

In a world on lockdown, **GOD'S MISSION BREAKS THROUGH!**



Fall 2020 brings challenges we could not have imagined a year ago. Parents and teachers are grappling with decisions about conducting school online instead of sending children to school. Churches and businesses maintain a balance between keeping doors open and offering safety and social distancing.

Pandemics, political upheaval, spiritual opposition, financial constraints, locked borders...none of these are obstacles to God. They present Him an opportunity to reveal His power in new ways. We are experiencing God's creative "work arounds" in Global Teams.

As the following stories demonstrate, when doors are tightly shut and a situation seems hopeless, the Lord amazes us as we witness His mission breaking through!

FROM OPPONENT TO DISCIPLE

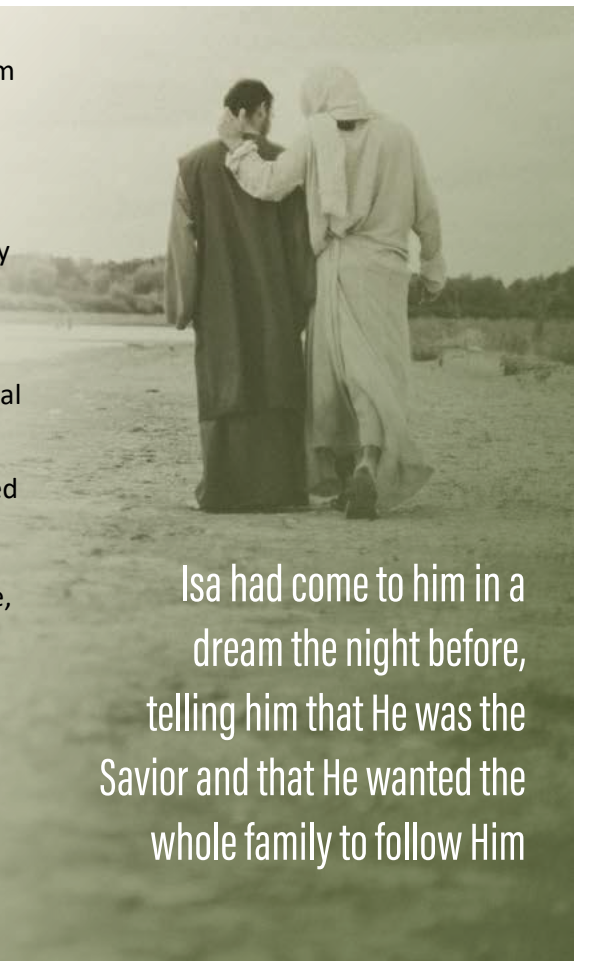
Makram and Deeba are followers of Isa (Jesus) in a Muslim district in India, where Makram leads a small fellowship. Their living situation is especially challenging because they live with Makram's father, mother and brother, who are not only unbelievers but strongly oppose Makram and Deeba's Christian faith.

During Ramadan, the month long fast which finished in late May, Makram and Deeba dedicated special times of prayer for his family's salvation. Specifically, they asked God to reveal Isa to Makram's father, who, as the head of the family, most strongly opposed their faith.

On the last day of the fast, Makram and his father had a heated argument, resulting in the father ordering Makram and Deeba to vacate his home the next day. Despite pleading from other family members, the father remained unmoved in his decision. Makram and Deeba spent the night crying out to the Lord asking Him to reveal Himself to Makram's father.

In the morning, the father gathered the extended family together for an announcement. Isa had come to him in a dream the night before, telling him that He was the savior and that He wanted the whole family to follow Him, as Makram was doing. Now, the whole family has been studying the Scriptures and telling other Muslims of their faith in Isa!

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KINDNESS TURNS TALIBANI TO CHRIST

The generosity of our partners in addressing the needs of the GT field during the pandemic has not only been remarkable, but it has allowed our field partners to serve their hurting communities, demonstrating the love of Christ.

In Pakistan our teams distributed food into remote Muslim villages. In one location, a former Taliban commander was invited to participate in the food distribution. He showed up “for fun” but was quickly struck by the deep suffering of the people. He thought to himself, “Most of my life I have been fighting for Allah, running and hiding in caves. But this is something I have never seen before.”

After distributing food all day, the commander joined the Global Teams workers for a meal. As they prepared to eat, a war widow and her three children showed up asking for food. All the food had been distributed so the team gave them some of the food they had prepared for themselves. When two more women showed up, the woman who had just received her small portion for her children, shared with them.

The commander was convicted in his heart, “While in the Taliban, we took food from people like this in the name of Allah and even killed them!” As he sat thinking about his life, he heard a soft voice say, “This is how I care for others.” He told our leader, “I realized there was a Big Power who cared for all and that life is not about just taking and killing people. We must care for others! Then I heard the voice say again, ‘I am Isa (Jesus). Go! Care for others.’ ”

Since that day, this man has repented and turned to Jesus Christ. Under the discipleship of our leader, he quickly won two of his friends. The three of them recently took the dramatic step, for a Muslim, of being baptized.

Our field partners continue to suffer because of the continuing pandemic lockdown restrictions. If you feel prompted by the Lord to continue giving to meet this need, you can do so at the following link:

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



GT team bringing rations to a family in India

BREAKING THROUGH GLOBAL LOCKDOWN

Due to the pandemic, we have cancelled all planned face to face training for 2020. This setback has been felt throughout the movement, but God helped us quickly pivot to make use of video conferencing technology to push our training and equipping into remote areas.

In Central Asia, twenty-seven Muslim background believers met weekly to receive Global Teams’ introductory ministry training. The isolation from the corona virus, heightened the value they experienced as they prayerfully pushed into the on-line training. One older man commented, “This training has helped me see how I have adopted foreign models for reaching my people. I believe that by following Jesus’ model we are going to see new breakthroughs here!”

On the African continent, dozens of Global Teams field partners were trained by Africans in disciple making movement principles. Despite the challenges of calling in from remote villages, this high impact training resulted in five new discovery Bible studies being started! We want to train 50% of our African field partners in these principles during the year so that as travel restrictions are lifted, we will be ready to see many new fellowships planted.

In July, 104 field partners from five continents met online for prayer and Bible study. The multitude of languages made for a chaotic, but heaven-like, gathering of nations! As a global organization, we’re especially thankful for this technology that allows us to cross boundaries and break down barriers.

HARD PRESSED BUT NOT CRUSHED!

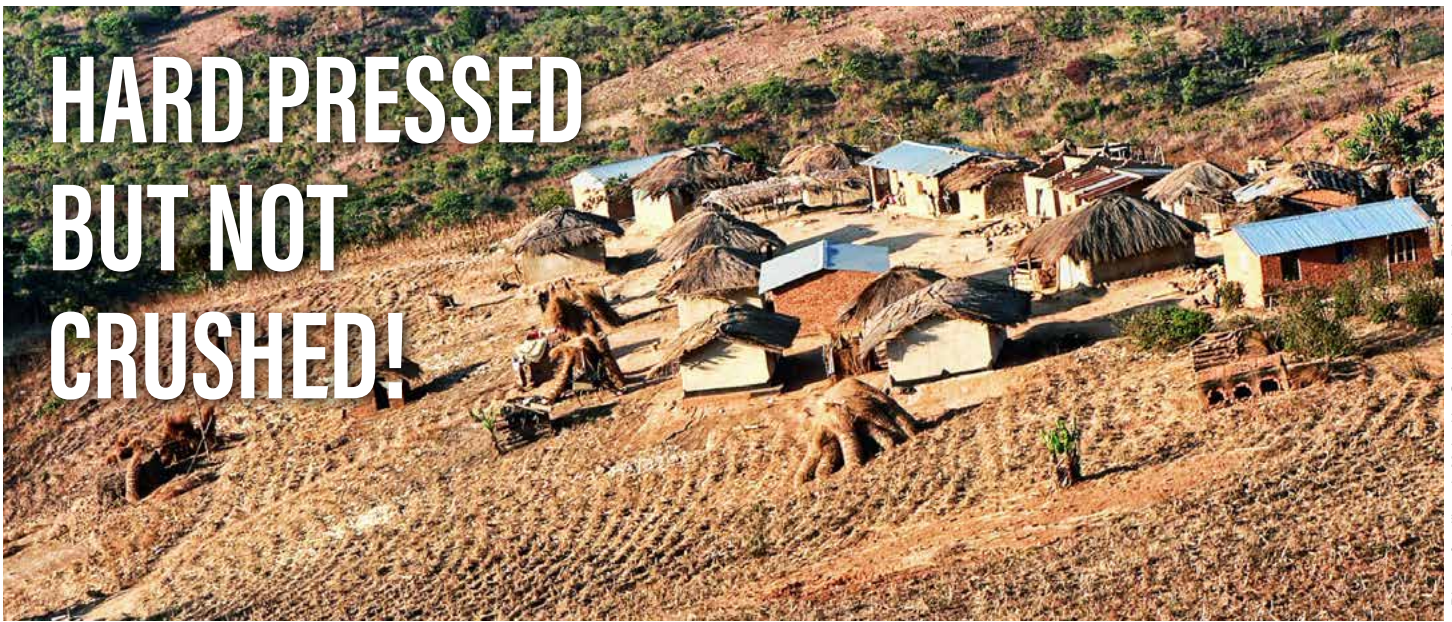


Photo of a village in Malawi by Graham Hobster on Pixabay

People in Malawi have been dealing with turmoil on many levels. Tampering in the national elections resulted in a trial and a new election. COVID-19 hit in the midst of the political process and brought a new level of chaos. How can God's Word go out in the middle of demonstrations, violence and stay at home orders?

For years, Global Teams field partners in Malawi have been sharing God's story with the Muslim Yao people throughout villages in Malawi and across the border. In one of these villages, a man named Chisulo responded to the Holy Spirit's work by embracing the message of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. A principle of Global Teams is: your leaders are in the harvest. This has proven true with Chisulo! As our GT leader continued discipling him, Chisulo grew spiritually - sharing his faith with Muslim friends and neighbors.

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Pandemic restrictions in Malawi prevented most travel. Feeling cut off, Yao villagers gathered daily in the village center for hours to share news and gossip with one another. During these times, Chisulo purposefully sat and talked with the men of his village, sharing stories of Jesus from the Gospels. Kazemde, one of the villagers, listened intently and began to believe what he heard. As a Muslim, he appreciated these stories about the Prophet Jesus, but as he continued to listen his faith grew. He reached a point where he said, "I knew Jesus as a prophet, but now have come to know Him personally as my Savior!" Kazemde continued going to the Mosque to share with his community all that he had been learning about Jesus, inviting them to follow Him also.

Because Global Team partners provided critically needed aid, GT Malawi leaders received permission to visit Yao villages. They learned of Chisulo and Kazemde's stories – rejoicing in God's ability to work in the midst of chaos and restrictions. Immediately they began working to leverage the experiences of Chisulo and Kazemde by having them begin writing a booklet in the Yao language to share with other villages.

"I knew Jesus as a prophet, but now have come to know Him personally as my Savior!"

Global Teams Malawi leadership has also been led to reach a different Muslim group in Mozambique. They have invited Chisulo and Kazemde to go and be part of the training, since they are Muslim Background Believers as the next step of launching ministry in this people group.

Political instability and a pandemic have not kept the Gospel from spreading through Muslim villages in Malawi, across the border and onto the coast of Mozambique!

And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory."

2 Corinthians 4:15

GOD'S WORD KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES!



Because Global Teams believes that the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to reach and teach all peoples, we place a priority on providing access to an understandable version of God's Word to the least reached. Sometimes that means providing audio scriptures, sometimes smaller, edited portions, and sometimes it means translating to their local language.

Several imams memorized Psalm 23 and instructed families to do the same.

In Asia, a team is working to translate the scriptures for the Muslim majority readers. After completing the initial translation, they field test it to check for understanding and appropriateness. Recently, the team completed Psalms, called Zabur by Muslims, and sent it out to both believers and unbelievers to read. This area has been ravaged not only by COVID-19, but by flooding, locusts and a cyclone.

Tens of thousands have been displaced. In this context, Psalm 23 became a source of great comfort to people.

Several imams memorized Psalm 23 and started reciting it first thing every morning. They were experiencing such comfort and hope that they instructed families and their children to do the same.

Daily recitation of this psalm also brought great comfort to believers in Global Teams fellowship groups. "This psalm is a tremendous blessing in our lives. Day by day we are feeling God's presence in our lives and our faith becomes alive." Though believers are "bound" by COVID restrictions, the Word of God is not bound! (2 Timothy 2:9)

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CONTINUING BREAKTHROUGHS!

You, our partners, are part of these amazing breakthroughs and we can celebrate God's faithfulness together. Your prayers and your gifts have launched new initiatives that have brought help and hope where it was badly needed. Your continued support enables us to be ready for every opportunity that the Lord places before us.

Yet this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope; the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His compassions never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:21-23



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