INTERNATIONAL UPDATE | May 2022

Global Teams

"Still other seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

THE MATH of the Kingdom is multiplication. No farmer expects to plant a seed to get back only one piece of fruit! In like manner, our mission is to multiply disciples of Jesus within the least reached, stated another way, to catalyze movements to Christ.

We illustrate the process of movements in Global Teams through the Movement Cycle shown here. In this issue, you'll read stories of how God is moving in our fields through different parts of this cycle but with the same exciting goal of seeing a harvest of thirty, sixty and a hundredfold.

As you read, rejoice with us because much fruit brings glory to God! (John 15:8).

Multiplication beats addition

Would you rather have a church of a thousand that had 10% growth a year, or a church of twenty that doubled every year? Most would choose the thousand with the excellent 10% annual growth rate. Indeed after five years, that church would have 1,610 members while the second would have only 640.

In year ten, however, the first congregation would have 2,600 people while the church of twenty would have 12,500. In year twenty, the first congregation would have 6,730 while the second would have ballooned to an astounding 20,972,000! This is the power of multiplication. Instead of adding new believers one at a time, Global Teams works to multiply disciples of Jesus among the least reached. Read on, and learn how.



MULTIPLY within and out from the people group. (Luke 22:25-27)

ENGAGE: Make your faith obvious and look for opportunities.



Munira lived in daily pain and no doctor was able to bring her any relief in this Asian nation. Her large family depleted their resources seeking medical care so that even bus fare to a larger city was out of reach. Munira sunk into despair and her seven children feared for her life.

Baghdat, a distant relative of Munira and a GT field partner, was traveling through the area to encourage believers. Though he had been rejected by this family because of his faith in Jesus, he thought to himself, "Why not visit Munira and her family anyway and see what God will do?" His welcome was less than warm at the house, but he pressed through. After

the usual honoring greetings, he asked, "I see you are suffering a lot, and you used all of your money for treatment and still you are in pain. If you agree, I will call my friends here to pray for you and you will be healed." Having nothing to lose, Munira and her sons agreed.

Baghdat left to go to the next district where there were several house fellowships. He called the leaders and the congregations together and told them of Munira. After praying together, they selected one of their leaders to return with Baghdat.

Upon entering the home the next day, the believers told the sons to invite everyone they could to the house. A large group had gathered when the two of them kneeled in prayer and began calling out to God in Jesus' name. Astonished cries from family members arose as they saw Munira sit up in bed smiling before they had even said, "amen." Munira was so moved by her healing that she joined the men on her knees and gave her life to God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!

As a result of this one miracle, and through the bold inclusion of many relatives, twenty-two entire families committed to follow Jesus and four congregations were formed over the next three years. But the story doesn't end there. A few weeks ago, Munira passed away and once again believers were given the opportunity to shrink back or press into a new opportunity. In Muslim nations, where you are buried is extremely important. After Munira died, village elders announced, "This lady brought a new faith to our district. She cannot be buried in our Muslim graveyard. Take her somewhere else." A crisis followed for the whole village as Munira was well known.

The Global Teams country leader called the elders of the congregations advising them, "Do not take offense at the village leaders, but rather see this as an opportunity for God. Do not fight with them, do not fret. Rather be calm and trust God for favor." They took his advice and surprisingly the leaders made a concession: they would section off a portion of the village graveyard with bamboo where Munira and other "Jesus Muslims" like her could be buried separately. At the invitation of the believers, the whole community came out to participate in Munira's burial.

Two tragic situations -an illness and a funeral -- provided opportunities for engagement. Early the next morning, many of the villagers gathered at Munira's tomb. Each told of seeing a man in shining white who had entered their locked homes, blessed them, and extended an invitation to follow him. Convinced that Allah was pleased with their burial of Munira, some tore down the bamboo barrier stating, "We are all from the same village and we are one with these believers. We too will follow *Isa al Masih* (Jesus Christ)."

Understandably, the Mosque mullah is not happy and is summoning the Imam from the capital. However, the people say, "We have no need for the Imam to interpret these things for us. We understand them ourselves."

These believers are asking us to pray for them as they believe three or four new fellowships* could be formed because of what has transpired here.

*A fellowship has a minimum of ten families committed to following Jesus together.



MULTIPLY: Model Jesus' ministry in ways others can easily reproduce.

Lodwar is a jumping off point to get to the ends of the earth.

From this distant town in rural, northwest Kenya, Global Teams field partners have for years ventured out to minister to the semi-nomadic Turkana people. Eighteen months ago, GT field partners helped train key Turkana believers, including a ***person of peace**, in the principles of movements, utilizing Discovery Bible Study (DBS) methods. While some of the training was conducted in person, most of it took place online during the pandemic. Imagine two or three Turkana huddled around a cell phone in the desert with spotty reception! It was unclear how much of the training was caught.

A person of peace is



- prepared by God
- open to spiritual conversations
- willing to open their relational networks to the gospel



Elizabeth and others stayed committed to communicating with those who had been trained as best they could. They were invited to coaching and to more training, again hindered by poor phone coverage. It was almost impossible to understand what was happening on the ground.

Last month Elizabeth and team ventured back into Turkana land. Before starting out on the 15-hour dusty trip in the back of a truck loaded with supplies, they received news that ten new Turkana believers were asking to be baptized by the team! Their arrival was an occasion of great joy, and Turkana started filtering in from the surrounding areas. When it was heard that a baptism was going to take place, the numbers started growing. But, how do you hold a baptism in the desert?

Elizabeth suggested a plan: if they could find a large, heavy plastic tarp, a pit could be dug, lined with the plastic and water carried in. Two young men took off to locate a tarp, while others began digging.

By the end of the day, almost 30 Turkana had come to be baptized Everyone stayed, continuing to celebrate and share.

Other Turkana leaders joined GT Turkana leaders and started sharing story after story of how Discovery Bible Studies had been multiplying through their people. The telling of scriptural stories followed by simple questions about God with a focus on obedience was easily reproduced, and you did not need to be able to read. Since the Turkana moved with their animals, the stories spread with them. The group reported that more than 300 DBS had been started between them! This is a remarkable explosion illustrating the power of using the easily reproducible methods of Jesus and his disciples.

Next month, GT is sending a team to document these testimonies to see what we can learn. Please pray for them.

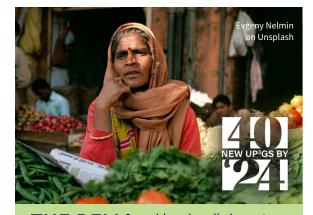


PRAY: Every known movement to Christ has been preceded by extraordinary prayer.

"We operate a community center to serve the needs of our people. In going through the movement training, I realized that we needed to pray a lot more if we were going to really make an impact. My team started praying regularly that God would bring Muslims to us.

"Last week a Muslim woman came to our center in dire need. She told me that she had met me more than a year ago, but that I had just recently come back into her mind. She told me about her situation and I asked if I could pray for her. She said, 'Yes, of course. I believe in prayer.' God touched her heart and she said she would come back next week with others.

"God answers prayer! Continue to pray with us for this woman's situation to be resolved by the power of God and for the opportunity to minister to others from her Muslim family."



THE RELLI reside primarily in eastern India in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha states. A "scheduled" or socioeconomically disadvantaged caste, the Relli make their living by reselling fruits and seeds or street sweeping. Although several hundred Relli follow Christ, there are efforts to convert them back to Hinduism. Pray that the few Relli followers of Christ will grow and share Christ with other Relli and that more Relli children will be able to attend school.

Join the next training. Because the principles of movement training are based on Jesus' example, they work anywhere – even in the USA! We are in the middle of a movement training and participants are already seeing results in their daily interactions. This could be you! Email Jenny at mobilization@global-teams.org and we will notify you of the next GT training in English.

Give to India. India is home to more unreached people groups than any country in the world, therefore it has the most opportunity. With COVID restrictions coming to an end, our Indian field partners are eagerly awaiting our next face-to-face training. \$150 puts an Indian Field Partner through 12 weeks of

training. Our country coordinator in India would like to run at least two trainings this year with a minimum of 20 people in each. To give toward reaching the most unreached nation on earth, send your gift to Global Teams designated for: Movement Training or give online at **http://weblink.donorperfect.com/dmmindia**

PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens.) Commit to pray for one of 40 new Until unreached people groups, like the Relli, featured on this page.

NEW UP³GS BY



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Photography

on Unsplash

TAKE

ACTION!

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