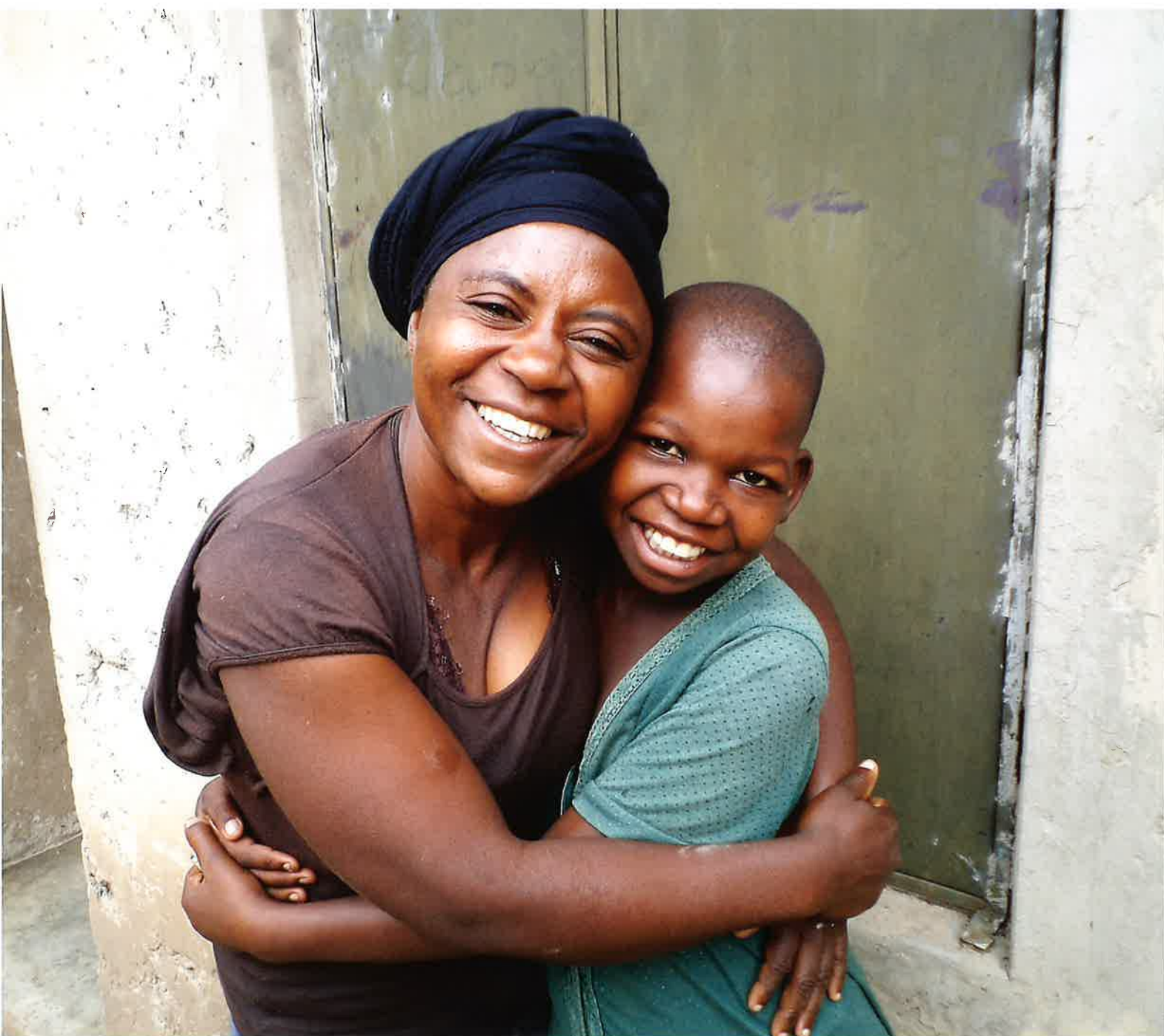


What's your legacy?

How to take care of your persecuted family in your Will



"If we hope
for a change
in the world,
the change
will have to
begin in us."

– Brother Andrew

My dear friend,

Whenever I visit Christians who are living with persecution, the first thing they say is, "Please pray for us." And they are overwhelmed with gratitude when I tell them there are thousands of supporters in the UK and Ireland who are walking with them in prayer.

No doubt you feel very deeply about the brothers and sisters whom you read about, meet and pray for, considering them as part of your own family. And in the same way that you would want to help your own family in your Will, including Open Doors is a way of providing for your extended family in Christ.

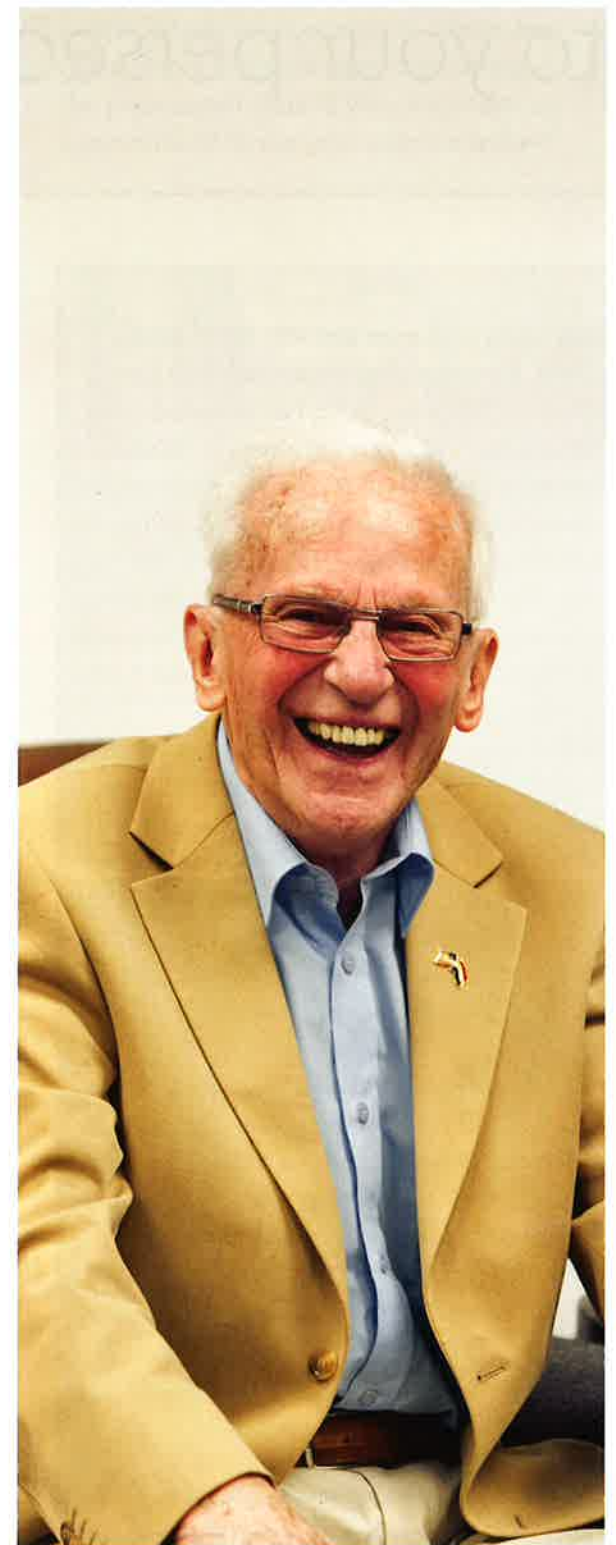
Putting Open Doors in your Will is so easy to do, and the hope you can bring to thousands of lives – now and long into the future – is truly amazing.

It's been over 60 years since I drove my Volkswagen Beetle behind the Iron Curtain to deliver Bibles to Christians the world had forgotten. My story proves that ordinary people can do extraordinary things, and that with God's help we can all make a real difference to the lives of our suffering brothers and sisters.

I commend this booklet to you. Please take time to read it and may God guide you to do what is right – to put Open Doors in your Will and help your suffering family now and always.



Brother Andrew
Founder, Open Doors



Your legacy could give hope to your persecuted family

It is likely you may already have made a Will. However, solicitors say that two thirds of Wills are out of date and do not reflect current circumstances or wishes. Is now a good time for you to prayerfully consider reviewing and revising your Will? This booklet explains why a gift in your Will to Open Doors is so important in providing for the future of your Christian family who are persecuted for their faith.

Brother Andrew's life is a testament to the fruit that comes from obedience. His 'step of yes' to God in 1955 led him to risk everything to smuggle Bibles behind the Iron Curtain. Today, Open Doors reaches Christians across the world, giving vital encouragement, hope and practical help so they can stand strong through the storms of persecution.

Give life for generations to come

Like Brother Andrew, you're living your life in faith, blessing others and listening to God. You'll see some of the fruit of your faithfulness in your lifetime, but some remains unseen – for now, at least. If you choose to add Open Doors to your Will, you can have confidence that your legacy will continue to bear fruit far into the future, and into eternity.

At Open Doors, our call is to offer long-term committed support to our persecuted church family. Thank you so much for the part you already play.

By adding a gift to Open Doors to your Will, you can be confident it will be a true

testament to your beliefs and a continuation of the faithful life you've lived on earth.

Your Will could give hope

Gifts left to charity are not taxable, so leaving a legacy could reduce inheritance tax.

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it" – 1 Corinthians 12:26



Gifts in Wills have helped displaced Christians in Mexico with legal counsel and humanitarian aid.

Why including Open Doors in your Will matters

The gifts supporters leave to Open Doors in their Wills are vitally important. The promise of help long into the future frees us to make an important promise to those who will look to us for spiritual and practical support when their need is greatest. Your legacy gift means we can say to them, "We will be there. We will stand with you when the time comes. You won't be alone."

Currently, gifts from Wills account for just under 10 per cent of our income, which means there is a huge opportunity for us to do more for our suffering brothers and sisters now and far into the future, too. If everyone who wants to support the persecuted church, like you, could make this special provision for us in their Will, if you could help us deliver more Bibles to those who are still denied access to God's Word.

Imagine the impact of training and equipping more Sunday School teachers so that tomorrow's children could learn that Jesus loves them. Too many children in the world are growing up not knowing this vital truth.

We could provide more training to the next generation of eager pastors and church leaders. We could support the families of those who will be killed or imprisoned for their faith with practical sustenance such as food, shelter and the livelihood skills they need to provide for their families.

We can do all these things now and for years to come with a simple promise from you today in your Will. It won't cost you anything right away, but it will mean a lifetime of support for those, who in the future will suffer for following Jesus.

Don't put it off

Many people leave it too late to protect the people they love with an up-to-date Will. Even if you have made a Will, it is very important to review it regularly to ensure it still takes account of all your wishes. All kinds

of things can affect what is in your Will, such as the birth of a grandchild or the death of a spouse, a change of address or the end of a career when you retire. Updating your Will is also an ideal opportunity to remember Open Doors and your extended family – the persecuted church. Why not make an appointment to see your solicitor today?



A gift in your Will could help a persecuted Christian like Basima (top) to rebuild her house in Syria or provide support for a believer like Brother Viktor (bottom). After attacks on his taxi business, Viktor set up a quail farm with a micro-loan from Open Doors.*

**name changed for security reasons*

Your legacy could keep on helping long into the future

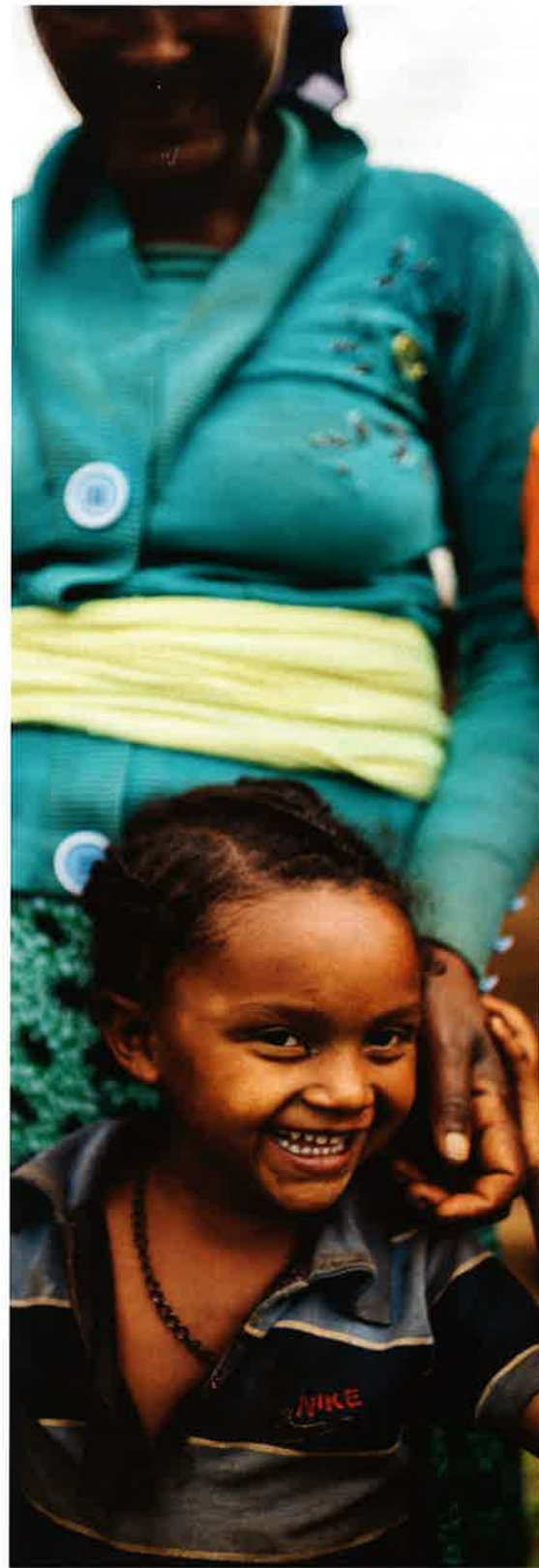
A gift to Open Doors in your Will is a generous blessing to your brothers and sisters who are suffering for their faith. It also offers long-term advantages, making a legacy gift a wise and effective way to steward your resources.

A generous system of tax relief means that any legacy gift to charity is currently exempt from inheritance tax (charged at 40 per cent). A lower rate of tax (36 per cent) is applicable on estates where 10 per cent or more is donated. A gift to Open Doors in your Will may mean that more of your estate is available to share with the people you care about.

A gift in your Will doesn't just last a day, but a lifetime. Your generosity now will provide years of ongoing help and support to persecuted Christians when they need it most.

"The world and its desires will pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." – 1 John 2:17

Ethiopian widow Buze has nine children. Open Doors has helped her buy food, pay for school fees, set up a business and receive trauma relief through our widow care programme. A gift in your Will could help others like Buze.



Your legacy could offer hope to Christians in the Middle East

When war and persecution threaten Christians in the Middle East, Open Doors offers a lifeline through a worldwide network of hope. A gift in your Will could help to ensure that the body of Christ can take care of our suffering family long into the future.

Food, medicines, homes, healing, hope and encouragement – these are just some of the things Open Doors has provided for our church family in the Middle East.

In Syria, Lamis, a widow from Aleppo, says, "We have many days when we do not have money for food. We now get food from the church. The support of the church is a real support for us."

Meanwhile, Antoine, also from Aleppo, receives medicine through a local Open Doors partner. He says, "The church gives us medication for me and for my wife. This help gave us hope in life. Without this help, we would not be able to buy the medicine. We thank God for your support, especially for the elderly like us. May God bless your work."

Every £308 could provide emergency relief for a family in Syria for a whole year. This could include food, clothing, medicines, shelter, and heating during the freezing winter.



A legacy gift could help displaced Christians like Samouh and Nima (top) receive food and clothes - and obtain medicines at reasonable prices from this church-run pharmacy (bottom), supported by Open Doors.

Your legacy could provide for the needs of your Christian family

Your Will is an opportunity to bless and provide for those you love and care about after you've gone. If you include a gift to Open Doors, however small, you'll be blessing your wider family in Christ in their hour of greatest need.

You don't have to be rich in monetary wealth to put Open Doors in your Will – simply rich in spirit. Your kindness will be rewarded in eternity.

When your suffering brothers and sisters face their darkest hour, you will be there with them in spirit and your support will be there in practice, to sustain and strengthen them as never before.

"Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40

Andreas, Open Doors Overseas Director says: "We are so grateful for the amazing support and prayers from our supporters, many of whom have given sacrificially for very many years.

When I visit our teams in the field it is so encouraging to be able to say we can continue to support our long-term commitment amidst the turmoil, and that we would love to grow into more of such commitments. We are making a commitment and we would love to have your commitment as well.

That is why legacies, which now account for about 10 per cent of income, are so vital. This enables more of our persecuted brothers and sisters to receive hope, encouragement and practical support. The Bibles, literature, discipleship and training Open Doors provides has a huge impact in strengthening the church. I encourage supporters to include a gift to Open Doors in their Will, and play their part in extending the Kingdom of God for the next generation."

Every £5,000 could provide literacy and vocational training to 62 persecuted believers in Pakistan.



Your legacy could continue the work you've begun

Including Open Doors in your Will is a wonderful way of providing lasting support for your extended family in Christ. For Ken and Mu', who had supported persecuted Christians for many years, it was a natural next step in helping their spiritual family who had come to mean so much to them.

When Ken and Mu' became Christians in 1979, life took on a completely new meaning. They became fervent followers of Jesus and enthusiastic supporters of Open Doors. Ken's first trips took him to China and Vietnam, smuggling Bibles and other supplies, as well as a great deal of love and encouragement. His memoirs record a lifelong passion for Vietnam. On his first visit to Saigon, he joined a house church meeting in the cellar of a factory, furnished only with four oil lamps, sacking on the damp floor – and rats! Yet when the preacher got up to preach he wrote: "I have never sensed the presence of God or His power so close to me at any time in my Christian walk. It was awesome."

Ken and Mu' died within a few hours of each other in October 2010 – but they haven't stopped supporting Open Doors! Having spent almost 20 years travelling to visit persecuted Christians, it was only natural that they should want to provide for their extended family by remembering Open Doors in their Wills. Their residuary legacy, primarily designated for use in China and Vietnam, has been able to fund projects like the translation and printing of Illustrated Children's Bibles in Vietnamese. Now, more

than 200,000 copies have been given to local churches, even in the most remote parts of Vietnam.

Eleven-year-old Tran is just one recipient.

"I received a Children's Bible that has stories from Old and New Testaments. After reading it, I still want to read it again. When I read the stories of Moses, Aaron and the Israelites, I learned that God doesn't want us to bow down to other gods... I will only worship the Lord, our God."

If you have a personal connection to a particular area of the ministry, we'd be more than happy to discuss the possibilities with you.



A gift in your Will can help children receive an illustrated children's Bible in Vietnam's Central Highlands.

Your legacy could provide Bibles to new believers

"We need as many Bibles in our own languages as possible," says Patrick*, a church leader from a Muslim background in China. "We don't know where to find them, so please bring as many as you can. Many brothers and sisters need them!"

Believers from Muslim and Buddhist backgrounds are the most persecuted Christian groups in China. Mandarin Bibles can be accessed online or in government-registered churches, but many believers surviving under the radar of the authorities don't speak Mandarin. Bibles in minority languages are hard to find.

Despite increased security control and restrictions, Open Doors provides contextualised Christian materials in minority languages. We also support believers from a Muslim background in developing their own materials.

When one believer received a Bible in his own language, his eyes brightened as if he had spotted a treasure. He held it close to his chest and said, "Thank you so much, brother! I've been dreaming about having a Bible for so long!" We later heard that he gave his Bible to a friend who was very interested in reading it.

**name changed for security reasons*

Leaving a gift to Open Doors in your Will could provide Bibles and Christian literature to believers who have never read God's Word for themselves.



Woman praying during service in Dongguang Church, north-eastern China. A gift in your Will can help support these Christians.



"Thank you so much, brother! I've been dreaming about having a Bible for so long!"

Ways to put Open Doors in your Will

Once you have made the decision to include us in your Will, it is very easy to do. If you already have a Will, your solicitor can make a simple addition to it called a codicil. This is very straightforward and need not take up a lot of time and so shouldn't be expensive. In the back of this brochure you will find some useful wording, which you might like to take along with you to your solicitor so that they have all the correct details to hand.

If you are drawing up a Will for the first time, your solicitor may ask you if you wish to include a charity. For both a new and an existing Will, you will need to give thought to the kind of gift you wish to leave.

Ways to leave a gift to Open Doors

- **Residuary** – This is what's left of your estate once others you love and care about have been provided for and all debts and expenses paid. This is one of the most valuable ways you can support us because the value of your gift is not eroded over time due to inflation. Many people also find it a useful way to avoid paying inheritance tax on their estate. Please ask your solicitor whether you might be liable for this tax, which is charged at 40 per cent and can leave families facing a crippling bill at the most difficult time of all.
 - **Percentage share** – You may choose to allot Open Doors a percentage of your estate, for example, 10 or 20 per cent. This allows you to share out your money
- and possessions among the people causes you care about most. Again, this form of gift is not subject to inflation and so is a valuable way of making your gift last longer.
- **Cash sum** – This allows you to say precisely how much you want to leave to Open Doors. A named sum of your choice is written in to your Will. This way gives you peace of mind that you have set aside a specific sum. However, years from now the gift you make could be worth significantly less once inflation has been taken into account.
 - **Specific** – Many people choose to leave a specific item of value such as a piece of jewellery or antique furniture. You can even leave your house and its contents to Open Doors if you want to.
 - **Reversionary/life interest** – This allows you to leave a gift to family and friends during their lifetime. Upon their death, the gift would then be reverted to someone else or to a charity.
 - **Contingent gifts** – Legacies made on the basis of another event happening first are called contingent gifts. For example, your Will could state that a gift only applies if all other beneficiaries named in your Will die before you do.
 - **Discretionary legacy** – in this case, the executors are left to decide where the money shall go.

- **Codicil** – If you already have a Will and wish to add a gift to Open Doors, this can be done using a codicil. A codicil need not change the terms of your current Will, it can simply add a new instruction.
- **Deed of variation** – If you receive an inheritance, please prayerfully consider making a gift to Open Doors in memory of your loved one under Deed of Variation.
- **In memory/in lieu of flowers** – As someone who has prayerfully supported the ministry of Open Doors for many years, you might like to suggest that the collection in memory or in lieu of flowers is for Open Doors.
- **Letter of wishes** – This is a document that accompanies your Will. It is not legally binding but can guide your executors and trustees to ensure your personal wishes are carried out.

Please tell us

We understand that the contents of your Will are a private matter and we will respect your privacy, whatever decision you make. However, if you do decide to include us in your Will, we do ask you to let us know – not because we need to know, but because your suffering brothers and sisters do. Knowing that you have made provision for them in years to come will strengthen them now as they face their darkest hour. Please use the form at the back of this brochure to let us know what you have decided. Thank you so much.

"May the Lord bless you, I'm very happy. May the Lord repay you for your efforts." – Secret believer, Middle East



(Top) A young woman who is seen praying during a youth event supported by Open Doors in Ethiopia.

(Bottom) Two girls playing in a cave church in Mokattam Hill, Egypt. Whichever way you include a gift to Open Doors in your Will, you will be helping the next generation of believers who will face persecution for their faith.

Your legacy could help children recover from trauma

A gift in your Will could help children like Jeovani Mongounou, who lost his legs when a grenade exploded in his church one Sunday morning.

Church ought to be the safest place for a child. There, you would imagine they could sing songs of worship, laugh with their friends, learn of God's love. You don't expect their lives to be changed forever by a rocket-propelled grenade.

In the Central African Republic, Séléka rebels persecute Christians. One Sunday, they fired a rocket into Jeovani's church, killing seven people and severely injuring 33, including Jeovani and his young friends Dieu Fera and Steven.

Open Doors was there to support these children, providing prostheses, paying for school fees and giving their families money to start small businesses. "I am so happy to see my son able to walk to school by himself!" Jeovani's mother told us excitedly.

A gift in your Will could provide long-term support for the secret children of the persecuted church.

(Right) Jeovani in his wheelchair after his return from hospital



"We have been active Open Doors supporters for very many years including leading a prayer group. We have also had the privilege of seeing some of the work first hand including visiting Open Doors teams in Egypt and Central Asia. We see persecuted Christians as part of our family. The Lord has blessed us, we want to bless them too. So we give now as we can and we have included a legacy gift to Open Doors. We would encourage you to as well." – Richard and Sheila



What's your legacy?

How to include Open Doors in your Will

Your solicitor is the best person to advise you on how to reword your Will to include a gift to Open Doors. There are certain details you need to have handy when you see your legal adviser, such as our registered address and registered charity number. Having this information can save precious time and money. Many supporters found it useful to take the following wording along with them.

- **A residuary legacy – what remains of your estate once family and friends have been taken care of and all debts cleared.**

I give all (or a share) of the residue of my estate to Open Doors with Brother Andrew (and its successors) of PO Box 6, Witney, OX29 6WG, registered charity number 1125684, absolutely for its general purposes, and I direct that the receipt(s) of the Director of Finance or other duly authorised officer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

- **A pecuniary legacy – a specific sum of money you wish to donate in your Will.**

I give Open Doors with Brother Andrew

(and its successors) of PO Box 6, Witney, OX29 6WG, registered charity number 1125684, the sum of:

- £(figures)
- £(words)

absolutely for its general purposes, and I direct that the receipt(s) of the Director of Finance or other duly authorised officer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

- **A specific legacy – a specific item such as a piece of jewellery, antique furniture, or even your house.**

I give to Open Doors with Brother Andrew (and its successors) of PO Box 6, Witney, OX29 6WG, registered charity number 1125684, my:

- (Description of property)

absolutely for its general purposes, and I direct that the receipt(s) of the Director of Finance or other duly authorised officer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

Please put Open Doors in your Will

We appreciate that putting a charity in your Will is a private decision and we will respect whatever you decide to do. However, we do ask that you tell us if you have done it, not only because this allows us to plan ahead to support persecuted Christians more effectively, but because it will also encourage them enormously if they know you have made this lasting commitment to help them stand firm in the face of persecution.

Please tell us if you have put Open Doors in your Will:

☐

Yes, I have put Open Doors in my Will

☐

I haven't done so yet, but may do in the near future

☐

Please contact me to discuss putting Open Doors in my Will

☐

Please do not contact me again about this

Title:

Telephone/mobile:

Name:

Email:

Address:

Church: (optional)

Postcode:

Date of birth:

Thank you for letting us know. We will treat your decision in the strictest confidence.

Please return this form in the prepaid envelope marked 'Private and Confidential' to:

Freepost, Paul Tew, Legacy Officer, Open Doors UK & Ireland, PO Box 6, Witney, OX29 6WG