

ARIANA MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER

Afghanistan is in turmoil, but Afghans are more open to the Good News than ever before! In April, our team of 1st generation Afghan Christians launched Ariana Ministries to focus on building the church in Afghanistan. God is doing amazing things!

Social Media for Jesus!

Hundreds of new people contact us on our social media sites **every day** seeking truth while their world is crumbling around them. People are thirsty for God, especially women. As we talk with them, the Lord is touching their hearts, revealing Himself to them, and drawing them to Himself. God is moving, and we are just responding to what He's doing! People are searching for something other than Islam, so we are helping them to know Jesus. We give out hundreds of New Testaments every week, and follow up with those searching for truth.

One Afghan man heard the good news from a believer while in a deportation center in Iran. He was so impressed with the believer's peace and joy in difficult circumstances and wondered how it was possible, so when he returned to Afghanistan, he looked on a social network for answers. He found Ariana Ministries, and our team sent him the New Testament and spent time answering his questions. He soon became a believer and is now being discipled by a team member.



The people walking in darkness have seen a great **light**...



Kalisa Afghanistan

Our weekly online church meetings are used by groups and individuals to grow in their faith. Two to three hundred people might join us each week; and more than 3000 connect later on, as individuals or in guided groups.

A woman whom Ariana Ministries leaders had been discipling for about 2 years before the Taliban came shares:

*After the Taliban came, I was so depressed and hopeless. Everything changed, and we were so afraid, and we just tried to survive day by day, with no idea what horrors might await us the next day. I never imagined being in this kind of situation! We had to hide our Bible, and we could not worship or attend any meetings. I felt that even had God left us. Our family had to leave the country, and walked 3 days in the desert without enough food and water, and then the Taliban came and started to beat people. I thought that we would die, but after two days, they took us to the border of Pakistan and told us to go! This was a miracle, but we were still so overwhelmed. We had no idea about our future, and I was desperately looking for some small hope. One day my husband received a link to the online church (Kalisa Afghanistan), and Brother Hossein was preaching about hope! He reminded us, "God says that I will never leave you alone; I am always with you." It seemed like that message was for me – only for me. I took my husband's phone in my hand, and I listened carefully - again and again and again. It refreshed me like water quenching my thirsty soul. After that, I knew that God would be with me, no matter the situation. He sees me and hears my prayers. He revived my hope! Now, every week, I eagerly wait for the online church teaching and worship. Sometimes, I listen two or three times, because I need to focus on every word and think about the verses and the message and apply them to my life. I am becoming alive once more, and I never want to doubt God again. I just want to trust in Him, walk with Him, and be with Him because **I know that He is a faithful God.***

This beautiful sister now also attends an Ariana Ministries women's meeting, Bible study, and prayer meeting every week.



Praise God! Among all of the challenges in Afghanistan, God is protecting His Church. Afghanistan has supplanted N. Korea as being the most dangerous country in the world to be a Christian. There are some cases of persecution, and many of our former leaders have to work outside of the country, but in person evangelism and ministry is continuing.

Several years ago, God used a member of our team to introduce a man to the Lord, and as he grew, he shared with his family members until over 30 of them came to Christ! His now believing sister-in-law (let's call her Farzaneh for clarity) then reached out to her own sister about a year ago, but she scoffed and cursed at Farzaneh, who stopped sharing - but kept praying. Recently, the sister reached out and asked for a Bible. When Farzaneh asked why she had a change of heart, she replied that Farzaneh's family had joy and peace and was happy even without money, while her own family was always sick, arguing, and unhappy. God is present with His people! Pray for this sister as she reads God's Word and hears the GOOD NEWS!



Our women's ministry hosts several weekly women's groups and does a lot of one on one counseling and discipling. Afghan women hold a specific challenge as they have been so crushed by their Islamic culture and now the Taliban.

For example, under Sharia Law, in order to perform the ritual prayers (Namaz) or even study the Quran, you must wash your face and hands, and any makeup or nail polish is forbidden as you will not be acceptable to

Allah. One of our leaders describes a painful memory she has of when she first got married (as a Muslim woman):

Someone had painted my nails for the ceremony, but afterwards, it was time for prayers, and I had to get rid of the nail polish. We had no acetone in the house as we never used nail polish, so we scraped every bit off with a knife. (Ouch!)

During a lesson with women about how God gives value and honor to woman, one woman shared:

*I had a problem with the "god" I used to follow, and I would always wonder why I didn't have joy. If this god created me, then why didn't he give me the freedom to be his creation? Why couldn't I wear nail polish? Or makeup? I always wondered if this god made the earth, why did he not value me? I was depressed, and felt like I was lost. I always kept the things that I wanted to myself because I knew that I couldn't get them. My life changed when I found Jesus; I was reborn and alive! Saying thank you a million times could not pay for His saving my life! I had a fresh start, I have freedom, and everything I could ever imagine. Today, I was so happy to come and to learn about God and get to know Him better, and I even painted my nails before I came! I can paint my nails and be accepted by God! Now that I think about it, I can't imagine where I would be if I hadn't found Him. **He truly changed my life.***

Please Pray with us...

Continued openness among the people.

Continued protection for the Christians inside Afghanistan and nearby nations.

Wisdom and insight and provision for those sharing – especially inside the country.

Pray for opportunities to meet in person as a team and also to run in-person conferences for the believers.

Pray for one brother in prison in Afghanistan for his faith, and pray for provision and protection for his family.

Pray for God's guidance as we set up the ministry with all of the administrative tasks that entails.

Pray for financial partners who will stand with us as God's harvest is coming in. God provided support to get us started, but we do not know how he is going to provide for the future. We just know that the harvest is ripe! We currently have a team of 15 Afghans (mostly full time, and mostly in the third world where the cost of living is less compared to North America) and 5 volunteer support members, but the need is huge, and there are more Christian Afghans burdened to reach their country that can join us as we get the support!

If you would like to partner with us financially, go to <https://arianaministries.org/give/> or mail checks to: Ariana Ministries, 8014 Cumming Hwy, Suite 403-200, Canton, GA, 30115, USA THANK YOU!