The World Watch List 2017 uses data from Open Doors field workers and independent experts to track the deep structures of Christian persecution. It measures the degree of freedom a Christian has to live out their faith in five spheres of life – private, family, community, national and church – plus a sixth sphere measuring the degree of violence. The data is translated into points, and countries are ranked accordingly, with the top 50 countries appearing on the list. The list is independently audited by the International Institute of Religious Freedom.