



Christmas APPEAL 2023

Please give generously to our partner in international mission:

Elam Ministries

DONATE with
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ways to give



The love of Christ for Iran and beyond

Every day, Iranians are coming to Christ.

Every week, new house churches are being born in Iran, despite persecution.

Elam exists to strengthen and expand this rapidly growing church.

Much is happening, but -with your help- many more can be reached and discipled in the heart of the Muslim world.

Did you know that the number of Christians in Iran has increased exponentially since the fall of the Shah in 1979?

Or that life for a Christian in Iran is exceedingly tough?

Or that, since 1990, Elam Ministries has been providing literature, Bibles, training, and encouragement to Christians both inside Iran and in neighbouring countries where many Iranians spend their holidays?

Or that there is a thriving Iranian church in the UK?

Or that young Iranians (making up a quarter of the population), disillusioned with the current political, religious and economic situation, are more open to the Gospel than ever before?

Or that it took 20 years, and much suffering and hard work and enemy opposition, to translate the Bible into modern Persian?

For new believers, experiencing devotion through music is entirely new. Tens of thousands of believers tune into programmes on social media and satellite TV, and non-believers are also intrigued by the joyful singing. Some of these programmes are also broadcast into Afghanistan! Viewers send testimonies and videos, even though it is dangerous to do so, of how worship songs have impacted their hearts and helped them endure seasons of hardship.

In a situation where new believers could easily fall away without encouragement, Elam's 3 month one-to-one Safar courses are used to disciple many new believers and produce many leaders each year, and many more received advanced training. Encouraged by church-planting initiatives, and in response to the follow-up ministry to the programmes broadcast into the region, including weekly Bible, women's and children's programmes, the number of house churches inside Iran has grown exponentially, and this despite intense persecution.

All fellowships need the Word of God, and Elam has not been idle there: 2.5 New Testaments have been printed since 2003. These were distributed all over Iran and to Persian-speaking refugees and visitors in neighbouring countries. And Elam's correspondence courses are helping hundreds of new believers to learn about Jesus and grown in their walk with God. Hundreds of new Iranian and Afghan believers have been baptised in recent months in cities across the region. The large-scale baptisms have been occasions of great joy and celebration, often lasting from morning to evening. And there are more to come! And young people have come to Christ via football!

The ministry to women is particularly important, in a country where 'a woman's place is in the home' literally means that and women have no say. But there is nothing to stop them watching television or the internet. And in a country where life for women is very difficult, counselling on-line is also provided.

There are of course Iranian refugees in many European countries, and Elam does its best to cater for them too through discipleship conferences and leadership courses. Some of these refugees eventually return to Iran and plant house churches and fellowships there, or are involved in broadcasting programmes into Iran often through social media. And Elam has partnered with over three hundred churches and mission agencies in Europe. Not to mention the hundred thousand New Testaments that have been distributed in the continent.

You can support Elam by putting a donation into the gift-aided envelope provided or swipe your card on the readers in Busbridge and Hambledon Churches. You can also pray: Elam holds regular prayer meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 2 p.m. Contact Shelagh Godwin (jimdogshome@aol.com) for more details as she regularly attends. And you can get more news from Elam at all morning services in Busbridge and Hambledon on Mission Sunday, 10th December 2023.

WAYS TO GIVE

1

BACS is BEST!

Sort Code: 60-09-04

[NatWest, Godalming Branch]

Account name: Busbridge PCC

Account no: 00705349

Ref: <charity>

2

DONATE ON THE WEB SITE:

www.bhcgodalming.org/giving

3

A good old fashioned cheque, payable to Busbridge PCC.

Please use an Outward Giving Appeals envelope available from both churches. Cash is also welcome in an OG envelope.

4

The GoodBox contactless card reader at Busbridge Church will divert donations to OG when an appeal is running.

THE BHC OUTWARD GIVING GROUP provides a bridge between our church members and the charities and causes that Busbridge&Hambledon Church supports. See bhcgodalming/mission/outward-giving.

To get involved with this group or to find out about our bursary scheme for short mission projects, please contact mission@bhcgodalming.org