



Global Teams

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE
February 2022

Kazakh woman serving tea
Altaihunters, CC BY-SA 3.0
via Wikimedia Commons

“No! We are Muslims. Jesus Christ is the Russian God, and we do not need him.”

In Central Asia, most Muslims' initial resistance to considering the claims of Jesus Christ are cultural. The association of Jesus with “Christian” Russian imperialism is an enormous barrier as he is perceived as a threat to their identify and way of life.

As Global Teams field partners enter unreached people groups, they encounter similar barriers of acceptance, as well as the barriers of understanding and spiritual blindness (II Cor. 4:3,4). Painstaking perseverance, deep cultural learning, loving relationships, bold witness and costly prayer are required for the yeast of the kingdom to be sown and take root in a new culture. But hundreds of GT field partners have paid this price with the result that thousands of unreached people can now claim,

“Jesus is ours! He has moved into our neighborhood and became like us”
(John 1:14 The Message).

CENTRAL ASIA

“As’salamu alaykum, bismillahi al r-rahmani al r-rahim!” Bahadur announced enthusiastically as he greeted the Afghan refugee leaders. The room immediately warmed to Bahadur with this traditional Muslim greeting announcing peace and the probable introduction of spiritual topics. (Translated: Peace be upon you, in the name of God, most Gracious, most Compassionate.) Bahadur and the other field partners listened with compassion as they heard stories of suffering, hunger, uncertainty and fear among the refugee community.

As the conversation drifted toward possible solutions, the topic of motivation naturally came up. Bahadur explained how he was a Muslim follower of *Isa al Masih* (Jesus the Messiah) and gave a brief testimony of God’s work of forgiveness and grace in his life. The Afghan leaders listened intently to his story, asking questions along the way. They weren’t completely sure what to make of Bahadur and his companions but welcomed them to engage with the community.

Respectful dialogue allowed entrance into hearts.

Over the following months, Muslim background field partners encountered many opportunities to share good news with refugees. Their respectful dialogue with the leaders and their willingness to serve has allowed entrance into the hearts of Afghans from one of the most isolated and resistant Muslim countries in the world. God is working wonders!





MALAWI

In early February, Global Teams field partners traveled 300 kilometers to serve members of a Muslim people group whose homes had been devastated by Cyclone Anna. For more than 15 years, GT has been reaching out to this group. Before beginning the distribution, “F” sat with two tribal chiefs to honor them. F spoke of the love of God that motivated them to come. Knowing that F was not from a Muslim background they said, “We don’t want to leave Islam to go to Christianity. We are Muslims. How can we experience the love of God?”

“It is not what a person is outwardly that matters to God, it is what they are inwardly that matters. Outwardly, you say that as Muslims you honor Isa al Masih, but do you follow Him in your hearts? That is where the love of God is experienced,” F explained. As he further explained the difference between an inner connection to God and an outward expression of religion, the two chiefs began to nod in agreement. “Yes,” they concluded, “we should have this inner connection.”

They left F and team to pass out supplies while they went off to speak with their local imam. The next day they reported, “Our imam gave us no answers to our questions. We have not finished our talk! Please, tell us more about how to have an inner connection to God through Isa al Masih.” Hours later the two leaders were ready to embark on the journey of following Jesus and they offered themselves to Jesus in prayer. They were filled with joy, but confessed they did not understand how to live this new life. “You have promised to help us experience this new life

and you must send someone to us!” Rejoicing in the work of God’s Spirit, F promised to send R back to meet with them – a meeting 15 years in the making!

“You promised to help us experience this new life. You must send someone to us!”

As we embark on engaging 40 new unreached groups by 2024, these stories highlight some of Global Teams’ values:

1 First, Pioneer work is difficult, time consuming and discouraging. Perseverance and dependence on God – a **DEPENDENCE EVIDENCED BY EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER** - are required. That’s why we desperately need you to join us in upcoming specific prayer initiatives.

2 Second, for the Gospel to spread within a people like yeast in the dough, it must be **FREED FROM NON-BIBLICAL CULTURAL HINDRANCES**. All of us bring our own culture and experience into our relationship with God. Preparation to go to a different culture is absolutely essential. Therefore, we train our field partners in practical ways to pattern their ministry like Jesus and Paul – who learned to become like the people they were reaching (John 1:14, I Cor 9:19-23).

3 Third, **WE EXPECT TO FIND GOD ALREADY AT WORK AMONG THE PEOPLE WE MINISTER**. We work as spiritual detectives to discern the work of the Holy Spirit in a people, knowing that there are those who are hungry for God (John 6:44,45). Based on the promises of Jesus, together we can expect to see fruit and to be filled with joy!

AFGHAN RELIEF UPDATE

- GT is currently working in three Central Asian countries.
- Food: 480+ families served.
- Temporary Housing: 300 families served. Preparations for permanent housing continue.
- Blankets: 125 families served.
- Medical/Personal: 1000+ basic packets distributed. Medical teams are being mobilized, and a medical outreach has been scheduled for April.
- Scriptures: 1,000+ packets secured. Preparations for delivery continue while we work on logistics, security and transportation.
- The Christmas story was shared with 240+ school children while gifts were distributed. Additionally, schools received heaters and children were given coats.
- A men's soccer camp will be held in April.
- A Bible college for Afghan believers is being established.
- More than two dozen families have come to the Lord!



Escape from the Taliban

“We have a family in Afghanistan who is being chased by the Taliban. Let’s pray for them,” Makhset exhorted the other Central Asian field partners. As Global Teams began engaging Afghan refugees in a neighboring country, Makhset heard about a Tajik believing woman, Aliya, who upon marrying an Afghan man, decided to move to Afghanistan. There, they had carefully, but faithfully shared their faith for years. Now word had come out that they were on the run. Uncertain of how they could help, GTers dedicated themselves to prayer on their behalf.

The Holy Spirit spoke to them to take an offering for this family, though they did not know how they would get the money to them. But God was already working and within two days the money was on its way to them through some back channels.

On day three, Makhset received a forwarded audio message from Aliya in tears. “We have not eaten for three days. We have fled our home and so have nothing. My children are begging for just a cookie. All I can say to them is, ‘Let’s pray. God will help us.’” What Aliya did not know, was that money was already on its way. Within hours of sending the first message, a second arrived with Aliya in tears again, this time of joy. “How did you know? We are all praising God, especially our children who see that God answers prayer.”

Their trials were far from done. Two weeks later, the Taliban discovered the apartment where they were staying and set it on fire. Aliya and family escaped with bullets flying around them. Unfortunately, the owner of the apartment was killed. For the next two weeks, they moved secretly from place to place until they arrived in Kabul. There believers arranged for them to get out of the country. Today they are fellowshipping with local believers in a neighboring country who are helping them.

They are asking God if He might open a way for them to stay in the region to minister to other Afghans..



Please pray. This family will be allowed to stay in this country only for a short time before they must leave again. While some western countries may be an option, they are asking God to open a way for them to stay in the region to minister to other Afghans.

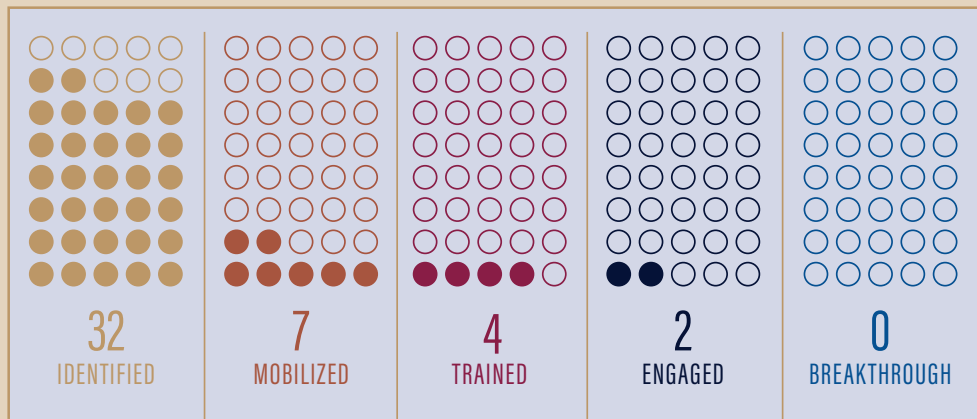


JOIN US

Trusting fully in God through Jesus Christ and learning to trust Him more, we commit to engage 40 new unreached places, populations and people groups by 2024.

A goal this large is one worthy of God – one that we simply cannot achieve through dedicated human effort. This effort will require intentional prayer, increased partnership, sacrifice and bold faith. Will you join us?

We will be updating you regularly on our progress using the graphic on this page. As you partner with us, the following descriptions will help you know what is involved in each step of the process.



- **IDENTIFIED:** We are prayerfully researching these groups further. With more data, the specifics may change.
- **MOBILIZED:** We have field partners committed to one of our specific targets
- **TRAINED:** Field partners are being equipped and are actively looking for access points
- **ENGAGEMENT:** For GT this means that we have a field partner resident or in regular contact with the unreached group.
- **BREAKTHROUGH:** Engagement is not the end goal; followers of Jesus is! Breakthrough means at least one fellowship has been planted.

To see our current list of identified UP³Gs, visit global-teams.org.

Give toward reaching these UP³Gs through this link:
<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/groundfloor>



THE KALASH

The Kalash have lived in three valleys of a remote, mountainous region of Pakistan for over 2,000 years. They consider themselves to be descendants of Alexander the Great. Pantheistic nature-worshippers, they have refused to convert to Islam and are marginalized. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give GT workers discernment about how to engage this unique and isolated people group.

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