

Open Doors

Open Doors began through the work of Andrew van de Bijl 1928-2022 who became known as God's Smuggler. After a visit behind the Iron Curtain, Brother Andrew found that most Christian churches were either completely suppressed and meeting in secret or were heavily controlled by the state, and in each case were lacking copies of the Bible. He started taking copies of the Bible and other Scripture pamphlets to Communist countries, usually leaving the books in full view of the authorities and relying on God to 'make seeing eyes blind'.

Later, he initiated similar work behind the Bamboo Curtain. More recently, he had been active in trying to reconcile Jews and Arabs in the Middle East, and talking to leaders of Islamic groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah.

Open Doors as an organisation has been supporting Christians around the world who are persecuted because of their faith, where persecuted means that many fear for their lives and the majority are victimised at work, often missing out on promotions or pay rises.

The main areas of support are in the far east and sub-Saharan Africa.

In a world of constantly and rapidly changing events, to find out the current people being supported by Open Doors, go to <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/> or sign up for their regular updates by either email or snail-mail.

Whitefriars Church has supported Open Doors financially for many years and has had visits by their representatives on a number of occasions. Also, a number of members of Whitefriars Church have been actively involved with Open Doors at some point.

Current prayer is required for the work of Open Doors in Sudan, supporting Christians in those areas that are ruled by more extremist Islamist groups.