

# **ABOUT OPEN DOORS**

**For 70 years, Open Doors has stood alongside the persecuted church in over 70 countries, strengthening and supporting those who count the cost of following Jesus, believing that no Christian who is persecuted should suffer alone.**

- **“So if one member suffers all the members suffer with it”**

- **2 Corinthians 12 v 26**

# GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

# WHERE ARE

# CHRISTIANS DOING

# THE IMPOSSIBLE?



DISCOVER EACH  
COUNTRY AT  
[OPENDOORSUK.ORG](https://www.opendoorsuk.org)

# 388 MILLION CHRISTIANS

More than 388 million Christians face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.

That's one in seven Christians globally.



# 4,849



4,849 Christians were killed for faith-related reasons in 2025. Of these, 3,490 believers were killed in Nigeria alone.



# 3,302

3,302 Christians were abducted last year.  
Of these abductions, 2,293 took place in **Nigeria.**



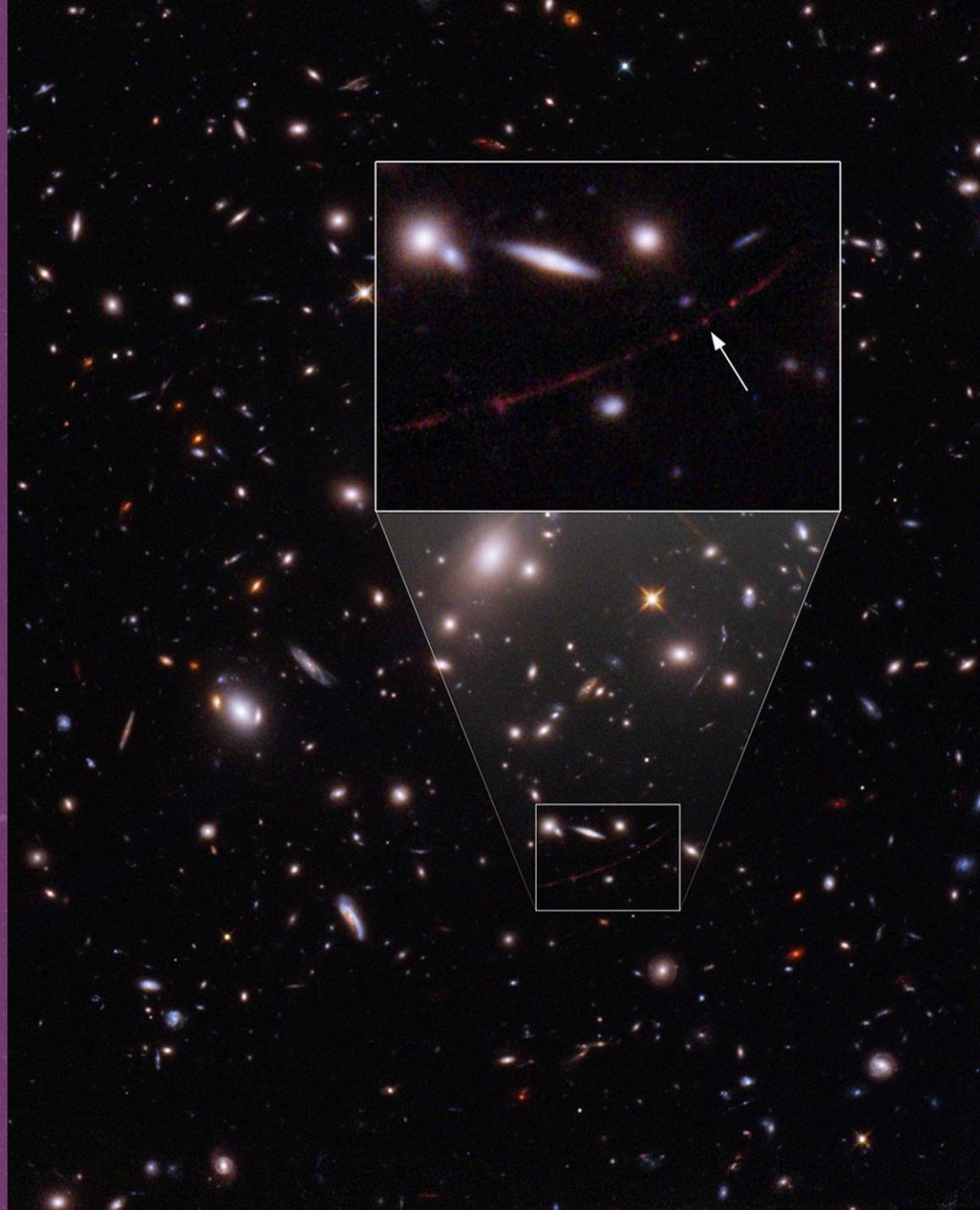
# 3,632

3,632 churches or public Christian properties were attacked or closed. Around 1,000 of these were in China.

Prayer

Prayer

Prayer



## EARENDEL

**WHL0137-LS, also known as Earendel, is a star cluster or a star located in the constellation of Cetus. Discovered in 2022 with the Hubble Space Telescope, it has a comoving distance of **28 billion light-years** (8.6 billion parsecs), making it the most distant known star if it is a single object.**

**By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.**

**Psalm 32v 6**

# ACTS 12:1-11

**“It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. <sup>2</sup>He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. <sup>3</sup>When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. <sup>4</sup>After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.**

**<sup>5</sup>So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.**

**<sup>6</sup>The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.**

**<sup>7</sup>Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.**

**<sup>8</sup>Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. <sup>9</sup>Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup>They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.**

**<sup>11</sup>Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”**

# GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

Three impossible ways God moves:

**THROUGH PERSECUTION**

THROUGH PRAYER

THROUGH POWERFUL

DIRECT INTERVENTION

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Three impossible ways God moves:

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**THROUGH POWERFUL  
DIRECT INTERVENTION**

# 01 NORTH KOREA



Representative image

## **PLEASE PRAY:**

- That God would change the hearts of Kim Jong-un and his family
- For the small, secret gatherings that make up North Korea's courageous church
- That believers will find food, and have opportunity to care for others in need.

**“EVERY WEEK, EVERY MONTH, EVERY YEAR I RETURN TO THE FOREST TO HELP WHOEVER I FIND. BECAUSE, WITH GOD, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.”**

Evangelist Cho\*, Open Doors field worker

Re-enactment image / \*Name changed

# Pastor Cho – North Korea

<https://vimeo.com/1147342366?fl=pl&fe=cm>

## DANIEL CHAPTER 3

**1. King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.**

**2 He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.**

**3 So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.**

**4 Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do:**

**5 As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.**

**6 Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”**





# **STAND WITH THOSE COUNTING THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS**

Visit [opendoorsuk.org/respond](https://opendoorsuk.org/respond)



“In persecution  
Jesus is all you  
have, and you  
discover He is  
all you need.”

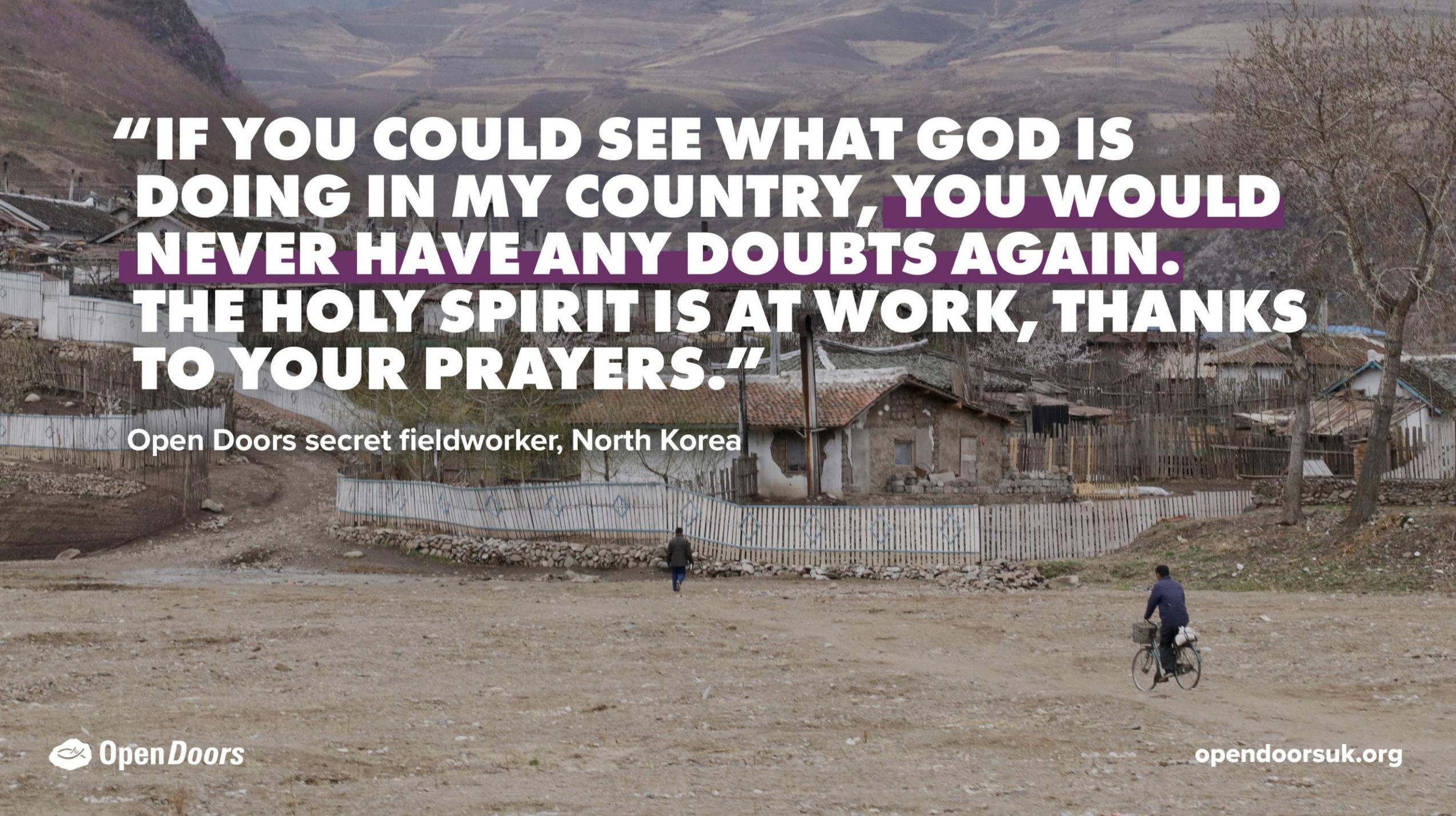
– **SANG-HWA\***, NORTH KOREA



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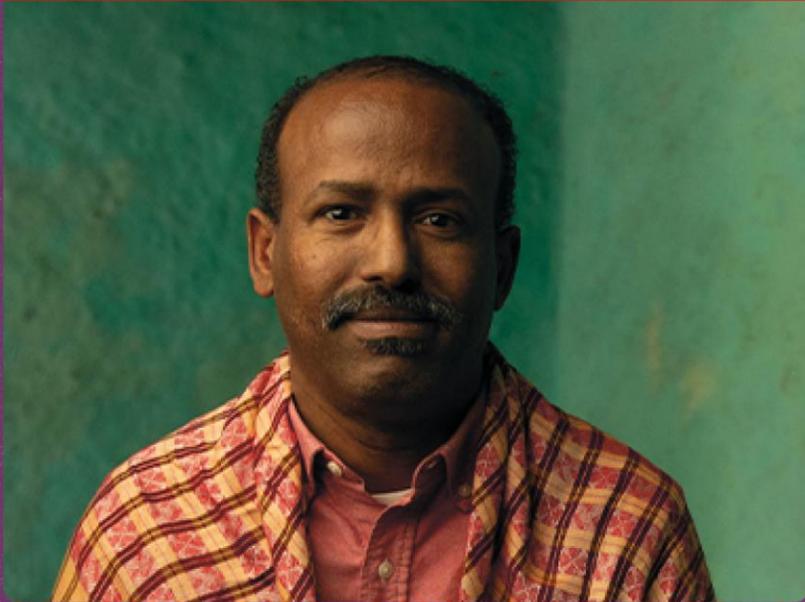


A wide-angle photograph of a rural village in North Korea. The scene is dominated by a wide, unpaved dirt road in the foreground. In the middle ground, a person is walking away from the camera towards a cluster of traditional, single-story houses with tiled roofs. To the right, another person is riding a bicycle with a basket on the front. The houses are surrounded by a simple fence made of vertical wooden posts. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The overall atmosphere is one of a quiet, rural setting.

**“IF YOU COULD SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING IN MY COUNTRY, YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE ANY DOUBTS AGAIN. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT WORK, THANKS TO YOUR PRAYERS.”**

Open Doors secret fieldworker, North Korea

# 02 SOMALIA



## PLEASE PRAY:

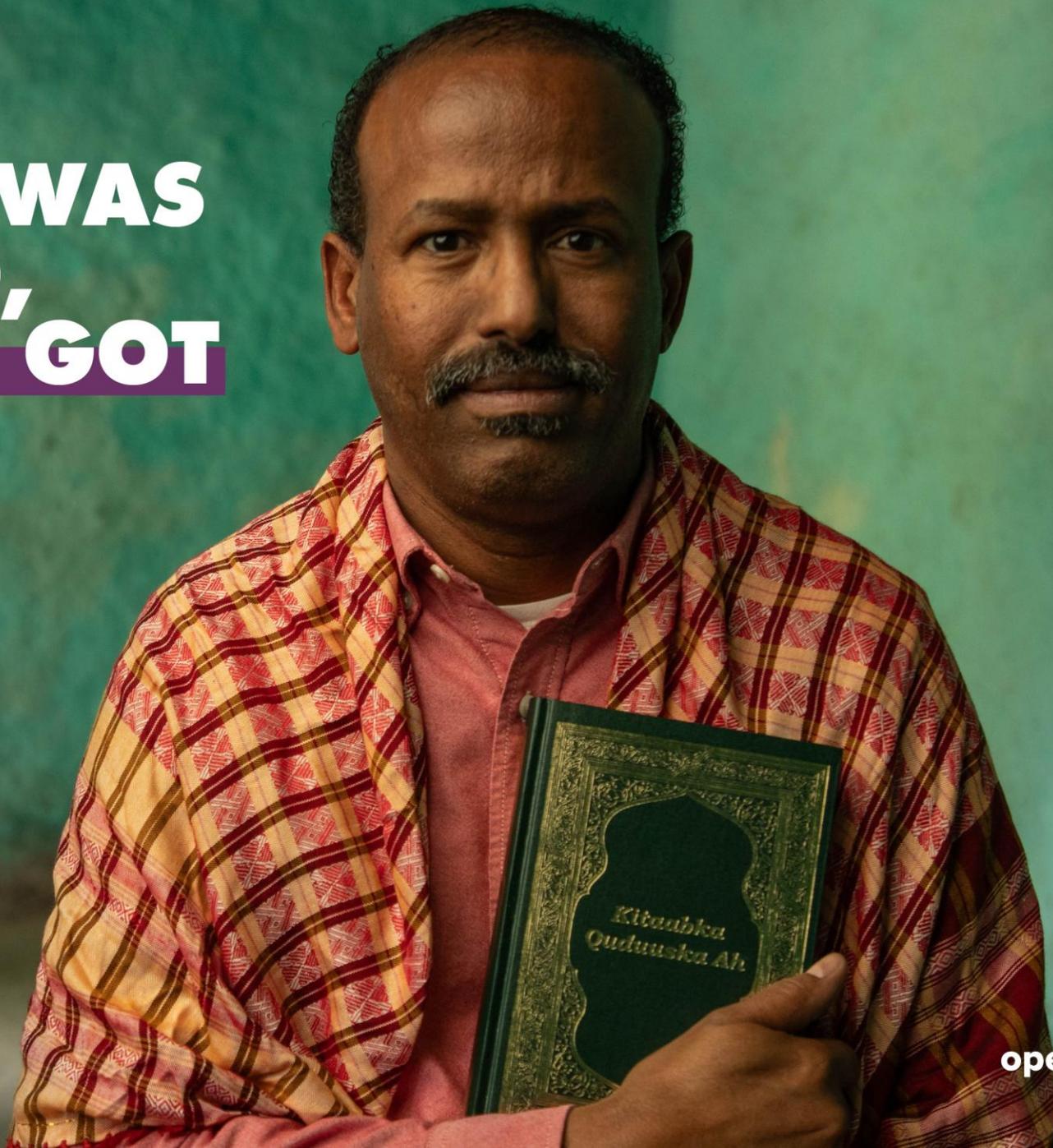
- For Christians' protection from Al-Shabaab extremists
- That Somali believers would know they aren't alone, even though they worship in secret
- For healing for the minds and hearts of traumatised Somalis.

# Aweis - Somalia

<https://vimeo.com/1151562835?fl=pl&fe=cm>

**"THE MORE I WAS  
THREATENED,  
THE CLOSER I GOT  
TO JESUS."**

Aweis, Somali believer



# 03 YEMEN



## PLEASE PRAY:

- That peace will finally come to Yemen
- For courage and hope for the Yemenis who risk their lives each day to follow Jesus
- That secret churches will be able to meet, and leaders find the strength to keep serving.

# 04 SUDAN



## PLEASE PRAY:

- For a peaceful resolution to Sudan's brutal civil war, and a future for the church
- For protection over believers who have fled their homes and those who have stayed
- That Sudanese Christians can show that Jesus' peace is a better way.

# 05 ERITREA



## PLEASE PRAY:

- For hope and freedom for the many Christians stuck in Eritrea's notorious prison system
- That God will provide for the daily needs of Christians arrested or detained for their faith
- That President Afwerki's heart would be turned away from oppression and toward the love of Jesus.

# 06 SYRIA



## **PLEASE PRAY:**

- For the shocked and frightened victims of the Damascus church attack
- That Christians living with constant uncertainty will know God is their rock
- That new believers rejected by Muslim families find love and fellowship in the church.

# 07 NIGERIA



## PLEASE PRAY:

- That God brings peace to stop the spreading violence in Nigeria
- For hope and stability for the thousands of Christians who have fled their homes
- That Nigeria's government would do everything it can to protect people from violence.

**"MILLIONS OF CHRISTIANS  
ARE DISPLACED IN THE  
WHOLE OF AFRICA.  
BUT NOBODY IS TALKING  
ABOUT IT."**

Pastor Barnabas, Nigeria

**THE AFRICAN CHURCH IS ASKING  
YOU TO STAND WITH THEM AGAINST  
VIOLENT PERSECUTION.**

Drop QR code here

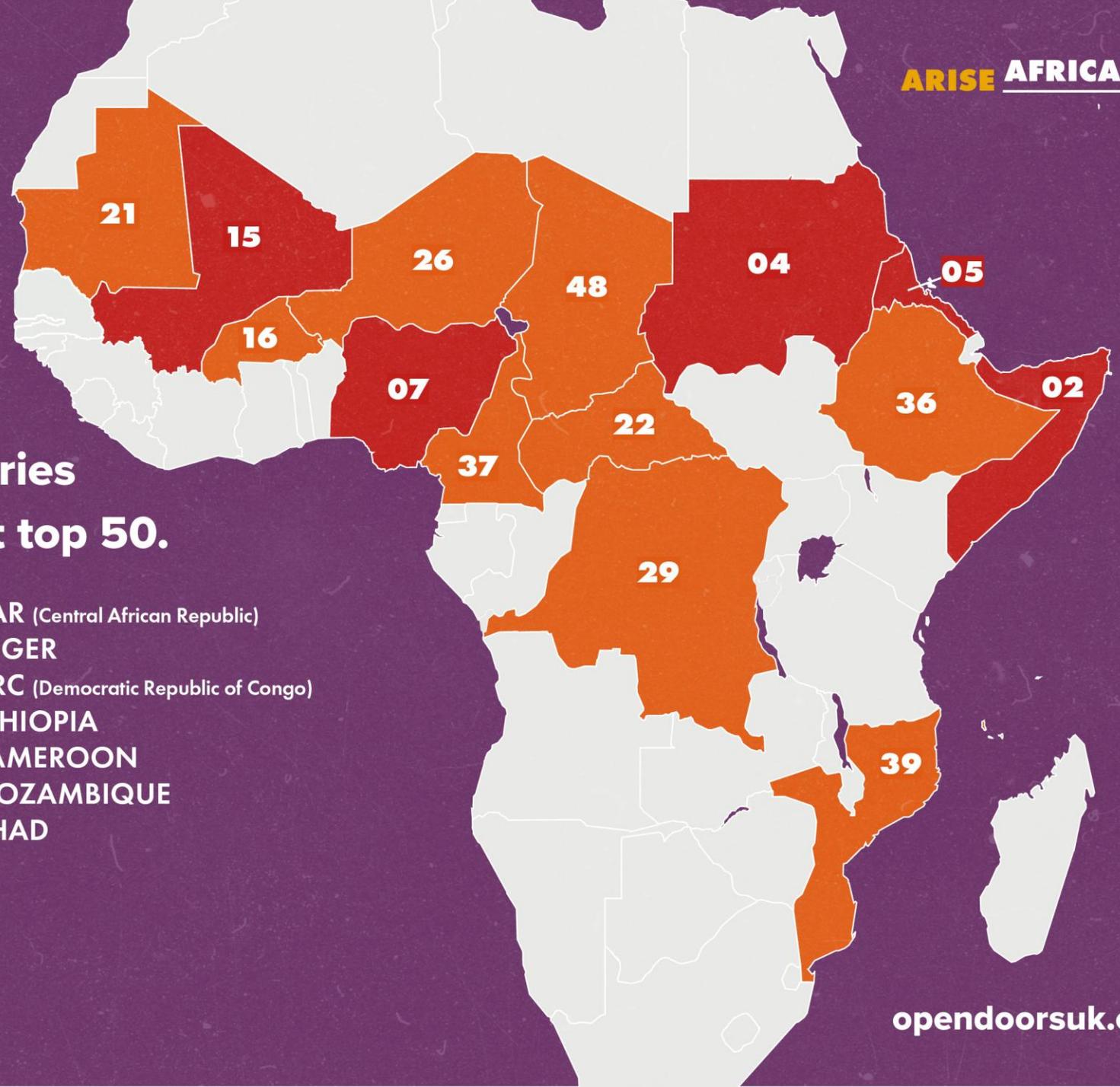
**SIGN THE  
ARISE AFRICA  
PETITION TODAY.**

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

# 14

sub-Saharan African countries  
are in the World Watch List top 50.

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>02</b> SOMALIA      | <b>22</b> CAR (Central African Republic)     |
| <b>04</b> SUDAN        | <b>26</b> NIGER                              |
| <b>05</b> ERITREA      | <b>29</b> DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo) |
| <b>07</b> NIGERIA      | <b>36</b> ETHIOPIA                           |
| <b>15</b> MALI         | <b>37</b> CAMEROON                           |
| <b>16</b> BURKINA FASO | <b>39</b> MOZAMBIQUE                         |
| <b>21</b> MAURITANIA   | <b>48</b> CHAD                               |



WWL  
07

# NIGERIA

Nigeria is the most violent place on earth for Christians. In 2025, **3,490 Christians were killed because of their faith** – an increase of 12.5% from 2024.



# 08 PAKISTAN



## PLEASE PRAY:

- For those unjustly accused of blasphemy – pray they will avoid imprisonment or vigilante violence
- That Christians forced into menial jobs will know their value in Christ
- That peace will continue between Pakistan and India.

# 09 LIBYA



## PLEASE PRAY:

- That the rule of law will return to replace Libya's chaos and violence
- That the few Christians in Libya will find fellowship with each other
- For God's protection over migrant Christians passing through the country.

# 10 IRAN



## PLEASE PRAY:

- That God will ease the stricter treatment from authorities that Christians currently face
- For the believers who risk everything to gather and worship
- For the comfort and release of church leaders imprisoned in Iran.

# So what can we do?

**Pray**

**Sign the Arise Africa Petition**

**Give**

**Keep informed**



**“There are no borders, no prison walls,  
and no doors that are closed to us  
when we pray.**

**“The political, economic, military and  
spiritual leaders of the world may not  
know our names, but we can have  
more influence on their plans than all  
their closest advisers put together.**

**“While many things may be impossible  
from a human standpoint, in the realm  
of prayer there are no impossibilities.”**

Brother Andrew, founder of Open Doors



"THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT PRAYING IS THAT YOU LEAVE A WORLD OF NOT BEING ABLE TO DO SOMETHING, AND ENTER GOD'S REALM WHERE EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE. HE SPECIALIZES IN THE IMPOSSIBLE. NOTHING IS TOO GREAT FOR HIS ALMIGHTY POWER. NOTHING IS TOO SMALL FOR HIS LOVE." ~ *CORRIE TEN BOOM*





## NORTH KOREA

World Watch List 2024 – No 1

### Leader

Kim Jong-un

### How many Christians?

400,000 (1.5%)

### Main threat

- Dictatorial paranoia
- Communist and post-Communist oppression

### How are Christians persecuted in North Korea?

Being discovered to be a Christian in North Korea is effectively a death sentence. Either believers will be deported to labour camps as political criminals – where they face a life of hard labour which few survive – or they are killed on the spot. The same fate awaits family members. There are believed to be tens of thousands of Christians held in labour camps across the country.

Christian women held in the country's barbaric labour camps are acutely vulnerable to sexual violence during interrogation and in daily prison life. Such offences are committed by guards with the deliberate intention of undermining Christian teaching on sexual purity. An estimated 80% of all North Korean defectors are women, and many North Korean women who defect to China are subject to human trafficking. China has recently 'repatriated' hundreds of North Korean refugees, including many Christians – upon return, they will face imprisonment or even death.

It's impossible for Christians to live freely in North Korea. Meeting for worship is extremely dangerous and must be done in utmost secrecy – and at grave risk. In May 2023, five members of a family were arrested as they gathered for prayer and Bible study. Christian literature was also confiscated. The group had reportedly been meeting on a weekly basis, and their arrest followed a tip-off by an informant.

The deplorable treatment of believers is driven by the authoritarian regime's view that Christians are a particular threat to the country's leadership and society. The 'anti-reactionary thought law' (enacted in December 2020) makes it amply clear that being a Christian or possessing a Bible is a serious crime and will be severely punished. The churches shown to visitors in Pyongyang serve mere propaganda purposes.

### PLEASE PRAY

Lord Jesus, our hearts ache as we hear about the extreme dangers facing our family in North Korea. May each and every believer feel Your tender loving care, and be strengthened with Your power to persevere with the hope of Jesus firmly in their hearts. Provide precious moments for believers to meet, both in prisons and in secret gatherings, and give Christian parents wisdom and creativity to know how to share their faith safely with their children. Protect Your family, give them discernment when tough decisions must be made, and may their lives draw others to You. We also pray for Kim Jong-un – soften his heart and show him a better way to lead. Holy Spirit, have Your way in North Korea. Amen.

For more information see [www.opendoors.org.uk](http://www.opendoors.org.uk)



## SOMALIA

(World Watch List 2024 No 2)

### Leader

President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud

### How many Christians?

A few hundred

### Main threats

- Islamic oppression
- Clan oppression

### How are Christians persecuted in Somalia?

The dangers of being a Christian in Somalia are extreme. Most, if not all, Christians in the country are converts from Muslim backgrounds. That makes each believer a high-value target for al-Shabaab, a militant group that has repeatedly expressed its desire to eradicate Christians from the country. If discovered, believers could be killed on the spot.

In Somali society, leaving Islam is regarded by many as a betrayal of culture and clan. Those suspected of conversion face intense pressure from their family and local community, which can lead to harassment, intimidation and even murder. Women may be kept under strict house arrest or forcibly married to a Muslim. Men who are suspected of conversion will be pressurised into different activities – like leading prayers at mosques, or marrying more than one wife – to test where their true allegiance lies.

Church life in Somalia is non-existent, and in recent years the dangers facing Christians appear to have worsened, as Islamic militants have intensified their hunt for Christian leaders. Attempts to establish or re-open churches have been met with fierce resistance.

In the last year, al-Shabaab has persistently carried out its operations, despite government efforts to reclaim territories from the group. Suicide bombings and various forms of violence have continued, as have attacks targeting Christians. This has led to many Christians fleeing for their lives, with some even opting to leave the country altogether.

### PLEASE PRAY

Dear God, thank You for the bravery of believers in Somalia. May they feel the warmth and joy of Your presence. Encourage their hearts and provide ways for them to meet and share safely with other believers. Soften the hearts of those who persecute Your people, show them that You are Lord. We cry out to You today and ask that You supernaturally protect and strengthen our sisters and brothers in Somalia. Amen...

For more information see [www.opendoors.org.uk](http://www.opendoors.org.uk)



## LIBYA

(World Watch List 2024 No 3)

### Leader

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh

### How many Christians?

35,400 (0.5%)

### Main threat

Islamic oppression

### How are Christians persecuted in Libya?

Libya continues to be a place with very little political stability. Much of the country exists in a sort of perpetual anarchy, ruled over by militias. But a small number of Libyans have encountered Jesus and chosen to follow Him. It could cost them everything. Converts from Islam face the most intense and violent pressure from their family and community. They risk house arrest, attack, abduction, sexual violence and murder. It is incredibly dangerous for converts to meet to worship, and church life is almost non-existent. Libya continues to be a place with very little political stability. Much of the country is ruled by militias linked to the official government (in the West of the country) or by the Libyan National Army (in the East), with strong Islamist influences in both cases. Due to lawlessness, Christians can easily be targets for violence and death. Christianity seems impossible in Libya. But God is the God of the impossible. Please pray that these strongholds are broken down, and more and more Libyans will courageously choose Jesus – knowing that He is worth the cost.

### What's life like for Christians in Libya?

Even Christians who aren't Libyan or converts are at risk. Christians from other parts of Africa are targeted by extremist groups. Christians have been kidnapped and, in a few high-profile incidents, brutally murdered. Christians from sub-Saharan Africa – many of whom come to Libya as displaced people trying to get to Europe – face additional risk. Because of their lack of official status, they can be kidnapped and trafficked, and extremist groups target these believers, as well. If being a Christian is dangerous in Libya, it's even more dangerous to tell other people about Jesus. In March 2023, six Libyans were arrested for sharing their faith. They even face the death penalty. Their fate isn't known yet, at the time of writing, but the arrest is having an effect the persecutors never predicted – more and more people are becoming curious about Christianity for the first time, because of the incident.

### PLEASE PRAY

Father God, Libya has been so deadly for Christians for so long. We lift up our brothers and sisters who live under constant risk just because they worship you. Please comfort those who have lost loved ones, or who have been kicked out of their families. Please show Your face and mercy to believers who have been detained and face an enormous cost for their faith. Please, God, be with Your people everywhere in Libya where they are at risk of attack and death. Amen.

For more information see [www.opendoors.org.uk](http://www.opendoors.org.uk)

**THE AFRICAN CHURCH IS ASKING  
YOU TO STAND WITH THEM  
AGAINST VIOLENT PERSECUTION.  
SIGN THE ARISE AFRICA  
PETITION TODAY.**

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

**OpenDoors**

**ARISE AFRICA PETITION: STOP THE VIOLENCE. START THE HEALING.**

Christian leaders across sub-Saharan Africa are calling on the global church to stand with them against violent persecution. 16.2 million Christians in sub-Saharan Africa are displaced by violence and conflict. Sign the global petition to local governments, the African Union, the EU and the UN, asking for:  
Protection: Providing robust protection from violent militant attacks  
Justice: Ensuring justice through fair prosecutions of the attackers  
Restoration: Bringing healing and restoration to all affected communities.

Sign the petition here:	Title	First name	Last name	D.O.B. (if under 28)	Address Enter to receive monthly OpenDoors
<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>					

**GIVE**



## **Aweis : Somalia**

**“Heavenly Father, in Your holy name, we pray. When You are with us, no one can be against us. What people see as impossible, like a Somali church, is in fact possible because of You. Because when we have You, Heavenly Father, everything we want to do in the kingdom of God is possible. No persecution, rejection, or excommunication or threat could remove the light from the people of Somali. You told us that the gates of hell cannot prevail against the church. Heavenly Father, people may see it as impossible to have a thriving Somali church, but You know it’s not impossible because You gave us Your Holy Spirit who’s our guide, comfort and counsellor. In Your name we pray, Amen.”**