

# THE AFGHAN INITIATIVE

From Underground to the Unreached

## THE NEED

When the US withdrew from Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban took over the country in just 10 days—to the horror of millions of Afghans.

News outlets told stories of Afghans' desperate attempts to escape. But few ever told the stories of the Afghan Christian community—an underground church network with as many as 20,000 men, women, and children and one of the fastest-growing church movements on earth.

These Christians have been threatened with death. Many have already paid that price. Many have sought to escape. Still others are looking for ways to reach their fellow Afghans with the gospel.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

God has sovereignly orchestrated circumstances for 11 Afghan Christian families who fled the Taliban. They are pastors, ministry workers, IT specialists, tailors, pharmacists, artists, Bible translation printers, and women's activists who have been on the run for a year and a half. They've left Afghanistan, but they are trapped in a refugee camp in an undisclosed location where they remain at risk.

These families are pursuing life in the United States—not just for safety, but also to minister among the more than 80,000 displaced Afghans expected to flood into the US in 2022 alone. To do so, however, requires R1 (religious worker) visas.

Provisionally, they were connected with Live Global and EveryEthne, two ministries of ABWE.



## THE PLAN

**RESCUE:** Through Live Global and EveryEthne, ABWE can provide the needed visas to get these families from the Afghan underground church out of the refugee camp and into the US.

**RELOCATE:** In cooperation with the US government, we have fully vetted these faithful servants and secured all needed documents. Lord willing, these families—totaling more than 35 individuals—will soon arrive in the US to begin their ministry: serving fellow Afghan refugees and reaching Muslims for Christ.

They will be strategically placed in teams of 2-4 family units in cities where there are significant Afghan populations. This team approach will allow them to be mutually encouraged while complementing each other's ministry skills. In each location, they will be partnering with an anchor church and with EveryEthne and Live Global missionaries who are already serving among Afghans.

**REACH:** Because of their deep understanding of their own languages and culture, these Afghan believers can relate to fellow Afghans in ways American missionaries can't. With God's help, we desire to see our collaborative ministry expand into other communities of Afghans and Muslims across the US and even into Central Asia and the Middle East.

## THE TEAM

### The Afghan Team

The stories of these 11 Afghan Christian leaders and their families are piercing. Though their conversion to Christianity has meant persecution and great risk to themselves and their families, the words they use to describe their life in Christ are marked with hope, joy, and freedom.

We believe that God has a call on the lives of these men and women to serve him. They have clearly demonstrated their desire to continue sharing the freedom found in Christ with their Muslim neighbors.

### The US Team

Why Live Global and EveryEthne? Live Global exists to partner with and support indigenous ministry partners across the world doing difficult work among the least reached. EveryEthne helps local churches in North America reach the unreached hidden in their own communities. As members of the ABWE global family of ministries, we benefit from 100 years of missions experience that has equipped us for this moment.

But we can't do it alone. We need a team of churches and individuals to join our team.

- Sponsor churches—churches who are prayerfully and financially invested in seeing these Afghan mission teams launched.
- Individuals—men, women, and children who will pray, give, and serve.

**“Pray for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”**

Ephesians 6:19-20

## **THE NEED**

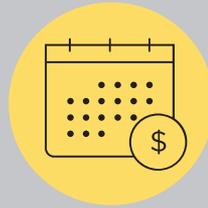
For this initiative to be successful, we need to raise the following funds.



The cost of visas to legally enter and do religious work in the US



The cost of airfare to the US for these Afghan families



Salaries, medical benefits, and ministry expenses for each family unit



**Estimated Total= \$2 Million** for resettling and relaunching the 11 family units

Will you help bring these underground believers to the unreached? We invite you to partner with us.

## **SUPPORT THE AFGHAN INITIATIVE**

[liveglobal.org/afghan](http://liveglobal.org/afghan)



**Hear these Afghan Christians in their own words:**

**“There will be no bright future for my daughters in Afghanistan.”**

“We cannot go back to Afghanistan because our relatives and the neighbors we lived near know that we are Christian. They would kill us. Because if you kill apostates in Islam, you receive a reward.”

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“The Taliban were searching for my wife and I. We had to leave our city because they were asking our neighbors about us and checking our alley every day.”

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“I had a friend who was a Christian. He gave me a Bible and said, ‘If you read this book, you will find answers to your questions, and finally you will find the real God.’ By reading the Bible, it clung to my heart. As I was reading, I became more interested day by day. Due to my study, I found the real God and converted to Christianity.”

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“I accepted Jesus Christ wholeheartedly, the questions which I had in my mind were solved slowly, and after our prayer times in our underground church, I felt joy and happiness and I understood that I was a slave before, but now I am accepted and loved by Jesus Christ.”

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**“I found a very real treasure in Christ—regardless of what happens in Afghanistan.”**

“When the Taliban took control of the country, they were looking for members of [our church] and they sent letters asking them to come to the police station for questioning. We cannot go back to our country—they will kill us.”

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“I once share the good news of Jesus with a person... and gave him a Bible. I learned that he was with the Taliban and now this makes us known to him that we are Christian. We are now known by Taliban.”

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“We became known as Christians in our society. We are afraid of the Taliban, our relatives, and the community [in] which we lived, because no matter which corner of Afghanistan we hide in, they will find us and kill us.”



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