

OpenDoors

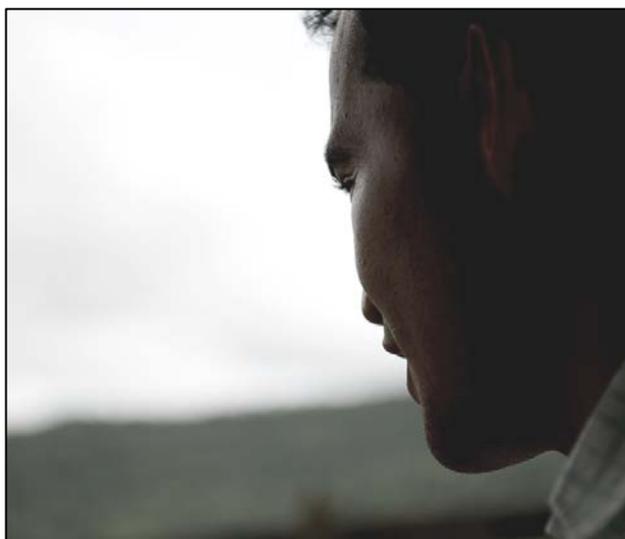
LETTER WRITING

JULY 2018 – NOVEMBER 2018

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.





ENCOURAGE COLOMBIAN PASTORS

DUE: NOVEMBER 30, 2018

COLOMBIA

Persecution against Christians in Colombia, at number 49 on the Open Doors World Watch List, is on the rise. Unknown groups are attacking pastors and church leaders with impunity, defended and supported by the government.

The peace agreement between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Government will complete two years this November. However, though the armed conflict has officially ended, certain regions have seen an increase in violent attacks, as FARC is not the only source of violence and crime in the country.

We encourage you to write to pastors and church leaders in Colombia to encourage them to stand strong in their faith. This campaign is for pastors and their congregations in the regions of Guaviare, Tibu, El Tarra, Tumaco and Arauca. Please stand in the gap with Pastors in this region as they are subjected to increased violent attacks.



WRITE TO ESTHER IN NIGERIA

DUE: NOVEMBER 30, 2018

NIGERIA

While Esther* was in Boko Haram captivity (October 2015 – November 2016), she was under constant pressure to denounce her faith. She was just 17 when she was abducted by the militants. Esther's captors found her very beautiful and many of them wanted to have her as a wife. The pressure was severe. But Esther was determined not to give in. "If I perish, I perish, but I will not become a Muslim," she decided in her heart.

It was a brave decision, but it had dire consequences. She tried to hide her tears as she told an Open Doors worker that she was continually raped. Esther eventually became pregnant, and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Rebecca.

The military rescued Esther and the others around November 2016. But the joy of her freedom was soon overshadowed by sadness. People were not so eager to welcome back the 'Boko Haram women', far less their children.

Esther received help from Open Doors with trauma counselling and food aid. She said, "I have no family other than Open Doors. After hearing my story, you did not despise me but encouraged me and showed me love. Thank you so much!" We encourage you to write a note of encouragement to Esther at this time.





ENCOURAGE CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

DUE: NOVEMBER 30, 2018

MIDDLE EAST

You can now send encouragement to Christians in the Middle East. One believer said, "We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for these encouraging verses, we thank you for your prayers and encouragement..."

Please send:

- A tweet-like encouragement message (500 characters max);
- An original picture with a Bible verse or personal encouragement, or your prayer written out (100 characters max, for text imposed over pictures; 500 characters max, for text accompanied by a picture. Images: 1080 pixels x 1080 pixels);
- A short video, no longer than 15 seconds, with messages of encouragement or prayer; to encourage@odcan.org



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

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