

THE NEW WORLD ORDER

The world today is substantially different than it was 100 years ago, and not because of the introduction of AI. The expansion of the Church of Jesus Christ in the Majority World has brought about a new world order in fulfilling the Great Commission. Breakthroughs are happening among the least reached in unique ways through global collaboration. Global Teams' ministry models are continuing to evolve to come in line with God's new world order.

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Vikings, Nomads & Tajiks

Filming from the border town of Khorog in 2022, Ruslan broadcast this invitation, "People say that they want to reach Afghans. Well, here they are wandering our streets in Tajikistan, open and ready to talk with you!"

Upon hearing this challenge, Max reached out from Sweden immediately to Ruslan. Within weeks, Max was sitting in Dushanbe with Ruslan praying about what could be done. Max recalled, "As we sought God and brainstormed together, I felt strongly impressed that GT needed to prepare Afghans right from the beginning to minister to their own people."

The thousands of refugees that crossed the border came with harrowing tales of beatings, rape, torture and execution at the hands of the Taliban. Understandably, they did not trust anyone. Under Ruslan's leadership, Tajik believers patiently ministered to their physical needs in love, waiting for trust to build. Their patience paid off and by the fall of 2022, the first Afghans tasted of the goodness of the Lord in new birth.



There were enough believers to start the first training school for Afghan believers in January 2023!

The new believers eagerly shared their faith with their countrymen, and the emerging Church grew rapidly. Staunch Muslims took notice, and soon the believers had to secretly rotate meeting places to avoid angry disruption. Persecution required them to keep meeting sizes small, which meant they needed to multiply leaders more quickly. They needed non-traditional models of church.

Ruslan said, "While we so appreciate the support our Western brethren, we need to find Central Asians to train us. They understand our context better." GT responded by sending Kazakhs and Karakalpaks to train the emerging church in discipleship movement principles.

The Afghan church grew faster.



Today there are more than 250 baptized Afghan followers of Jesus in Tajikistan. Ruslan quipped, "Percentagewise, there are more Afghan believers in Tajikistan than there are Tajik believers."

"Clearly, God is doing something awesome among the Afghan people."





The situation in Tajikistan worsened with the Tajik government threatening to deport all Afghan refugees. A month of prayer and international attention brought a reprieve. It also awakened something in the Afghan Church. They could sit and wait to see what would happen next, or they could choose their own destiny in God.

In the last couple of months, three believing Afghan families have voluntarily returned to Afghanistan to bring the Good News to their own people.

Certain hardship and persecution await them, maybe even death. But their example has motivated others in the church to take up Christ's Great Commission for themselves. Heaven will tell their stories.

Swedes, Tajiks, Americans, Karakalpaks and Afghans all shared in this story of God's Kingdom advancement among one of the earth's most unreached peoples. It's a new world order!



TESTIMONY

One of the first Afghan believers from those days, Noor Ahmed, testified, "I am from Kabul. After escaping from Afghanistan, Tajik followers of Jesus befriended my family, though we were initially suspicious of them. Some of them invited me to a meeting. I had never met a Christian and I wanted to know if the followers of Jesus prayed and how they worshipped.

"At the meeting, one of the Tajiks quoted Jesus' words in the *Injil*, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

"I reflected that from childhood until now my family had lived in fear, without a safe place to live. I remembered how through my whole life, my family was always on the run, as refugees without a homeland or country. I had cried out to Allah in tears to show compassion to my family but instead received silence and more hardships. The Taliban brutally killed my father and brother all the while shouting, 'We will bring Allah's just law!' Instead of justice, we got more evil rulers who destroyed everything and everyone I loved.

"The words of Jesus turned my world upside down. The message these Tajiks brought broke my heart and as my eyes filled with tears, I knelt before the One who promised to give rest to my weary soul. That night I went home and shared what I had heard with my poor wife who had followed me in all our hardships. She knelt on the cold floor and said, 'Except for you, I have no one. Whom you believe, I believe. Where you go, I go!'

"For months now, our family has been living in this wonderful rest of Jesus who loves our souls."

Today, Noor Ahmed leads a house church and trains believers of the emerging Afghan church.



INTERNATIONAL PRAYER GATHERING

Saturday, Sept 6th at 6am PDT | 9am EDT

Join Global Teams members and partners from around the world as we meet to celebrate God's work through testimonies and to pray for more breakthroughs among the least reached. Our Zoom meeting will take place in several languages with translations available. Email contactgt@global-teams.org for the link.



Help us relocate Afghans.

Since the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan, **billions of dollars** have been spent helping settle Afghans outside their home country. We are asking you to help Afghans who have become believers in Tajikistan relocate back **TO** Afghanistan.

Following the Holy Spirit's leading, in partnership with others, GT leaders have raised up courageous Afghan Christ followers with the vision to reach their own people. They are willing to sacrifice all – even their lives – to return to their homeland to reach their own people.

Since they are refugees, most will return with nothing. We'd like to provide a small gift to help them cover travel and basic housing necessities: **\$250/couple** or **\$500/family**. Your gift of any size designated for Afghans can be made to:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/afghancrisisrelief>



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