



Winter 2021

# GLOBAL MISSIONS

of Open Bible Churches 

## GLOBAL IMPACT



### I Am Not Ashamed of The Gospel

By Nicole\*, Missionary to Middle East

*Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be terrified of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave or forsake you. Deuteronomy 31:6*

**Sharing life with locals:** About a month ago a friend of mine asked me to go with her to a predominately Christian city south of the capital. She told me she loves this city and goes there frequently but is not allowed to visit the churches since she is a fully covered Muslim (she wears a full-body covering). A coworker and I eagerly accepted her invitation and traveled the 30 minutes down south with her to explore the city. I was blown away with her knowledge of Christianity and desire to learn more. As we sat in one chapel, she began asking questions about a picture of Christ on the cross.

"Tell me what this picture means." "Why is the soldier kneeling in front of Him?" "Why is he holding a spear?"

My coworker and I shared the story of Jesus on the cross, how his side was pierced, and how when He breathed his last an earthquake shook the ground and the soldiers fell in awe at his feet declaring He is truly the son of God. My friend was fascinated by this story. Each of these ideas completely contradicts what is taught in Islam. She asked us question after question about the death and resurrection and what they mean for us. Her desire to seek out truth amidst so many falsehoods continues to amaze me. On another visit, I sat across from one of our students from the English Center. After about an hour of conversation, her mom looked at my coworker and me and asked, "What is the difference between our religions? Is there that much difference?" I smiled and said, "I would love to share with you." I shared the story of brokenness in this world, and how no matter what we do we can never escape this brokenness. That is why Jesus came to earth, to create a path for us to go to heaven. For the next hour, my coworker and I talked with our student and her mom. At the end they told us, **"Please come back, we would like to talk about this more!"** We have plans to go back this week!



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The coronavirus pandemic has caused more than **3,426,517** deaths in over 219 countries. Even now, many churches are not able to meet in person because of COVID restrictions in their country. The funds received will help hundreds of pastors and their families survive by providing them with food and basic necessities. For more information go to [www.bit.ly/MVPpandemicaid](http://www.bit.ly/MVPpandemicaid).



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Despite the noticeable walls and barriers that Islam presents I am continuously amazed by the eagerness of locals to hear about Jesus. People are desiring truth and hope. What an honor to get to present it to them.

As we enter into the Christmas season, would you stand with me in prayer?

- Pray that God would continue to break down barriers around hearts so the truth can be revealed.
- Pray that eyes would be open to the truth about who Jesus is and why He chose to come to the earth. Pray for follow-up conversations and a continued sense of excitement for learning more about Him.
- Pray for an attentiveness to the Spirit as I invest in locals and go on visits with friends in the city.
- Pray for good conversations and deepened relationships with our teachers.
- Pray for Jesus to reveal himself to those we are interacting with. It is very common for Muslims to receive dreams and visions of Jesus. Pray for God to reveal himself to them in this way.



*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16*



I am continuously amazed by how many people are standing beside me, partnering together so the gospel can be shared here in the Middle East. What an honor. I am so thankful for each of you!

~Nicole

### Missionary Birthdays

#### January

3 – Rich Kopp  
4 – Nancy\*  
5 – Fayth McConnell  
14 – Tirsia Gaitan  
24 – Ian Welch

#### February

25 – Travis  
Hunsaker

#### March

19 – Tammy Swailes  
20 – Drew Welch

\*Last name withheld for safety reasons.