



# Open Doors

## CLOTHED WITH DIGNITY

THE OPEN DOORS MAGAZINE

MEET JORINA

Help her empower  
persecuted women



2025 VOLUME 2

# AN EVANGELIST EMPOWERED

Shompa Roy has been persecuted relentlessly in Bangladesh. But because of your gifts and prayers, she keeps sharing the gospel – and the church continues to grow.

Shompa Roy, who lives in Bangladesh, has brought more than 140 people to faith in Jesus, despite ongoing persecution. Thank you for supporting this amazing woman!

It's hard to imagine a life more difficult than Shompa Roy's.

This remarkable woman, who lives in Bangladesh, has been persecuted ever since she heard a travelling evangelist share the gospel and gave her life to Christ.

Persecution worsened. At first, villagers blocked the only path to the home Shompa Roy shared with her husband, also a believer.

And then there was the time a group of women tied her up and tried to shame Shompa Roy and force her to renounce her faith. Another occasion, a Muslim man violently beat up Shompa Roy and attacked her 11-year-old daughter. One day, her cow and goats were poisoned. Then the family's only toilet (which they share with the church) was smashed.

## “WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT”

Some people's faith might be shaken amid such relentless attacks. But you have given Shompa Roy the strength to keep going.

### Training, prayer and practical help

Your gifts provided Shompa Roy's church with a new toilet, immediately after the old one was vandalized. She also received a bicycle, so she can safely travel from one village to another to share the good news.

You financially helped the family, when part of the persecution meant her husband was always rejected in his work application. To strengthen her faith and identity as a daughter of God, she attended Open Doors training.

As a bold evangelist and a powerful witness for Jesus Christ, despite of the danger of being a woman in her country, she will not be silenced.

“We Christians do not discriminate based on gender. We are equally respected in the eyes of the Lord, so I challenge Hindu men who are derogatory towards women,” said Shompa Roy, who has brought more than 140 people to the Lord.

“In my church, women are growing spiritually. They are getting more active in the church. I want the women to be effective and lead the church.”

Because of you, Shompa Roy has been empowered to reach her God-given potential. She was restored and clothed with dignity and strength – and now she's transforming the lives of other women too.

“We are very thankful for your support,” added Shompa Roy. “You have prayed and supported my family and church.”



### PLEASE PRAY

- Praise God for Shompa Roy's extraordinary courage and faith. Pray she and her children will be safe as neighbours continue to persecute the family.
- Some believers in Shompa Roy's church have turned away from Jesus under the pressure of persecution. Pray they will know the depth of God's love.
- Pray for Bangladesh's tiny Christian community (0.3% of the population). Ask God to strengthen and encourage them in the darkest days.

# 'I AM STAYING WITH CHRIST'

When Batoul\* followed her father and gave her life to Jesus, she had no idea of the suffering ahead. Your support helped her through it.

Today, because of your support, Batoul\* belongs to a secret church, helps other persecuted women, and follows Jesus no matter the cost.

Physical violence is bad enough. But when it's inflicted by your own family, the pain runs deep. "My sisters hit me and encouraged my mum to punish me," says Batoul. "They told my mother to beat me with a cane."

Worse still, it felt like Batoul was being punished for her father's new faith as well as her own...

Batoul was just 16 when she gave her life to Jesus. It's so dangerous that we can't even tell you the name of the North African country she lives in because she chose to follow the footsteps of her father. Batoul was following in the footsteps of her father, a former Islamic extremist, whose life had been radically transformed by Christ.

But Batoul's mother and sisters didn't approve. They didn't dare persecute the father – so they turned their anger towards Batoul instead.

"I paid the price for both my father's conversion and my own," said Batoul. "They made me eat alone, so I felt like an animal. My own mother, who should have been tender to me, persecuted me alongside my sisters."

She added, "I had nothing, no family, and my faith was shaken. In that time, I considered ending my life."

## A new church family

Your prayer and support changed everything.

Open Doors' partner Brother Youssef\* heard about Batoul's suffering. He reached out and began to minister to her, reminding this young woman of her status and identity as a daughter of God.

"He said I should talk to Jesus first, and turn to Him for everything in my life," said Batoul.

Thanks to you, Batoul was also welcomed to a secret Open Doors house church. "This church is the family I was searching for as a lonely believer," she said with a smile. "I felt Christ changing me when I forgave every person who hurt me!"

Now, with your support, Batoul has been empowered to reach her God-given potential. She teaches and prays with other women believers who are rejected by their families. Her family relationships are better, and one sister has started attending prayer meetings.

## "THIS CHURCH IS THE FAMILY I WAS SEARCHING FOR."

Batoul said, "Today, I don't feel lonely. I still feel pain and I cry, but I also pray – and through prayer I can get through this. In all the sadness, I behold Christ in my life because I remember He is with me, and I feel joyous."

"I will follow Jesus no matter how hard my experience is. I am staying with Christ."



## PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks for Batoul's faith and ministry among other women, and ask God to strengthen and guide her.
- Pray for women in North Africa, that they will know their identity as daughters of God. Pray boldly for an end to persecution.
- Lift up Open Doors' courageous partners in North Africa. Pray for God's protection over them.

\*Names changed due to the extreme risk and images are illustrative



# SEE DIGNITY RESTORED

Jorina, from Bangladesh, can't forget the shame and trauma of persecution. But she still follows Jesus. Will you help her clothe other women with dignity and strength?

**Jorina, in Bangladesh, was publicly stripped and shamed. Now she's restoring dignity to other persecuted women – and she needs your help.**

Jorina entered the house feeling a bit mystified, yet hopeful. Fifteen women from her village had invited her there and she thought they wanted to hear about her new faith in Jesus.

But instead, Jorina was walking into a horrifying ordeal...

What happened in that room stripped Jorina of her dignity and left her humiliated. She sobs as she recalls the trauma.

**“It was deeply shameful. I cried a lot.”**

“They wanted to look for a ‘seal’ on my body, a mark that I was a Christian,” says Jorina through tears. A local myth, based on a misreading of Ephesians 1:13, means people believe converts are literally ‘marked’ when they follow Jesus. “I had no choice. I undressed in front of them and they began searching everywhere on my body. It was very sensitive and deeply shameful. I cried a lot in that room.”

It was one of the most painful moments of Jorina's life. For a long time, she could not talk about the incident. But this strong, courageous woman would not let persecution break her faith.

## SHAME CULTURE

In Bangladesh, where Jorina lives, women are viewed as less valuable than men. Their lives are dangerous and difficult. Gender-based violence is generally accepted. For women who are also followers of Jesus, their suffering is doubled.

Just 0.3% of Bangladeshis are Christians, and women who convert from Islam (like Jorina) are at extreme risk. Husbands can disown them, children may be taken away, and women can be thrown out of the family home.

And in this community-based culture, there's one powerful secret weapon of persecution: *shame*. So when the village women stripped Jorina naked and publicly degraded her, they knew she would truly suffer.

## NOTHING TO HIDE

But in the wake of the attack, Jorina sought Jesus – and Jesus helped her forgive. “I can't live with anger anymore,” Jorina smiles. “After receiving Christ and reading from the gospels,

I can now love others and treat them well.” Jorina came to faith alongside her husband some years ago, and the couple have two children. They've received death threats and the children have been targeted by persecutors. Once, Jorina's son revealed, “My friends tell me they will burn us alive.”

**“In Christianity, we value women.”**

But Jorina kept on sharing the gospel with Muslim neighbours. “When we received Christ we didn't feel the need to hide it from others,” says Jorina simply. “We believed we needed to share the truth.”



**“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.”**

PROVERBS 31:25

In Jorina's house church, women learn they are loved and valued as daughters of God – and faith grows!

God has been faithful... People have come to know Jesus. There are 25 families in the couple's house church, which has been supported by Open Doors for years. Now, Jorina has an additional ministry with women – and she needs your support.

## CLOTHED WITH DIGNITY

“For Islamic leaders in my village, Christian women are as good as dead,” says Jorina. “Within Muslim society, women are often neglected. But in Christianity, we value women and want them to know the way to heaven.”

Jorina has completed Open Doors' discipleship training programme called 'Ananna', which means 'unique woman'. She's running the course for local women to clothe them with dignity, and remind them of their status and identity as daughters of God.

But there's a huge need. Without vital support, Christian women are intensely vulnerable. They feel alone and forgotten, their suffering is often hidden, and many risk losing hope.

Our vision is to ensure every woman persecuted for her faith and gender is seen, valued, and empowered to reach her God-given potential. Your gifts and prayers can support Jorina's work in Bangladesh, and provide trauma care for persecuted women, safe spaces for believers, and training in job-related skills like sewing and hairdressing.

Persecuted women need to be restored and strengthened to live as powerful witnesses for Christ. Your support can make it happen.

In the words of Jorina's heartfelt prayer, “May women come to know Jesus and find their way to heaven. May we continue to stand firm so that, through us, many others may receive salvation.”

**Will you clothe persecuted women with strength and dignity?**

**Please give**

**Every PHP 1,200** gives Bibles to two persecuted women so they can read God's word.

**Every PHP 2,300** provides discipleship training to strengthen a woman facing persecution.

**Every PHP 3,200** could give a month of vital practical support to two persecuted women.

**Please pray**

- Jorina is resilient but her life is hard. Ask God to meet her daily needs and strengthen her for ministry.
- For Christian women in Bangladesh, that love and grace would win over shame and hatred.
- For persecuted women everywhere to be empowered by the knowledge that they are daughters of God.



Jorina and her husband

# CLOTHED WITH PRAYER

Persecution strips women of dignity. But you can clothe them with strength and hope, through your prayers today.

NAME  
LAILA

COUNTRY  
EGYPT

STATUS  
AGE 14, CONVERTED FROM ISLAM  
AFTER HER PARENTS STARTED  
FOLLOWING JESUS



know who I am, what is my identity. I don't feel like I belong, I only feel rejected," she confided.

Today, Laila is discipled by an Open Doors partner and plays in her local house church band. But as a covert from Islam, her struggles are not over.

### PLEASE PRAY

- Place Laila in the Lord's arms as His precious daughter, and pray she knows her identity is fully found in Christ.
- Pray Laila will have opportunities to share her faith with Muslim friends. Ask God to give her courage.
- Pray for women believers in Egypt, that they will be valued and empowered to reach their God-given potential.

Laila lost her friends, her home and her extended family when she gave her life to Jesus.

Stripped of all the things that once formed her identity, this young teenager was lost.

She even considered taking her life. "I don't

NAME  
AISHA\*

COUNTRY  
CENTRAL ASIA

STATUS  
REFUSED TO DENY JESUS, NOW A  
HOMELESS, SINGLE MOM



the crowd boldly. ("It was scary but somehow I felt so strong at that moment," Aisha said afterwards).

In an instant, Aisha and her four children were thrown out of the village. They took refuge in a church in the capital city. But they need a permanent home and ongoing support.

### PLEASE PRAY

- Pray urgently that Aisha can find somewhere safe to live, and for work so she can provide for her children.
- Ask God to reconcile Aisha and Halil and reunite this family. Pray Halil will remember his love for Jesus and return.

When a mob of 500 people arrived at Aisha's home, including 80 family members, they wanted one thing: to see the family renounce their Christian faith and return to Islam.

Aisha watched heartbroken as her husband Halil\* turned his back on Jesus. Then, it was her turn. "Jesus Christ is Lord," she told

NAME  
YASMINA\*

COUNTRY  
NORTH  
AFRICA

STATUS  
A CHRISTIAN  
CONVERT,  
DRIVEN  
FROM HER  
HOMELAND BY  
PERSECUTION

Yasmina's parents both died when she was in her 20s – and, in grief, Yasmina started searching for meaning beyond her own Muslim faith. She found Jesus. "I tasted true joy and peace," she said. "I entrusted my life to the Lord Jesus Christ."

But following Jesus brought suffering. Yasmina's husband, also a believer,

received a prison sentence for 'conducting non-Muslim worship' without authorisation. The couple were forced to leave their homeland. Yasmina hopes to return one day – and she needs your prayers.

### PLEASE PRAY

- Pray that Yasmina and her husband Saleh\* will be able to return to their homeland and live as Christians without fear.
- Pray for Christian women in the region, whose persecution is often hidden. Ask God to clothe them with dignity.
- Pray for the safety and protection of all believers facing persecution in North Africa.

"I TASTED  
TRUE JOY  
AND PEACE."

– Yasmina

Your prayers are a source of strength to persecuted women like Yasmina.

\*Names changed and illustrative images due to extreme risk

JORINA WAS  
STRIPPED  
OF HER  
DIGNITY

Now help her  
clothe others  
with strength

In Bangladesh, there's one powerful weapon of persecution against women: *shame*.

Jorina was stripped, humiliated and shamed for her faith. But still, she follows Jesus.

Now, Jorina needs your help to restore dignity and strength to persecuted women.

**Every PHP 2,300 provides discipleship training to strengthen a woman facing persecution.**

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