

Tim Smith Missionary Update January 2023

This past year God took our ministry and shifted it into hyper-drive it seems. The ministries of our national church planters in Central Asia have really grown and expanded. The war in Ukraine also has taken much time and many resources. However, in the midst of war and persecution, God continues to show Himself mighty and works in wonderful ways.

Central Asian church planters continuously report that people are coming to Christ, in fact so much so that many ask in doubt as if I am falsifying accounts! New church plant groups are being started in villages all around our main church plants where our men live and work. Our men report that they are being pulled in too many directions due to the need for laborers! I understand that need very well as I too am being pulled in too many directions, and as result have problems trying to find a God-honoring balance between caring for my family and caring for the flock of God. Please pray for me and all of our ministry teams in these regards. On a good note, we are trying to train men and women and equip them for the work of the ministry. In the last two and half years we have had many Afghani refugees come to faith in Christ, the church plants are swelling, and so we have started a Bible Institute to train 25 of these men and women. Our window of opportunity with these precious saints is a limited window as they are in "refugee holding patterns", waiting to be relocated to Europe, Canada, Australia and the United States. Our desire is to solidly ground these believers. They are fearless witnesses and are fiery evangelists. They will be taking the Gospel afresh to the nations they will be relocated in. God has called out a people from the darkness of Islam and is sending them to confront the nations with the Truth of His Son's gift of salvation! Please be in prayer for me to have wisdom as several Central Asian brothers have approached me hoping for support and to join our team, while the need is great, I want to be careful to have faithful men and those that hold good doctrine.

Please pray for our Iranian leader "Matthew", his underground church plant was raided back in September during a service. They all fled, and to this day he has only located 8 of the believers. We assume they have been jailed or killed. Matthew took his eight believers and they moved to another town to start again. He is encouraged now as they have a new population to share the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ with. River continues to see people come to faith in Jesus Christ he and his team have found ways of evangelizing and meeting even though he knows, if caught, he will be sent to prison. The church applied for official government registration, but it has not been granted nor denied even though it was promised back in Nov. Still, God continues to work despite the difficulties.

I have been in and out of Ukraine now 12 times taking in food, flack vests, medications and preaching over the last year of the war. My wife's family there, are all still faithfully serving God. They report that their churches are full of people every service. Many unbelievers are coming and seeking God. Many have trust Christ as Savior and are now being discipled. Our relatives are tired of the almost constant air raid sirens due to missiles, and Iranian Shehed suicide drones. Frequently their homes are shaken by blasts, they have daily power outages too. Still they keep reaching out to help those in need. We praise God that were able to take in generators for them to set up in their church building to be able to have services with lights and heat. They have also set up their church buildings as places for the towns people to come and recharge phones, flashlights, have hot tea and someone to talk to and hear the Gospel from. Luda and I thank all of you who have given towards our war relief fund. **While we are all tired of the Government waste and money laundering to Ukraine, aid that is given to God's children gets to the needed points and is used to feed, heal and evangelize. Thank you for your faithfulness.**

We anticipate the ministries to pick up even more speed as we trek into 2023, time is short! We are listening for the Trump of God and the voice of the archangel. May we be found faithfully serving our Savior not sitting on God's assets "occupying". Please keep us in constant prayer. On our knees before Jesus Christ is literally where the "battles" are won, it is how our men are bold though tortured, set free when imprisoned, how we get Bibles into the countries, and where we move men and women from apathy to saving faith.

Thank you for your partnership.

Tim, Luda, Sarah, Rachel and Naomi Smith