

PRAY. UNTIL. SOMETHING. HAPPENS.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE | August 2022

“**FORTY** new groups in two years?” the senior missions leader repeated back incredulously. Though he ended the conversation with a “God bless your efforts,” he clearly thought our goal was unreasonably ambitious. Another much larger missions agency has a ten-year goal of engaging 150 new unreached groups. In the first seven years, they have engaged three.

Here are three reasons we are not simply starry-eyed optimists:

1. Our goal came from Holy Spirit directed discussions among our top leaders.
2. Global Teams is agile. Because most of our field partners are from the Global South, they live close to the unreached groups we are trying to engage. We can move more quickly.
3. You. As this issue illustrates, individuals and churches responding to God in faith filled obedience can change nations, especially when the first step is focused prayer.

In this issue, we ask you to join us in a concerted prayer initiative for the engagement of our new unreached groups. A goal this big, this impossible is worthy of God and will demand sacrificial prayer. What part will you play in changing the spiritual destiny of these nations?

By the way, last month, I updated that missions leader telling him that we had managed to engage six of our forty. He was encouraged! We hope you will be as well.



They caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them (Luke 5:6-7).

HELP NEEDED!

Forty people groups without disciple-makers in their midst -- some in incredibly remote areas and others in places that are hostile to the Gospel. How do we approach this ambitious goal? We call out to our partners in the other boat for help. Here are a few ways you can get involved:

- **ORGANIZE** a prayer group for one of our 40 UP³Gs. We are committed to recruiting at least one prayer team for each group that commits to praying together at least once a month and weekly on their own. We will supply each group with field progress reports. **To select and commit, or to get more information write: prayer@global-teams.org.**
- **ADOPT A PEOPLE GROUP.** This is an opportunity for your church. This is a larger commitment and could include research, prayer, financial support, field visits, and long-term mobilization. **For next steps visit www.global-teams.org/adopt-a-group or write: sshaw@global-teams.org.**
- **GIVE** toward engaging a specific group. On average, \$5,000 is needed per group to initiate engagement. **Send your gift to Global Teams and designate “Ground Floor” and the name of the group.**
- **GO!** Why sit on the sidelines for these nation changing events? Begin your journey. **Visit www.global-teams.org/lets-go or email mobilization@global-teams.org.**

“No great spiritual awakening has begun anywhere in the world apart from united prayer. Whenever God is ready to do something new, He always sets His people to praying.” -- J. Edwin Orr

NO GUY FOR THE NOGAI?

Yulia Arnaut on Unsplash

“Hey Aigul,” Makhset called out from the *zal*, or mainroom, “listen to this YouTube video and tell me what language it is.” Aigul had arrived in Kazakhstan just a few months earlier, after Makhset had fled their home under the threat of prison for preaching the Gospel. She was a Karakalpak language teacher. As she listened for a few minutes, understanding every word she replied, “Easy. That’s Karakalpak.” “Nope! It’s Nogai,” Makhset replied playfully.

In response to a Field Partner newsletter, Lura presented the needs of the Dagestani peoples to a subset of Lake City Community Church in Tacoma, Washington.

“These peoples will never get the chance to hear the Gospel if someone does not go. Will you commit to pray for them?” Included in the list were the Nogai and Kumyk peoples. It was 2016 and the church was gearing up to host a Perspectives on the World Christian Movement class. *(You can take the class too! See the box on this page.)*

Responding to a challenge to pray for the Kumyk of Dagestan from GT’s International Director, Lura performed her Perspectives’ research project on this group. She then turned to her pastoral leadership team, who had recently committed to adopting another unreached group. Sharing with others in the church,

she found surprising receptiveness, and three of them planned a trip to the North Caucasus Partnership meetings where they received a challenge to pray for ten years for unreached groups in the region.

Flowing from their pastor’s commitment to prayer, Lake City Community Church had already been praying for an African unreached people group for almost ten years, so they were prepared for the commitment. After prayer by the pastors and elders, the church committed to pray for ten years for three groups: Kumyk, Akkin and Nogai. God was already moving on the hearts of congregation members and in a matter of months the “KAN” Team was formed. In 2018, four KAN team members took a prayer and research trip to Dagestan where they met and prayed with representatives from multiple unreached people groups. The trip fueled the passion of the team!

From three different continents
the Holy Spirit orchestrated
a plan to reach the Nogai.

Back in Central Asia, Takir and his wife, Laura, joined Global Teams. Prayer launched a partnership in 2020 that resulted in Takir and Laura going to Dagestan. The Holy Spirit quickly opened contacts among the Nogai and Kumyk, and a family from each of these groups committed to follow Jesus the Messiah.

From three different continents the Holy Spirit orchestrated a plan to reach the Nogai.

MADE FOR MORE

USE WHAT’S IN YOU TO BLESS THE WORLD AROUND YOU

Take the “**Perspectives on the World Christian Movement**” course from our partners at Perspectives. Learn more: <https://www.perspectives.org>

Is your church interested in
adopting an unreached group? Visit
www.global-teams.org/adopt-a-group
for more information.



MEALS AND MOVING DAYS

Reaching Afghan Refugees in the U.S.*

by Yvonne North

A few weeks ago, our local Muslim community celebrated Eid Al Adha, a celebration of Ibrahim’s faithful obedience when he offered his son, Ishmael, as a sacrifice to Allah. I had an English lesson that I took with me about the celebration. Thinking we would talk about the superficial celebrations of food, fashion, and fun, I took some games and treats to share. As we spoke about the holiday, Aamina started to explain the meaning of the holiday. I told her that Jesus’ Followers know the story of Ibrahim, but we believe that Isaac was the son to be sacrificed. Aamina was delighted, and we had a conversation about faith, obedience, and sacrifice. Finally, we prayed for her mother, who had a terrible headache before I left.

Last week, I was at Sapidah’s house (another Afghan friend) for English class, and there were many people coming in and out of the house. Fatima, Sapidah’s cousin, was moving out of the complex into a house in Wilie, Texas, and the entire family was involved in the packing and moving process. The children were packing their toys and running errands, the men were carrying boxes and furniture, and the rest of us were sorting, folding, and packing as well. As naturally as water rolls downhill, I was included in the packing process...they put me to work on towels and linens.

Just for a moment, I was “one of the women.” I belonged.

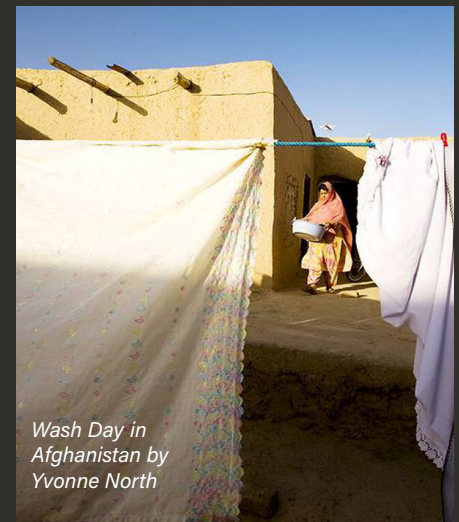
About half an hour into the moving process, Sapidah told me to come with her. We trudged down the steps, grabbed four kids, and headed out for Sapidah’s apartment. She apologized for the confusion and explained that she was going to make breakfast for the moving team. Sapidah and her friend proceeded to teach me how to make Afghan eggs and Naan. After the first batch was made, placed on a platter, and sent out, the process started over; tomatoes were chopped and sautéed with crushed garlic, and fresh naan was warmed. “This is for the women,” she said, “the first was for the men, but this is ours.” So for a moment, as I ate Afghan Eggs and Naan, I was “one of the women.” I belonged, and it was wonderful.

Do you ever wonder how to engage with an unreached group in your area? Does it seem intimidating? **We are launching a refugee ministry cohort.**

Like Yvonne, you can engage with someone from an unreached people group in your neighborhood and now you have a group that can help support you.

Many refugees are part of unreached people groups who are now here in North America.

To get involved in this work, visit www.global-teams.org/refugees or email contactGT@global-teams.org.



Wash Day in Afghanistan by Yvonne North



Yvonne North, one of GT’s International Partner Care CoDirectors, has recently moved to the Dallas, Texas area and is working with Afghan refugees there. She has lived and worked in Uganda and Afghanistan.

** Pashtun and Tajik Afghan refugees in the U.S. are two of our new 40 unreached groups.*

TURKANA FIELD UPDATE

In our last issue, we reported on an astounding move of God among the Turkana of Kenya. As we celebrated the incredible ministry going on there, we knew that a follow-up trip was needed for a clearer picture.



Global Teams

A team of four GT leaders has just returned from this follow-up trip. They spent significant time alongside local leaders praying, listening, observing, encouraging and evaluating. While Turkana believers were retelling the stories of scripture, many of the reported Discovery Bible Studies were not actually meeting. Once the leaders realized where the gaps were in the practice of Discovery Bible Studies, they were able to provide the additional training and support that was needed to see the multiplication of disciples. In addition, three Turkana committed to moving to Ethiopia to minister to the unreached Turkana living there.

Note: Elizabeth Agumba reports that the village where thirty baptisms took place has been affected by flooding, and several villagers need to relocate. Keep them in your prayers.

UP³G HIGHLIGHT



COMORANS --descendants of Malagasy and mainland Africans, Arab and Iranian traders and South Pacific islanders -- live on islands between Madagascar and Mozambique and make their living by fishing, farming or in the tourism industry.

Population: 1,074,000

0.6% Christian (0.2% Evangelical)

After walking and talking with two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus broke bread with them, "and their eyes were opened, and they recognized him" (Luke 24:31).

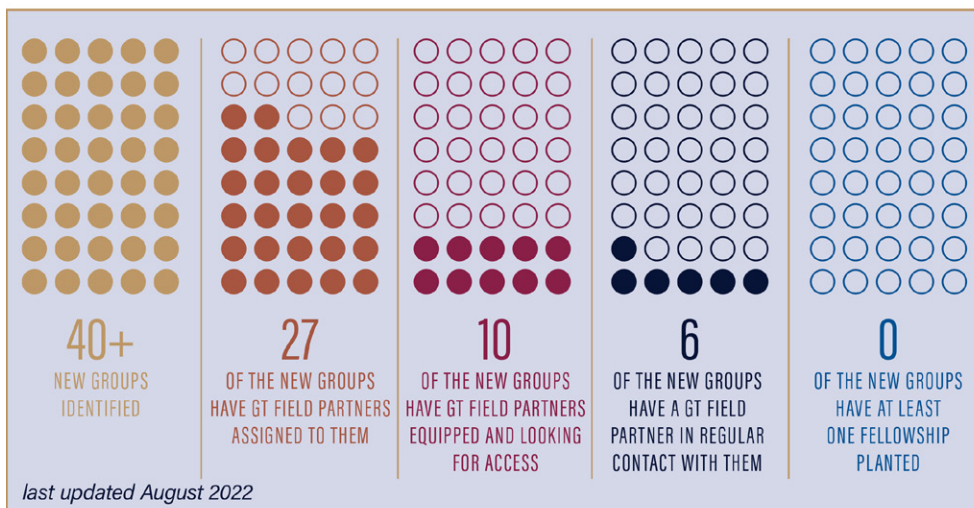
Pray that the Comorans -- like the pair on the road to Emmaus -- would become aware of Jesus' presence as they walk with Him, talk with Him, and break bread with Him. He is already among them, they just don't know His name yet! Pray that their eyes would be opened.

Pray for unreached people groups.

www.global-teams.org/40x24

PROGRESS ENGAGING WITH NEW GROUPS

Join us as we celebrate the progress we've made in reaching new unreached people groups, populations and places and as we pray for what is next. Since our last report, twenty more groups have GT field partners assigned to them; six more groups have field partners looking for access points; and four more groups have field partners engaged.



See updates of this chart at www.global-teams.org/40-new-up3gs-by-2024.



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