**Serving the Persecuted Church**

**Nathan – Open Doors**

**Introduction**

Only entrants in event and came second.

Practiced in hall used for church.

**Open Doors**

* Work in many countries including 70 countries where being a Christian is most dangerous
* Some of the most dangerous places. North Korea – teachers hold up Bible; Somlia – suspicion of faith can get a person killed; India – If a Christian will not get work. Varies from place to place. Can have mob assemble to get rid of you.
* Works with Visible church and secret church ie can tell no one.
* Motto – “no matter the cost”
* Some answers to prayers can be published and some can not
* Filter is “what do people need to make them stay?” ie clinic, medicine
* Sometimes the ministry is just to get people out.
* The Australian church is seen as an elder brother where the older sibling looks after the younger.
* Work can be supported – visit https://www.opendoors.org.au
* Match a subscription maybe

**Message**

*Ps 18:30 “****As for God, his way is perfect****: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.” (written after Saul and mob had been pursuing David)*

Have you ever seen anything perfect? If it is perfect it has to remain so.

In places conditions are anything but perfect

1. We will have trouble.

*Jn 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

*Job 5:7 man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.*

1. We are never alone

*Matt 28:20 “lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”*

To feel alone is irrational. Others go through what I go through.

1. He is not taken by surprise

*Jn 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

**Stories**

Paul (5 kids now 4 “we do not lose them, we secure them”), Pearl (“my difficulties are God wanting to do a new work in me.”), Sampson (Wrestler, testimony: gun, knife, saved)

**Quotes**

* The faith of others mentors us
* When a loved one dies and we have introduced them to Jesus we do not lose them – we secure them.
* You never lose something in God
* When people see how you respond to hardship they praise God
* God is the God of the harvest – we just need to get people into the store house.
* I see my difficult times as God wanting to do a new work in me.
* Where do you see God’s goodness for your country?
* If I repay evil with evil it will never end, but if I repay evil with peace evil ends
* How do we respond? Happened in Iraq under Isis. “if you are a Christian and still here tomorrow whatever happens to you is on your own head.” Would we continue to love or leave?
* Enemy can take my possessions but not what is in my heart.
* You are not throwing me out of home but into the Lords’ ministry. (Sampson)
* We may experience deep trauma but in its midst His Way is perfect.