

Open *Doors*

MAGAZINE | November/December 2025

A photograph of three young boys of African descent, smiling and clapping their hands. They are standing behind a round Christmas cake on a wooden table. The boy in the center is wearing a grey button-down shirt with patches. The boy on the left is wearing a tan shirt, and the boy on the right is wearing a dark blue shirt. The cake is decorated with red frosting, white snowflake sprinkles, and a green Christmas tree-shaped decoration. The text 'Unwrap hope' is overlaid on the left side of the image, with the subtitle 'Why persecuted children need you this Christmas' below it.

Unwrap hope
Why persecuted
children need you
this Christmas



HEROD'S SECRET POLICEMAN

Do you want an entertaining way to gently introduce the children in your life to their persecuted church family?

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

Order your free copy today at opendoorsuk.org/herod



WORLD WATCH LIST 2026 ONLINE



WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY / 7.30PM

You're invited to a special online event for the World Watch List launch 2026!

Come and join other Open Doors supporters to pray together for our persecuted church family and the impact of the World Watch List – as well as hear first-hand testimony and highlights from the World Watch List parliamentary launch.

Register today at opendoorsuk.org/webinars

LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE

You can give your persecuted family hope of a brighter future by including a gift to Open Doors in your Will. Your gift will mean a lifetime of support for those who suffer for following Jesus.

If you have not yet made a Will, you can make one for FREE using our partner *Farewill*.

To find out more, go to opendoorsuk.org/legacy or phone 01993 460015.



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.

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Open Doors UK & I

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COVER: Robin* and other vulnerable children from a Muslim background celebrate Christmas together in Bangladesh

*Names changed for security reasons

LETTER FROM HENRIETTA

Faithful to each generation

"His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation." LUKE 1:50

Christmas is traditionally a time for family – our loved ones and 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 plain 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 outcast is like.

Which is why Robin's* story (p6) resonates with me during this season. 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 friendship group and your family mean everything! So for Robin to face rejection from both groups is devastating.

But Robin and his mum 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.

As I look forward to 2026 to see all that God will do, I really want to encourage you to invite your MP to the World Watch List launch in parliament in January; your voice as a voter makes a difference! Please pray for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we seek fresh ways to speak to the minds and hearts of our parliamentarians.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and blessed Christmas,



Henrietta

Henrietta Blyth
CEO, Open Doors UK&I

P.S. Here's how you can invite your MP to the World Watch List launch on 14 January 2026: use the tear-off slip with this magazine, or go to opendoorsuk.org

WORLD WATCH LIST BULLETIN

MALAYSIA

Koh kidnap verdict expected

Following the conclusion of the court case into Pastor Raymond Koh's disappearance in Malaysia, Susanna Koh and her family expect to receive a verdict on Wednesday 5 November.

Pastor Raymond was abducted in broad daylight in February 2017. He's not been heard from since. The evidence suggests that he was abducted by the Malaysian authorities because of his Christian faith and his role as an evangelist.

"We sensed God fighting for us," says Susanna in a message to Open Doors. "What we do know is that what man meant for evil, God turned it to good (Genesis 50:20)." She praised God that her husband's story of sacrifice had spread worldwide.

PRAY For truth and justice to prevail, and for closure for the family.

Susanna (CENTRE) with her son Jonathan and daughter Esther



Alissa (RIGHT) with her mum and sister preparing for Christmas

MEXICO "Jesus understands me"

Ten-year-old Alissa in Mexico has suffered greatly for her faith, including losing pets and her closest friendship. But helped by you, she's pressing on with hope and courage.

"Christians are rejected because we don't follow the traditions," says Alissa, living in an indigenous community with her family. "We don't live the way they expect us to."

Locals poisoned her family's pets, including a puppy who licked Alissa's sister after being poisoned, leaving her needing hospital treatment. "It hurt so much to lose my pets and to see my sister sick." Furthermore, her best friend stopped playing

with her and classmates bully her. "They call me names or leave me out."

Alissa attended a children's version of persecution survival training, hosted by local Open Doors partners, which helped her realise that she's not alone. "Jesus understands me because He also suffered persecution."

Strong in her faith, Alissa is excited for the coming festive season. "Christmas means that Jesus, the Saviour, was born. It's important because we're together as a family and we remember that Jesus came into the world."

PRAY For precious times of joy for Alissa and her family over Christmas.

CENTRAL ASIA

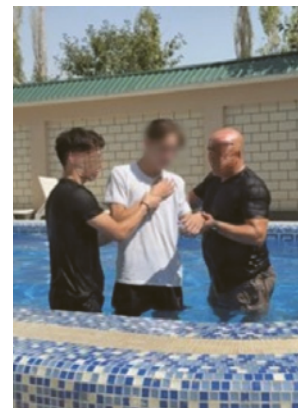
Courageous and joyful baptism

A young Christian called Yuru* (BELOW) says he felt 'incredible joy and freedom' as he was baptised alongside seven others at a youth camp in Central Asia!

"I went to camp with a decision, but also with excitement: would I get baptised, was I ready for this step?" he shares. "Through the lectures, God spoke to my heart. I was especially touched by the idea that light cannot be hidden, it must shine. I didn't want to hide myself anymore."

"The support of brothers and sisters, prayers, and unity together, gave me courage. This is a moment I will never forget!"

PRAISE GOD For the baptisms and for the five teenagers who became Christians at the camp.



Yuru is baptised at a camp that you helped support

BANGLADESH

Christian publicly humiliated

"I will no longer preach Christianity." That's what a believer in Bangladesh was forced to say as he was publicly humiliated by a group of Islamist extremists.

Nirmal teaches literacy to mainly Hindu labourers in a rural area where there is little access to education, often using Bible stories to bring to life the gift of reading and writing. However, his approach angered extremists, who filmed their assault on him and shared it on social media.

Attacks on Christians in Bangladesh have intensified following the ousting of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last August, bringing political and social unrest. With elections due next year, tensions could well escalate, adding to the vulnerability of Christians.

PRAY For Nirmal's healing, and for an end to attacks against Christians and other minorities.

DRC

100 killed in latest spate of attacks

At least 100 Christians were killed, and hundreds more kidnapped, in another wave of devastating attacks in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The attacks in September were carried out by Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an extremist Islamist group with links to so-called Islamic State. The first ambush was on believers attending a funeral.

"The massacres are weakening the faith of Christians," says Rev. Alili, a local pastor. "Please, brothers and sisters, let us unite in prayer to counter the enemy. God says if He does not watch over the house, those who watch, watch in vain. Let us pray together for the Christians of the east of the DRC."

PRAY For strength, comfort and hope for all those affected, and for an end to these attacks.

MORE STORIES

- 70 detained in crackdown on churches in China
- Wrongfully convicted Nigerian Christian walks free
- Iran's state media labels Christians 'spies'

Head to opendoorsuk.org/news or follow us @[opendoorsuk](https://twitter.com/opendoorsuk) for more news and updates





UNWRAP HOPE FOR ROBIN THIS CHRISTMAS

For 11-year-old Robin*, Christmas is a bright light in a world that often feels dark and lonely. It's a day to unwrap gifts and gather at church, full of excitement. It's a day of cutting a cake together and singing carols with other children. It's a day of knowing you belong... and Robin doesn't get many of those.

In Bangladesh, Robin's faith marks him out. At school and around the village, people don't even use his name: they simply call him 'the Christian'.

REJECTED BY CLASSMATES

Recently, when a classmate sat next to Robin at school, another boy taunted him: "Why are you sitting with him? He's not a Muslim, he's a Christian." It was as though an invisible wall formed around Robin. Nobody would sit next to him. Other children wouldn't play with him.

"I want to play too, but I can't even ask them out of fear," says Robin softly. "I just sit there and feel very lonely. I feel sad when they treat me like this. But I will never do the same to them. As a

believer, we should not hurt others, even if they hurt us.”

A HATEFUL CAMPAIGN

Robin has often felt rejected by other children at school – but persecution took on a terrifying new dimension last year. After Bangladesh’s prime minister was ousted in August 2024, political disorder erupted across the country (see below). The chaos emboldened some radical Muslims to take advantage of the situation and increase their targeting of religious minorities – including Christian families like Robin’s.

A local extremist group started waging a hateful campaign against Robin’s

family and ten other local Christian families. The group printed and distributed leaflets, accusing the families – by name – of trying to coerce Muslims to convert to Christianity. It put them in incredible danger.

“They burned everything to the ground.”

MOLY’S CONVERSION

Like many of Bangladesh’s small Christian population, Robin’s family had converted from Islam. Moly*, his mum, asked to borrow her neighbour’s *Kitabul Mukaddas* – the Bible – and read Matthew



Robin’s church was under threat from extremists (re-enactment image)

7:7: “Ask, and it will be given to you.” Moly was amazed that a God would listen to her prayers. It was the start of a journey that led to her husband, Jubayer*, and Robin also deciding to follow Jesus.

That made the extremist Muslims in their community very angry.

TURMOIL IN BANGLADESH

Political protests erupted in Bangladesh in August 2024, leading to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigning – and they have cast a long shadow over the nation’s Christian minority.

The protests were largely started by student groups angry about job quota systems, but this was just the beginning. Radical Islamist groups used the ensuing chaos as a smokescreen for targeting Christians and other religious minorities – particularly converts from Islam.

“In many areas, radical groups are compiling lists of converts to attack their houses,” a local Open Doors partner shared in 2024. “No one is secure – they are very vulnerable and easy targets for the perpetrators.”

The chaos hasn’t abated: in the 15 months since, there have been many resurgences of violence.

Christians’ homes and businesses continue to be targeted, and many believers have been attacked or received



PICTURED Homes were vandalised, burnt down or destroyed

death threats. “The lack of justice and accountability for perpetrators of persecution further exacerbates the situation,” adds Rajon*, another local partner. “We urge you to pray faithfully for the safety of persecuted Christians in Bangladesh.”

Read more at opendoorsuk.org/bangladesh

As converts, they were particularly vulnerable – even young Robin.

“Persecution can be influenced by religious beliefs and teachings, with some Muslim leaders portraying Christians as enemies and promoting the idea of establishing a 100% Islamic state,” explains Rajon*, a local Open Doors partner.

“False teachings and misinformation about Christianity perpetuated by some Muslims contribute to a culture of hatred and discrimination against non-Muslims. This agenda includes converting Christians back to Islam and targeting church leaders and families to instil fear and pressure them to renounce their faith.”

CHURCH DESTROYED

The accusations in the pamphlets worked like a poison through the agitated community. One morning, about 11 o’clock, a furious mob of 40-50 people descended on their small house church.

“We had a church, our meeting house,” remembers Robin. “That’s where we all used to worship. Then some of the local imams [Muslim religious leaders] and some others came and destroyed our church. They were yelling, ‘You are Christians!’ and ‘Christians can’t live here!’ They came to kill us.”

Thankfully, the believers were warned and managed to flee just in time. When the mob found the house church empty, they turned their anger upon the building and the Bibles they found inside.

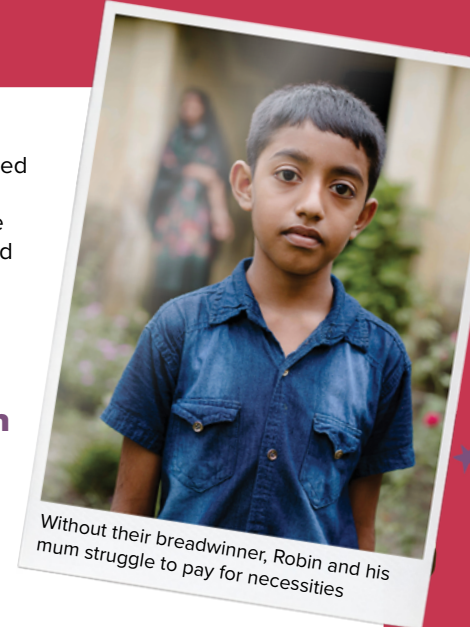
“I feel sad when they treat me like this.”

“They started setting things on fire,” says Robin. “They burned the *Kitabul Mukaddas*. They burned everything to the ground. They completely destroyed it.”

AN ULTIMATUM

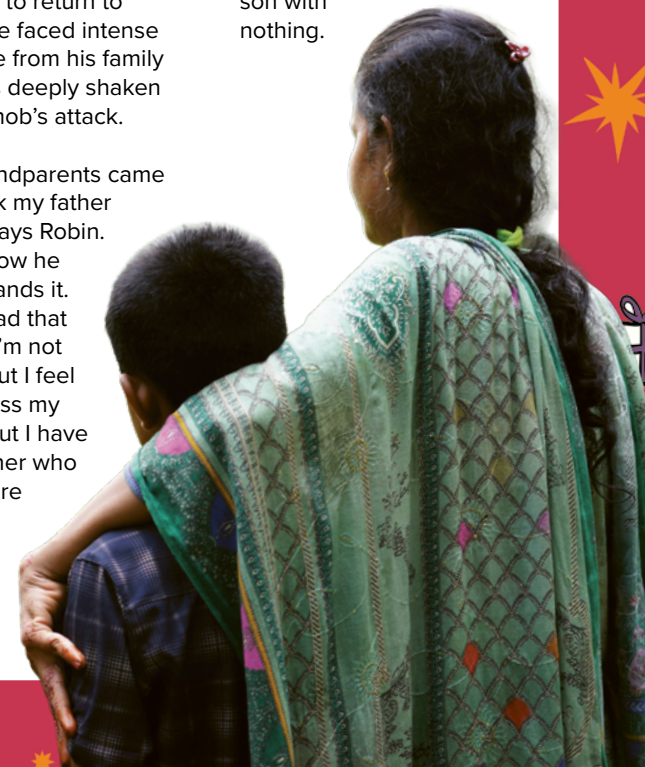
The attack had a long-lasting impact on Robin’s family. His dad, Jubayer, decided to return to Islam. He faced intense pressure from his family and was deeply shaken by the mob’s attack.

“My grandparents came and took my father away,” says Robin. That’s how he understands it. “I feel bad that he left. I’m not angry, but I feel sad. I miss my father, but I have my mother who takes care of me.”



Without their breadwinner, Robin and his mum struggle to pay for necessities

Jubayer gave Moly an ultimatum: renounce Christianity and return to Islam, or he would divorce her. Moly knew she and Robin could never turn their backs on Jesus. And so, as Jubayer had threatened, he divorced Moly – leaving her and their son with nothing.



Today, Moly's brother – a day-labourer – carries the burden of providing for them all. Their financial situation is desperate, and Robin's education has been at risk because of the cost of school fees. His father has refused to provide any financial help, as long as Moly and Robin remain committed to Jesus.

Robin is only young, and yet he has experienced persecution in multiple ways. Rejection by children who should be friends. Violence from adults who should be gentle. Poverty, because the man who should provide for him has, instead, abandoned him.

A TREASURED BIBLE

Moly and Robin still face pressure from Jubayer's family, as well as the threat

of further violence from the Islamist extremists, but their faith is too precious to abandon. Moly teaches Robin Bible stories, helps him memorise Scripture and teaches her son what it means to follow Jesus. Open Doors local partners have given Robin a children's Bible, and he treasures it (BELOW).

One of their favourite verses is Colossians 2:2-3: "My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

"Wisdom comes from Jesus," Robin explains. "My mother prays for me every day to receive that wisdom."

He also loves the story of David – and his favourite part of the story is not when he was a powerful king, but when he was a young boy. "My mother reads from the children's Bible

we were given, and tells me stories," says Robin. "I like the shepherd boy, David. God said, 'This is the king.' Then he was made king on the throne – and he was a little boy."

It's clear that Robin can empathise with a young boy following



Their faith remains steadfast through the opposition

God, underestimated by many and with powerful enemies – yet chosen by God as His own.

"We cut a cake for Jesus's birthday and have a lot of fun."

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

At Christmas, of course, Robin reads about Jesus's birth in his children's Bible. It's a special time, because he and Moly gather with other Bangladeshi families who have converted from Islam. Other children who know what Robin's life is like.

"On that day, I wear new clothes and we go to church," says Robin. "We cut a cake for Jesus's birthday, then we wear red hats, we eat cake, and have a lot of fun. We play with everyone." He is keen to

share the delight with as many people as possible: "If there were more people, it would be even more joyful!"

It's clearly an unforgettable day.

It is a joyful and freeing time, run by Open Doors local partners and made possible by people like you. A similar special gathering happens at Easter. But these are just two days out of the year: Moly and Robin need the support of Open Doors partners all year round.

UNWRAP HOPE FOR ROBIN

As well as the children's Bible and special gatherings, these local partners are stepping in with vital food and relief aid. They're also paying Robin's school costs so that his education can continue. From practical aid to spiritual nourishment, your help for children like Robin is a tangible reminder that they are seen, loved and remembered by their global church family – helping strengthen and grow the next generation of the church. Millions of children around the world need this encouragement today, and for the long-term.

Robin's life has been torn apart by persecution. He has lost family, community and safety. Your Christmas gift and prayers today can unwrap hope for him.



PLEASE PRAY

"Thank you all for praying for us," says Robin. "We are strangers, yet you are praying for us."

- Robin's prayer request is: "That people stop mocking me and that I can make new friends."
- That Robin and other persecuted children would know God's Fatherly love, encouragement and protection

- For Robin's dad to be convicted again by Christ's love, and the family to reunite
- For Open Doors local partners to be equipped as they serve persecuted families in Bangladesh and around the world.



WRITE TO ROBIN

You can send a special message of hope to Robin! This Christmas, you're invited to write a letter to encourage Robin, and other children who also face persecution for their faith. It would mean a great deal to know they are remembered by their uncles and aunties around the world. Find out how at opendoorsuk.org/write



At Christmas, Robin can share a joyful time with other Christian children

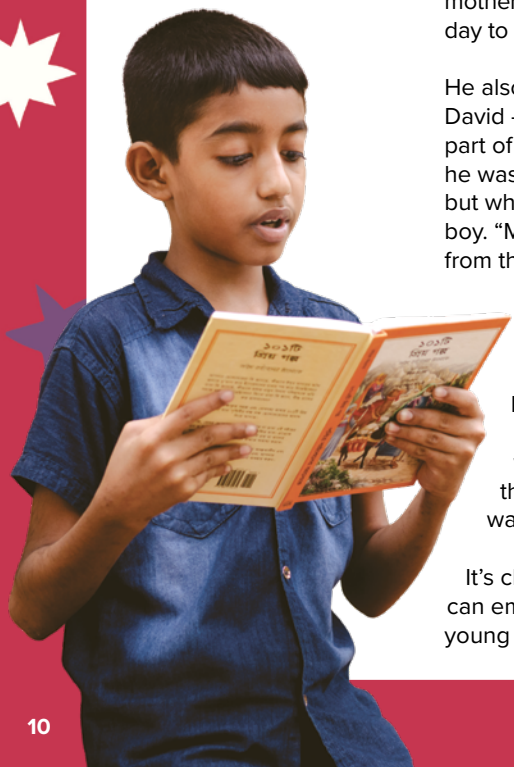


PLEASE GIVE

Every £21 could give three children a Bible to help nurture their faith.

- **Every £34** could support two persecuted families with much-needed emergency relief.
- **Every £62** could help a family attend a seasonal gathering, making valuable, lasting friendships with Christian community.

You can send a gift in your enclosed envelope or at opendoorsuk.org/children



Persecuted
Christians in Mali
receiving your
support



**"YOUR HELP IS
INVALUABLE TO US"**
YOUR IMPACT IN 2025

Where would our persecuted family be without you? It's a thought echoed in the messages here, reinforcing the critical difference you've made this year in helping our family to remain resilient as they follow Jesus no matter the cost. Thank you!

LIFESAVING SUPPORT

We began the year inviting you to smuggle light into the countries where persecution is most extreme – and that includes North Korea. Through networks outside the country, Open Doors fieldworkers bring vital support – thanks to you.

"Whenever we face any difficulties and spiritual heavy storms, we're not

afraid," says a secret believer. "Your help is invaluable to us." This has been particularly crucial given food shortages and inflation.

**"Our faith is
strengthened daily."**

"Many people are sick. That's why your medicines are lifesavers."

"Whilst it's by God's grace that we, the underground church, have been preserved, it would never have been possible without your thoughtful care and support," says another believer. "We continue to pray and strive unceasingly to fulfil the Great Commission. Our faith is strengthened daily."

COURAGEOUS WITNESS

In the summer, we told you about Yasin* in Iraq. With your help, he continues to take extraordinary risks to reveal the gospel to others. In June, he awoke to another threatening letter. "Stop what you're doing, or we will kill you," it said. "Sometimes, we are even afraid to go outside," says Yasin.

And yet, with astonishing courage, he keeps sharing the gospel. We told you about two people he'd introduced to Jesus, and now a further two are exploring faith. Through social media, he's preached to a Mullah (Islamic leader) and prayed with him. He's now reading the Bible.

Crucial to Yasin's brave faith and witness are the conferences and seminars hosted by local partners that he attends. Thank you!

Pray for protection, strength and provision for Yasin and his family, and healing for his wife following surgery.

A GUARDIAN GESTURE

Earlier this year, for the See. Change. campaign, you met Jorina from Bangladesh. Sadly, like many Christians in the country, political upheaval has made her situation worse, but it could have been even more critical were it not for you.

Following intensifying pressure, the family heard that an Islamist group planned to capture them. "We called and informed the local [Open Doors] partner," says Jorina. "They stood beside us. All our church

members came to guard the church. They guarded it for two to three days. With a thankful heart, I want to say that it was truly a kind gesture."

Your support is helping Jorina to persevere – and that also means her passion to serve other persecuted women remains undiminished. "I want to pray for those women who have tears in their eyes. Some may be going through even greater persecution than

me. If we live, we should live for the Lord. If we die, let it be for the glory of the Lord."



Jorina is persevering, with your help

TIMELY HELP

Since sharing his story of repeated displacement with you, Pastor Yang* and his family in Myanmar were displaced yet again.

As conflict escalated, they fled to a safer place where local partners helped with



Pastor Yang in Myanmar remains resilient

rental and food support. "It was a timely help during our time of need," he says.

Two months later, with some peace restored, the family returned. It was a courageous, selfless step. "As a pastor, I'm responsible for looking after the remaining believers in the village. We also feel unsafe here, but we choose to stay," he says.

"The reason we remain resilient amidst persecution and hardship is because of the persecution survival

training we've received," adds the pastor, who now facilitates the course among local believers.

**"I truly believe it's
because of your
prayers that we're
still safe today."**

Pastor Yang also acknowledges the impact of your prayers. "We rely on your prayers for our safety, and I truly believe it's because of those prayers that we're still safe today."

THANK YOU - PLEASE KEEP GOING!

Thank you for helping our persecuted family remain resilient in 2025 – not just by praying and giving, but also by volunteering, fundraising and speaking out.

Going into 2026, our persecuted family will again rely on you to stand strong daily. What role can you play? If you don't already, why not consider committing to praying and/or giving regularly? Head to opendoorsuk.org to explore what your support could look like going into the New Year. Thank you!



WHY INVITE YOUR MP TO THE WORLD WATCH LIST LAUNCH?

ABOVE David Smith MP, the UK's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, sharing at the 2025 World Watch List parliamentary launch LEFT Ruth Jones MP © House of Commons / Roger Harris



Ruth Jones is MP for Newport West and Islwyn. She is hosting the launch of the World Watch List 2026 in Parliament on 14 January 2026.

The whole reason I stood to be a Member of Parliament is to represent what is important to the people who live in my area. After six years in the House of Commons, one of the most powerful things that still influences me is hearing directly from my constituents. Every week I receive hundreds of emails and letters in my office. But it's the ones that come from people I see in the supermarket, at church, or when walking

around the constituency that always make the biggest impression. When a constituent tells me, face to face or in writing, that an issue matters to them, it makes me stop and listen

That's one of the reasons I attended my first World Watch List launch in 2020. That year, despite the general election in December, I received dozens of separate letters from constituents and local churches asking me to attend and explaining why the persecuted church is so important to them. I am so glad I did. Freedom of religion or belief is an issue that is close to my heart. The examples of those who have endured loss, unjust eviction, rejection from work, and even imprisonment solely for their faith are

a source of inspiration and guidance for me.

PERSECUTION IS A CORE CONCERN

I am not unique in this. Many of my colleagues, regardless of political background, share similar sentiments. They too receive dozens of invitations from their constituents to the World Watch List launch, and it is widely accepted across the House that the persecuted church is a core concern across the country. Last year, 107 MPs attended the 2025 launch. This happened because more than 7,000 people invited their MP to attend and were praying for them.

But inviting your MP is not just about asking them to attend one event. It gives them an opportunity to

hear stories from Christians who have chosen to follow Jesus, even when it comes at great cost. The stories are powerful and often heartbreaking, and for many of us they help shape our comments and positions in debates and committees throughout the year.

WILL YOUR MP TAKE NOTICE?

You might think: "Why would my MP take notice of me?" But the truth is, we do. We are elected to represent you in Parliament and, regardless of party, we take that responsibility seriously. I can honestly say that hearing directly from constituents has shaped the way I've voted, the questions I've asked, and the issues I've raised in Parliament. You don't need to be an expert, you just

need to share why it matters to you. That is often more persuasive than statistics or speeches.

If you would like your MP to attend the World Watch List 2026 launch, here are some practical steps you can take:



Find your MP's contact details.

You can do this easily by typing your postcode into parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps.



Write a short letter or email.

Introduce yourself and explain why the persecution of Christians around the world matters to you. Make sure you ask them to attend the World Watch List launch on Wednesday 14 January 2026 in the Attlee Suite (4-5pm).



Make it personal.

Share why this is important, whether it's through your faith, a story you've heard, or your concern for human rights.



Pray for your MP.

Pray both that they will attend the World Watch List launch and for the important job they do throughout the year.

Invite your MP using the invitation attached to your magazine letter, or the approach Ruth Jones outlines above! Find out more at opendoorsuk.org/advocacy





NOW PEOPLE ARE TALKING

16.2 million Christians are displaced by violence and conflict in sub-Saharan Africa: Pastor Barnabas in Nigeria said, “Nobody is talking about it.” Through Open Doors’ *Arise Africa* campaign, that is slowly beginning to change.

A SUMMER OF SIGNATURES

Voices of the African church were heard loud and clear at festivals this summer. At New Wine, Pastor Barnabas’ video was shared with 6,000 people (PICTURED) and, during the festival, more than 3,000 signed the *Arise Africa* petition. At the youth festival Limitless, Pastor Boureima from Burkina Faso shared his story with 6,000 young people, with almost 1,000 signing the petition. Across all festivals – including CreationFest, David’s Tent, Satellites and Magnitude – an incredible 9,668 people added their voice to the *Arise Africa* petition, calling for protection, justice and restoration for our persecuted family in sub-Saharan Africa.

That means that over 250,000 people have already signed the global petition that we plan to take to the African Union, UN and international governments in 2026.

A TIMELY PHONE CALL

When people talk about this persecution, our family in Africa feel less alone – people like Hakuri and her 11 children in Niger. When Islamist militants attacked their village, Hakuri disguised her sons as daughters. “We clothed them with head coverings, skirts and wrappers and then we took to the road,” she says. The disguise saved their lives – the militants shot dead any men and boys they found, including Hakuri’s husband.

“Life is so difficult for me and my children,” she says. Their plight highlights why husbands and fathers are often targeted by extremists: it paralyses whole families, communities and even churches.

But then a phone call arrived, easing Hakuri’s worries. “My pastor called me and told me

that Open Doors partners sent him money to buy a bag of rice, oil and other food for my children,” she shares. Hakuri also received vital trauma care. “I see changes in my life.”

CAN YOU GET MORE PEOPLE TALKING?

Thank you for your support for the campaign. Your gifts, prayers, fundraising, or simply talking about the issue with others are already making a difference.

But the need remains huge. Going into 2026, can you help get even more people talking about it? If you’ve yet to already, start by signing and sharing the petition at opendoorsuk.org/ariseafrica. Thank you!

Kindle a flame of hope and pray with the persecuted this IDOP

Join us in November for a 12-hour prayer vigil in person (and online)

“Whenever you pray for us, know that a new flame of hope is kindled in our hearts,” says Khada* from Afghanistan. “In a world that often forgets us, just knowing that someone, somewhere, is praying with a bright heart for us means that we are seen.”

Our persecuted brothers and sisters, like Khada, know how vital prayer is. And that’s why the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) is such a privilege and opportunity to unite as a global church in prayer.

JOIN A SPECIAL PRAYER VIGIL

To mark IDOP this year, Open Doors UK&I is hosting a special 12-hour prayer vigil – 8am to 8pm – at our headquarters in Witney, Oxfordshire. The day is split up into themes to help guide

your prayers: World Watch List top 10, rights of converts, *Arise Africa*, persecuted women, India, secret believers, mission and unity, and the next generation. The final hour (mission and unity) will also be livestreamed online for those who can’t make it in person.

“Whenever you pray for us, know that a new flame of hope is kindled in our hearts.”

Khada, Afghanistan

This is an amazing opportunity to bring your small groups and churches along! Whether you come for the whole day or just part of it, your prayers will make a huge difference.

“ONLY THROUGH MOBILISING THE CHURCH”

A year after the first IDOP, in 1997, the World Evangelical

Alliance presented Brother Andrew with the inaugural Religious Liberty Award, in recognition of his services to the persecuted church. On receiving the award, he said: “Only through mobilising the church to pray for those who are persecuted for their faith in Christ will we see a significant shift in the involvement in their plight.”

Don’t miss out on this amazing opportunity to unite our voices with the whole body of Christ worldwide and call for God’s kingdom to come and break into the darkest places!



Saturday 15 November | 8am-8pm (drop in) | Witney, Oxfordshire | Online: 7-8pm

Places are limited: find out more and book your free place at opendoorsuk.org/idop



Dayang

FROM SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

Dayang* (15) only has one friend at school: the only student who isn't afraid to sit next to her. Her Christian faith in a majority-Muslim region of the Southern Philippines makes her an outcast. "I believe in Jesus, because He's always there when I have problems," Dayang says.

She's regularly mocked for her prayers by other students and avoided because of her beliefs. "They say I shouldn't be a Christian. It hurts when people treat me differently. Because in our tribe, we're expected to be Muslim."

Jasmin*, Dayang's mother, was the first to come to know Christ. She has also

faced rejection from their community and extended family, so she knows how Dayang feels. While Dayang's father isn't a Christian, he does allow her and Jasmin to practise their faith.

"I won't let go of Jesus."

But Dayang doesn't only suffer mocking and exclusion – the persecution against her has turned violent too. One afternoon, on her way home, some of Dayang's classmates threw stones at her as they yelled, "Traitor! Traitor!" She ran all the way back home, shaking, bruised and devastated.

And yet, every day, with immense courage, she picks

EYEWITNESS

up her school bag and goes back into the classroom.

"When I got home, I cried out to God," she says. "I knew He was there for me. It hurts, but I won't let go of Jesus."

FINDING FRIENDS AND A FUTURE

Sharing her faith with her mother is a comfort. They pray and read the Bible together, strengthening and encouraging each other. And, thanks to your gifts and prayers, Dayang knows she has a wider Christian family supporting her.

Open Doors partners invited her to attend Timothy Training, a youth leadership programme run in connection with local churches. It's a safe space for young believers like her, where she can open her Bible, sing and share her heart with others who understand. Together with other young Christians, she is disciplined, and her leadership skills are honed to prepare her for future church leadership. The church in the Southern Philippines needs courageous leaders like Dayang.

CHRISTMAS IN COMMUNITY

Another bright spot in the year for Dayang and her mother is Christmas. While

the Philippines is famous for having the longest Christmas season in the world – some celebrations begin as early as September! – in Dayang and Jasmin's community it's barely acknowledged. "We knew of it," Dayang explains, "but it wasn't for us."

"When we're together at Christmas, it's a moment of joy."

Now they get to celebrate it together with their house church. It's one of the few times they are surrounded by others who share their faith. The group exchanges small gifts, shares meals, sings songs, and reflects on Jesus together. There are lights, decorations and joyful music. Sometimes they even go to a nearby island to swim and enjoy a peaceful day together.

"We don't have much, but when we're together at Christmas, it's a moment of joy," Dayang says. "I like the gift-giving and the prayers. It reminds me that Jesus is with us."

BELOW At home, Dayang's mother reads the Bible and prays with her

Word

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

Wait

The support of Dayang's mum, Timothy Training and other Christians helps Dayang to be joyful, patient and faithful. Do you struggle with finding joy, patience or faithfulness? Take some time to bring it before God and ask for His help.

Witness

Dayang says she won't let go of Jesus. How can you encourage someone going through a difficult season or situation to keep holding onto Him?

Pray

Despite the hostility she faces at school, Dayang returns there every day. Pray for continued courage, and that her witness as a Christian will draw students and teachers to the light and love of Christ.

Respond

Open Doors' weekly email sends you the latest prayer requests and stories straight to your inbox, helping you remember, connect with and pray for your persecuted church family. You can find emails to suit everyone, including monthly updates, youth-focused stories and advocacy information. Choose your email at opendoorsuk.org/subscribe



UNWRAP HOPE

FOR A PERSECUTED CHILD



This Christmas, Robin needs his family around the world to give him the gift of hope.

Robin* (11) in Bangladesh faces bullying, violent threats, even rejection by his dad – all because he courageously follows Jesus Christ. “I feel sad when they treat me like this,” he says.

Like many children, his faith means poverty and persecution. Today, will you unwrap hope for Robin?

Every £34 could support two persecuted families with much-needed emergency relief.

Visit opendoorsuk.org or call 01993 460015 to make your Christmas gift today. Thank you.

*Name changed



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