OPEN DOORS
LETTER WRITING
JANUARY-JULY 2017

ENCOURAGE

We invite you to share an uplifting word with those that are going through hardship. Join us as we encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ through letters.
JANEROZA AND HER 11 CHILDREN
DUE: MARCH 20TH

TANZANIA

In February 2013, Pastor Mathayo Kachilla was brutally killed in a Muslim riot over halal meat. His widow JaneRoza is struggling to move on. Since 2007, their town of Buseresere, Tanzania, has been the centre of tensions over butchering rights. An unwritten law says that only Muslims can slaughter animals and all meat must be halal. Muslims went on a two day rampage when Christians butchered their own meat for a funeral reception. They looted Christian butcheries, urinated on the meat and attacked Christian business people.

Mathayo was killed by an enraged neighbour, who continues to live close to the family. “The children get emotionally affected when they see the person walking around freely. It is very painful to us all,” JaneRoza said. JaneRoza is also overwhelmed by the financial pressure of raising 11 children. “As the children grow, the economic burden I carry increases.”

Please pray for the family and send them a card of encouragement. The children, aged between 3 and 24 years-old would be delighted to know that you care.
THE KURA FAMILY
DUE: JULY 25TH

NIGERIA
Rev. Joseph Kura, pastor of the Evangelical Church Winning All in Obi and chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Obi local government area in Kaduna state was brutally murdered by suspected Fulani youths on his farm on June 30, 2016. He leaves a widow, Martina, and seven children.

When Open Doors recently visited Reverend Kura’s bereaved family, Martina told us that she takes comfort knowing that God knows all and trusts him for the future. Her oldest son, Ebenezer, was tempted to take revenge but realized that two wrongs don’t make a right.

* Pray that they will continue to see the Lord providing for them in miraculous ways in all of their needs. Pray that He will surround them with encouragement from people near and far. * The Christian Association of Nigeria accused Fulani herders of killing Joseph and expressed concern over the brutality of the attack. They say the recent increase in such attacks against Christians is preventing them from going to their farms. Please pray for this situation to be given the government attention it needs and that the government will receive wisdom on how to solve this complex issue.
HADIJA AND MELLINA
DUE: JULY 31ST

UGANDA
Hadija (12), who was born into a Muslim family in a small Ugandan fishing village on the shores of Lake Victoria. She began secretly attending church services as a 5-year-old. Despite severe punishment from her Muslim father, Hadija continued to attend church. Eventually, the abuse became so severe that she had to flee. A Christian woman at church, Mellina, took her in and is in the process of adopting her. The two are doing well, but would benefit greatly from encouragement from the wider Body of Christ and so we want to ask supporters to write to them.
HMONG SUNDAY SCHOOL
DUE: JULY 31ST

LAOS
Since 2014, young Sunday school teachers from the Hmong tribe in Laos have been putting together a culturally contextualized Sunday school manual with colorful illustrations, songs they’ve composed, games, and activities that will help them share Bible stories to children in their villages. In 2017 they’ll start teaching with these manuals. Encourage them as they begin their adventures in spreading God’s Word to Hmong kids!
INDIAN WIDOW CHANDAN
DUE: APRIL 30TH

INDIA

Chandan is a 35-year-old widow from India. Her husband, Pastor Aadarsh, was killed by Naxalites (Maoists Militants). Her children are Rebecca (21), Raju (17), David (14) and Solomon (13). Rebecca is married and the others are in boarding school.

Aadarsh was a faithful pastor who led 25-30 people of a certain tribe to Christ. All of them were previously animist believers. Chandan describes him as a prayerful person who specifically had a heart for youth. “He encouraged them to not join the Maoists but instead finish their studies to achieve something in life.”

The Naxalites were very upset with his activities and a group of thirty men forced their way into Aadarsh and Chandan’s home. None of the children were at home. Chandan begged if she could be killed together with her husband, but she was beaten and left behind. Later that night Aadarsh’ body was found in the jungle.

Chandan is still under a lot of pressure. Her brother-in-law wants to know how much (financial) aid she has received, presumably because he wants to benefit from it. At the same time, she is alone because her children don’t live with her.
ELISHA FAMILY
DUE: JULY 20TH

NIGERIA
On July 9, 2016, Eunice Elisha (42) the assistant pastor at a congregation of the Redeemed Church of God was killed at around 5:30 am while she was preaching in the street near her home in the Kubwa region of Abuja, the Nigerian Capital Territory. Eunice leaves behind her husband of sixteen years, Pastor Olowale Elisha, and 7 children – four girls and three boys, all below the age of 16. At the moment, we know the names of four of the children, namely Jessica, Michael, Emmanuel, Rachael.
LETTER WRITING GUIDELINES

FOR SECURITY REASONS

- Do not mention Open Doors in your letters.
- If writing a postcard, please send it in an envelope and do not write the Open Doors’ address on the postcard.
- You may provide your name, but do not provide your full address.
- Do not criticize a country’s religion or religious extremists, its government, judicial system, or political leaders.
- Do not send money or make proposals to help.
- Print clearly in English
- Be brief and encouraging – Include 1–2 Bible verses
- It is best to send greeting cards, artwork from children and postcards

Please mail all letters by their due date to Open Doors Canada

8-19 Brownridge Rd.
Halton Hills, ON
L7G 0C6