HOMES."**

PASTOR BARNABAS, WHO HAS LIVED IN
A DISPLACEMENT CAMP IN NORTHERN
NIGERIA FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS



ARISE AFRICA:

SIGN YOUR NAME TO HELP STOP THE VIOLENCE

“What I want to tell my Christian brethren is that they should help us advocate and pray. We are pleading that the international community intervenes. We need you to help us speak to the government. Pray for us to return to our homes. That’s our plea.” - A displaced Nigerian Christian

YOU CAN HELP

Our brothers and sisters in sub-Saharan Africa are asking you to speak up on their behalf and to pray for them. They are pleading with the international community to

intervene and they need you to be their voice.

Open Doors estimates that at least 16.2 million Christians are displaced across sub-Saharan Africa because of violence and conflict. Persecution is a major driver of this displacement. Our Christian brothers and sisters want the global community to acknowledge and act against the extreme violence – supporting the church to persevere through severe persecution and be resilient, resourceful and influential.

The African church is calling on the world to pray and act.

They have a vision to see people from around the world standing with them through the *Arise Africa* petition. Will you answer their call and add your voice? You can find the petition enclosed with this magazine, or online at opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica

The petition calls upon the global community to ensure that Christians and other vulnerable individuals in sub-Saharan Africa are treated with dignity and respect. This a global campaign – so your signature will be among hundreds of thousands gathered from around the world.

THE PETITION ASKS FOR THREE THINGS:

1. PROTECTION

Violence is the primary driver of displacement in countries including Nigeria, Sudan, DRC and Cameroon. Many militant attacks deliberately target Christians: whole communities have been burnt down, meaning livelihoods are lost as well as lives. There is a lack of protection from the state and security forces fail to respond in timely and effective ways – refusing to act in the majority of cases.

WHEN YOU SIGN THE PETITION...

you are calling on the global community to provide robust protection from violent militant attacks.

A RECOMMENDATION:

Training and technical support to police, security forces and judiciary to counter militants and prosecute extremists.

2. JUSTICE

Impunity for perpetrators of atrocities is widespread in many of these countries. This exacerbates the displacement of people as they live in fear for their lives if they return home. Well-armed militants attack Christians with impunity, slaughtering thousands and displacing millions. And there is no justice. Perpetrators can get away with heinous crimes as there are no consequences for their actions.

WHEN YOU SIGN THE PETITION...

you are calling on the global community to ensure justice through fair prosecutions of the attackers.

A RECOMMENDATION:

The international community works with African governments to develop a national policy to end impunity.

3. RESTORATION

Our brothers and sisters are praying to return to their homes, some having been displaced for over a decade. They often have limited access to basic amenities and can continue to face discrimination – for example, some mixed-faith IDP camps receive aid on Sundays, when Christians are in church. People just want to return home and rebuild.

WHEN YOU SIGN THE PETITION...

you are calling on the global community to bring healing and restoration to all affected communities.

A RECOMMENDATION:

African governments and the international community ensure voluntary returns are safe and with dignity, including security, recovery and restoration of land and provision of basic services.



WHERE WILL THE PETITION GO?

By 2026, the aim is to present signatures from around the world to the UK Government, African Union, European Parliament and UN leaders at the Human Rights Council. We hope to initiate and build momentum for a Commission of Inquiry at the UN, build public support for the persecuted church at the African Union and influence policy change through the British and Nigerian governments.

Enough is enough: it’s time to get people talking. Sign the petition today and help make a difference.

opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica

After losing everything, Pastor Soré in Burkina Faso puts his trust in God alone



ABOVE Pastor Soré and his family had to flee Islamic militants, but are resilient in God's love and strength

It was the third Islamic militant attack on his village in Burkina Faso that made Pastor Soré take his family and flee as refugees.

During the first attack, all the men ran for the surrounding countryside – knowing they were most likely to be killed. “The terrorists took people’s money and all the goods they could carry, then left,” Pastor Soré remembers.

The second attack was much, much worse. After the men had run away, the extremists raped the women in their homes.

But when the attackers returned a third time, they burned everything they could, forcing the entire village to flee for good. In less than a day, Pastor Soré and his family became refugees among the two million people displaced in Burkina Faso.

“The Almighty God is with me in good times, and He is still with me in these hardships.”

DISPLACED AND ISOLATED Pastor Soré and his wife, Teresa, have two children

– but they care for 15 other Christians, mostly young children who have been orphaned or placed in their care. When they arrived at the place they live now, it was a wide-open, empty piece of land.

The nearest water source for the family is just over a mile away, and they managed to put together a shelter – but it’s inadequate. They are the only people around for miles. “Who could assist us in this isolated place in case of sickness or death?” Pastor Soré asks. “If robbers come to attack us, who are our neighbours who could help?”

And yet, he continues to turn to God for help: “We are sad to be in such a condition... and we have been trusting God for change.”

COMFORTED AND RESILIENT

When Open Doors partners in Burkina Faso heard about Pastor Soré’s situation, they travelled to listen to his story and find out how they could help him and his family.

“The ministry first helped me with prayer that really comforted me,” he says. “In addition to the prayer support, the ministry helped me with seeds and fertilisers. It helped me to grow crops and feed my family members. They also helped us with food, including rice and oil. We wholeheartedly praise God for such blessings and thank the ministry.”

Thanks to your prayers and support, Pastor Soré is able to remain resilient in the midst of his circumstances. “I may suffer physically, but my spirit who is in Christ is not affected by physical suffering,” he says. “The Almighty God is with me in good times, and He is still with me in these hardships.

“I do believe that we are displaced, but Jesus is not and will never be displaced from our lives. He is always with us.”

You can watch a video of Pastor Soré’s story at opendoorsuk.org

PAUSE

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus’s command, “Do not worry”, is not hard to follow when things are going well. But how much more difficult it is to put our trust in God when relationships, jobs, our homes and our health fall apart. Pastor Soré stands on the truth of this Scripture: “My family members have already experienced God’s hand in the past, and they know the same God is still with us.”

PONDER

- “I know that we will never lack food,” says Pastor Soré. “Since Christ is with us, He will give us food again.” How does his faith in God’s provision encourage you to trust that He will provide for you?
- “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap... and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” (Matthew 6:26) Are you aware of how valuable you are to God? How can you remind yourself of that truth?
- “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be

given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33). What are some ways you can seek God’s Kingdom before your own needs?

PRAY

Despite what he faces, Pastor Soré still looks forward to continuing his ministry. “The call for evangelism is still in my heart,” he says. “I need a place where I can build a bigger church and continue the ministry as I have been doing. I trust and pray that God will help me leave this place someday and do the ministry in my own place.”

Islamic extremist groups are driving the violent insurgency across Burkina Faso, particularly in the north – and Christians are their preferred target. Pray for the Lord’s provision and healing for all who have been displaced, and that the church in Burkina Faso will remain resilient and joyful.



Find out how you can join in praying and speaking out for displaced Christians in sub-Saharan Africa at opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica

WORLD WATCH LIST BULLETIN

CENTRAL ASIA

Baptised in a bathtub!

The secrecy in which many believers worldwide must practise their faith often means needing to be creative – and that extends to baptism.

Sister Ginura* from Central Asia gave her life to Jesus a year ago. She is the only Christian in her family and, because of the risk of persecution, she must keep her faith hidden. Consequently, like many other believers in the region, it was impossible to have a public baptism. Instead, the special ceremony took place in secret at another believer's home – and in a bathtub!

PRAY For God to protect, strengthen and encourage Sister Ginura.



PAKISTAN

Young Christian sentenced to death for TikTok post

A Christian man in Pakistan has been sentenced to death for allegedly posting a photo of a damaged Quran.

Ehsan Masih (27), a brick-kiln worker from Punjab, reportedly shared the image after the Christian community in Jaranwala was attacked by Muslim extremists, following rumours about two Christian men who had allegedly desecrated the Quran. Nearly 100 houses and more than 25 churches were damaged and burnt in the violence.

The image reportedly shared by Ehsan was deemed blasphemous by the court, even if he did not produce it. He has also been given a 22-year imprisonment and fined a million rupees (around £2,800; a brick-kiln worker would probably earn less than 350,000 rupees a year). Death sentences for blasphemy have never yet resulted in an execution in Pakistan, but they put people like Ehsan at grave risk of being attacked or killed by 'vigilantes'.

PRAY That Ehsan will be acquitted of the charge and kept from harm.

IRAN

New moderate president unlikely to bring change for Christians

Iran's new president, a relative moderate, is unlikely to bring greater freedoms to the country's Christian minority.

"The fact that Pezeshkian, a rather unknown Reformist lawmaker, was able to beat the hardline candidates shows how low the support is for the hardliners among the Iranian population," says Michael Bosch, a persecution analyst. "However, his election won't bring any radical change, simply because the power is in unelected hands, not the elected ones."

The appointment coincides with eight Christians being sent to prison for a combined sentence of up to 45 years. It reflects the intensifying crack-down on converts and their Christian activities. Others detained in a wave of arrests in 2023 have also been sent to prison, with some fined or flogged.

PRAY That those in prison will be sustained by God's love, and that their witness will lead others to Jesus.

*Names changed for security reasons



UK

Amazing generosity of N. Irish charity shop

A Coleraine charity shop has donated all its profits to Open Doors for more than nine years.

"Hope Unwrapped supports Open Doors because, when we hear persecuted people's stories and get their prayers, our hearts are really touched," shares William, who runs the Hope Unwrapped charity shop near Coleraine, N. Ireland, with his wife Margaret (ABOVE). For almost a decade, they've been giving all the shop's profits to the work of Open Doors.

"I'm so struck by the faith of the persecuted church," says Margaret. "To be able to reach out and support that faith is a privilege."

Thank you, William and Margaret! If you live near Coleraine, or are

visiting, do pop into Hope Unwrapped.

Not everyone can run a charity shop – but there are plenty of other ways to fundraise for your persecuted church family! Head to opendoorsuk.org/fundraise for all the info you need.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

You're the answer to Wangué's prayer

After their home in Central African Republic (CAR) was looted by armed rebels, Wangué* asked God, "What do we do now?" Her prayer was answered through your support.

The rebels believed Wangué's husband was the pastor of the nearby church and demanded its tithes and offerings. Her husband insisted he was just a member.

"I prayed in my heart and begged God that they would go away without hurting us," says Wangué. They left the family unharmed, but took away clothing, jars of palm oil that Wangué used to make traditional soap, and all of her husband's cash. "Life became very difficult for us," she says. "We only managed to survive."

"My family in Christ heard about my suffering, and

they came to help me," says Wangué of your support. "You gave me a sum of money that allowed me to restart my business. I paid for products like corn, soda and palm oil. I can take care of my family and support the church."

PRAY For Wangué's business and church to thrive, and the safety of believers in CAR.



Your support means Wangué can again sell her soap at the market

MORE STORIES

- North Korean defector shares her story
- Imprisonment, beekeeping and the power of your prayers
- Reaching out to persecutors in Sri Lanka

Head to opendoorsuk.org/news or follow us @opendoorsuk for more news and updates





Meet Manga from Nigeria – and be inspired in your faith

Despite facing an horrific attack, Manga's faith is undiminished. You can find out how by meeting him at Standing Strong.

"I will not die but live." These are the words of Psalm 118:17 that Manga from Nigeria prayed when Islamic militants from Boko Haram attacked him. "Then something surprising happened. The pain I assumed I'd feel when I'm being slaughtered was not there. I fell unconscious."

Manga and his brother, Daniel, survived the horrific attack on his family, but his father tragically didn't – he paid the ultimate cost for following Jesus. A few years later, their mother was kidnapped by the militant group and held for eight months.

Incredibly, despite all this, the family has grown deeper in their faith. "When God saved my life, I came to realise that it is not because of how much I have been to the Lord, nor because I am Christian, nor my level of spirituality," says Manga. "No; He just loved me for who I am."

PRAY WITH MANGA AND JOHN

Manga has much more to share – and you can be there to hear it, and ask him questions and pray with him! He'll be at two Standing Strong events in Lisburn (Northern Ireland) and Lincoln in October. The visits coincide with the *Arise Africa* campaign, giving you a first-hand glimpse into the dangers facing our family in sub-Saharan Africa and an insight into how you're helping them to stand strong.

"I find the events really encouraging... I get to hear directly from members of my church family I wouldn't hear from otherwise."

STANDING STRONG ATTENDEE

If Tunbridge Wells, Birmingham or Newcastle are nearer to you, there is a precious opportunity for you to meet John from Yemen. After becoming a Christian, he boldly shared his faith on TV and online – and it went viral. He lost his marriage and received death

threats, but his faith, like Manga's, is undiminished. "My heart is to make Him known," he says.

Go to opendoorsuk.org/standingstrong to book your place – and we'd love you to invite your prayer group, or other friends, to join with you.

STANDING STRONG

SOUTH EAST

Saturday 21 September
Christ Church,
Tunbridge Wells

NORTHERN IRELAND

Saturday 5 October
Lagan Valley Vineyard,
Lisburn

EAST MIDLANDS

Saturday 12 October
Alive Central Church, Lincoln

WEST MIDLANDS

Saturday 2 November
Anchor Point Church,
Birmingham

NORTHERN ENGLAND

Saturday 9 November
City Church, Newcastle

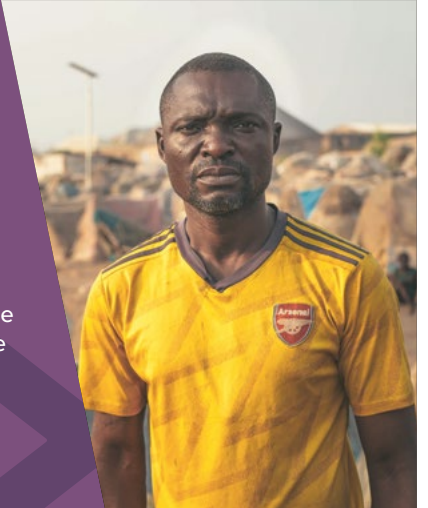
PRAYER WEBINAR

ARISE AFRICA

5 SEPTEMBER | 7.30PM | ONLINE

Join a special *Arise Africa* prayer webinar for persecuted Christians in sub-Saharan Africa. You'll be able to hear stories of courageous faith from the region, and join Open Doors supporters across the country in praying for our African church family.

Register today for you or your small group at opendoorsuk.org/webinars



IDOP ONLINE 2024 UNITING IN PRAYER

Sunday 3 November 2024 | 7.30-8.30pm

Join us to pray for persecuted believers from North Korea, Egypt and Burkina Faso, along with our friends from CSW, Release International and Evangelical Alliance.

Register your free place at opendoorsuk.org/idop



HEROD'S SECRET POLICEMAN

Herod's Secret Policeman is a funny, thought-provoking retelling of the Christmas story – perfect for gently introducing children to the pressures secret Christians still face today.

- 24-page, full-colour story book for children
- 15-minute Nativity play adaptation to use in your church
- Downloadable activities and teaching guide
- Great for Advent services, crib services or Christingle.

Order free copies for you and your church at opendoorsuk.org/herod





**16.2 MILLION AFRICAN
CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN
DISPLACED BY VIOLENCE
AND CONFLICT.**

**NOBODY IS
TALKING ABOUT IT.**

The African church is asking you to stand with them against violent persecution. Please give a gift and sign the global petition today.

Pastor Barnabas lives in a displacement camp in northern Nigeria, alongside thousands of other Christians who've fled violent persecution. There are huge numbers of camps like this in sub-Saharan Africa. In each one, persecuted believers urgently need food and aid, and long-term help.

"We have been starving. If it weren't for the help of your ministry, I don't think it would be easy to live," says Pastor Barnabas.

**STOP THE VIOLENCE.
START THE HEALING.**

Every £35 could help sustain a displaced believer with food, clothing, hygiene products and medical care.



Give your support.
Sign the petition.
Share a prayer.

[opendoorsuk.org/
ariseafrica](https://opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica)