



Annual Report

But you are
a chosen people,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
God's special possession,
that you may
declare
the praises of him
who called you
out of darkness
into
his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9



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From the Executive Director

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid ...

2 Timothy 1:7 NIV

These are the words of Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus, to Timothy, who was like a son to him. At that time, just as it is today, life was challenging and characterized by fear, uncertainty and doubt. When human beings lose control and the world seems to go off its rails, it is understandable that people become afraid and grasp for something to hold onto. In itself, this is not a problem, but it becomes an issue when fears gain control over people and paralyze them so that they can no longer think clearly.

That is why we need to remember—in times of crisis—that God has given us a spirit of power, love and self-control. When we are pressed from all sides—by wars, persecution, daily news or future warnings—we should not be ruled by fear, but by the confidence that we have not been abandoned and need not despair. The central question that we should ask ourselves is, “who or what determines how we live, think and respond? Is it Jesus Christ, who conquered death, which is the light of our world, is our bread of life and guides the way, the truth and the life for us personally?

As *Communio Messianica*, we think of the many MBBs and people who are persecuted and defenseless against dangers such as war and violence. For example, the two million Syrians in Lebanon, Turkey, and in refugee camps in the Middle East.

In times like these, we want to give them hope. To tell them not to despair, but to let God strengthen and encourage them to be able to react and live wisely ... “for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control” (2 Timothy 1:7).

Let us hold fast to the promises of God, for HE retains control and has the final say.

Shalom
Rev. Dr. Yassir Eric
Executive Director

Yassir A. Eric



About Communio Messianica

A global church family of believers in Christ, primarily from Muslim backgrounds

In recent decades, the Muslim world has been shaken by the relatively new phenomenon of large numbers leaving Islam in favor of either Atheism or Christianity. Those choosing to embrace Christ are called “Muslim Background Believers” (MBBs).

Communio Messianica provides a home, identity, legitimacy and belonging for MBBs globally. Through fellowship, representation, nurturing, pastoral care, discipleship, leadership training, and legal advocacy, Communio Messianica seeks to ensure that MBBs are free to grow as believers and can integrate into the greater Body of Christ worldwide.

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Conversions from Islam to Christianity generally happen in secret, as it is illegal in most Muslim countries to leave Islam. Joining an established local church (if one exists) is usually not an option for MBBs, as this would bring unwelcome government attention to such churches; they do not dare be associated with the illegal evangelism of Muslims to Christianity.

Many MBBs are forced to live out their new faith alone or in ‘underground churches.’ Severe consequences often follow conversion, in-

cluding jail time, job loss, attempts on their life, or families turning their back against these new believers. The number of MBBs has increased exponentially and along with it the need to form an MBB network.

In Islam, the worldwide community of Islamic believers is called the “Ummah” (Arabic. “nation”). At Communio Messianica we use ‘Ummah’ to describe the new community of followers of Jesus Christ - former Muslims who have turned to Christ. This new Ummah provides MBBs with a home and a community to belong to. Communio Messianica want to provide a new “Ummah” for those who have left Islam to follow Jesus Christ, forming “The Community of the Messiah.”



Three Facets of Communio Messianica

T There are three facets to the work of Communio Messianica. On one level, we are a church for MBBs in need of a church structure. On another level, for those who already have church affiliation, we are a global network of MBB individuals and churches primarily from a Muslim background. Lastly, we are a missional organization, focused on equipping and sending MBBs as part of the Great Commission.

Pastoral Facet:

We are a Church

For the multitudes of MBBs who cannot be integrated into existing local churches, or who don't have a local church, Communio Messianica is in the process of forming a new ecclesiastical structure. Our intent is not to form a new denomination per se, but to form a structure best-suited for the needs of MBBs. We seek to fill the overwhelming need for pastoral care that meets the unique challenges and discipleship needs of those coming out of Islam to Christ. We recognize and respect other churches and seek cooperation and fellowship with them. It's important to note that the ecclesiastical facet of Communio Messianica is still very much under development. We make reference in this report to national councils, which at this stage are simply a group of local church leaders who have committed to working together under the 'Communio Messianica' umbrella. Similarly, regional councils are representatives of national councils within a region. Finally, we make reference to membership which at this stage is an informal agreement with

individuals, families and house churches who seek affiliation with Communio Messianica as part of their need to feel connected, belonging, and identity.

Community Facet:

We are a Network

We seek to better connect MBBs and MBB communities to the global body of Christ and as such, we seek communion, inter-communion and increased partnerships with other churches and Christian organizations. We pursue this goal through existing as well as new alliances and advisory capacities. Much of our work in speaking engagements, training, discipleship and other MBB-specific training falls in this category, as the needs of the global MBB communities are immense and pressing.

Missional Facet:

We Equip and Send MBBs

We are called and commissioned by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to be missional by faithfully witnessing and sharing the gospel. Communio Messianica provides training, resources and commissioning of MBBs to be effective missionaries within the context of their own countries and abroad. We disciple MBBs to live faithfully by the Word of God through teaching, mentoring, and accountability. For diaspora MBBs, training serves a dual role. First, such MBBs help Western churches understand Islam, its challenges, and how to evangelize Muslims. Second, they can disciple, equip and train fellow diaspora MBBs with the hope they will return to the Muslim World as missionaries.

A Storm in the House of Islam



A Storm in the House of Islam

Reflections by Dr. Paul Murdoch, Communio Messianica Academic Dean



I David Garrison, writing in his epochal volume, “A Wind in the House of Islam” (Garrison, 2014), documented significant movements from Islam to Christ in each of nine ‘rooms in the house of Islam’, namely every major predominantly Muslim region around the globe. Our experience in Communio Messianica

has confirmed that, over the decade since Garrison finished his book, this ‘wind in the house of Islam’ has turned into a full-blown storm.

Unbelievable events are unfolding in the Islamic world. Millions of Muslims are coming to faith in Jesus. The fastest-growing church in the world continues to be in Iran. Disciple Making Movements (DMMs) have grown from three known 1000-person movements in the year 2000 to over one thousand such movements in 2020, with numbers growing exponentially. Even seasoned missionaries from Islamic regions can hardly believe what is happening. We are grateful and at the same time humbled by what God is doing in the Islamic world in these historic and spiritually-significant times. Thirty years ago, few in the Muslim world dared become Christians, much less publicly profess Jesus or be baptized. Missions in these nations was difficult, with little visible fruit. Over the past hundred years, a ‘spring rain’ has been falling on the hard soil of the Islamic world, and—as Garrison describes in his book—the seeds have started to germinate, sprout

and flourish. Individual salvations and movements alike have been catalyzed by miracles, dreams, or visions of Jesus, which God seems to provide as an extraordinary demonstration of Jesus’ power. A close collaborator of mine in Pakistan converted from Islam to Christianity because both he and his wife had a vision in which Jesus promised to cure the woman’s illness. Because of their prayers to Jesus the disease was healed and they became followers of Christ.

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For many Muslims September 11, 2001 was a key turning point. While some celebrated the ‘successful blow against the great Satan, USA’, many more watched the events with horror, saying to themselves, “This can’t be! This is not me!” For the first time in history, a fundamental questioning of Islam began, and the seeds of the Gospel continued to grow rapidly, strengthened by widespread media ministry and brave national believers willing to share their stories online. Ten years later the Arab Spring swept across the land and, while the revolution was suppressed, seeds of change became firmly rooted in the hearts and minds of the people. The subsequent Syrian war and the rise of the Isla-



mic State only served to further catalyze the growing internal crisis which is spreading daily across the Islamic world. While traditionalists cling desperately to the 'glorious past of Islam,' millions upon millions of Muslims are turning away from Islam. 40,000 deaths in the Syrian war—just one of many armed conflicts—and hundreds of thousands of ruined livelihoods cannot simply be explained away. The first Gulf War between Iraq and Iran caused tens of thousands of deaths and a mass exodus of young men from Iran. Many concluded that 'Islam cannot be the true religion' and that 'such carnage cannot be God's work.' Thousands met Jesus while fleeing and were baptized.

As seen throughout history, the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. Converts from Islam suffer much affliction and persecution, so it takes something extraordinary for a Muslim to turn to Christ and follow Him. These men and women become Christians even though it might cost them their life. Once they experience Him, they can't help following Jesus! As Christ-followers encounter the Living Word, they develop deeper relationships with God, understand their place in the world and focus on obeying the Scriptures. Methodologies such as Discovery Bible Study (DBS) have play-

ed an important role with their focus on obeying the Bible and on rapid multiplication, especially among movements. A Fulani network that Communio Messianica has started working with in the Sahel zone has 40 DMM leaders and multiple movements—one of these includes over 1,600 churches.

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With this storm in the house of Islam come many needs that we at Communio Messianica are committed to address. While we savor this time of grace, we do not want to miss this opportunity, and must make ourselves available to God. The harvest is plentiful and the labourers are few. Most MBBs are first-generation and have many needs. Often, they are geographically isolated from other believers, or are in sensitive locations where it is difficult to meet together. "You are not alone" meets a key need of theirs, and Communio Messianica is committed to being a Christian

Ummah (‘community of believers,’ like a family) for MBBs in every region. First-generation MBBs come with many questions. What does Christian marriage look like? How are MBBs to treat their wives? Can an MBB be buried in a Muslim cemetery? How do I love my neighbor? These and many other questions need to be addressed to strengthen this large fledgling part of the Body of Christ in Muslim nations.

Finally, there is an urgency to the work before us. In 2016, I was at a conference where I learned of Egyptian Facebook groups that openly profess Atheism. I mentioned this to a colleague sitting at my table, who was incredulous. A quick search, however, found over 100 Egyptians who have publicly declared themselves to be Atheists. The Arab world is, indeed, full of change. People are desperate with life under Islamic systems and have become quite daring and public in their struggles. Islam’s failures have become quite apparent, and Muslims are searching for answers. No one knows how long this window of opportunity will last, so we at Communio Messianica are working with an urgency to serve the MBB community worldwide. We are reliant on the Holy Spirit for wisdom and direction as we navigate hostile security settings and uncertain times.

Your prayers are vital as we navigate countries that have long been enemy strongholds. The cost is great, but we serve a great God—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Your partnership and support is vital. The storm in the house of Islam has created unprecedented opportunities, but we must act quickly. The year 2022 has been a year of sowing broadly for the Communio Messianica team, and we look forward to building capacity, deepening regional involvement, and broadening our impact as we enter 2023. Thank you for your continued partnership in the Gospel. ■



Please note:

Stock photos and AI-generated photos have been used in this report to protect the identity of individuals living in security-sensitive areas. We have also changed names to protect these individuals.



Our Stories

MBBs whom we serve—part of our global family—belong to a wide range of nationalities, professional backgrounds, ages, ethnicities and cultures. There is no such thing as a “typical MBB”... this is a diverse community unified by former faith in Islam and by a commitment to Jesus. In spite of the diversity, certain similarities emerge in many of their journeys. To give you a small glimpse, we share some stories in this report. To protect their identity names and photos are changed.



Ghulam

From Afghanistan to Greece ...



Ghulam (name and photo changed) was born into a very strong Muslim family in Afghanistan. One of his family members is a well-known Islamic author who has helped translate for the Qur'an into English. As a boy Ghulam memorized parts of the Qur'an.

He studied Islamic theology at his uncle's request. In search of better living conditions, he decided to head to Europe. A friend suggested he go to Greece. While on the boat from Turkey to Lesbos, he learned of Afghan immigrants to Europe who had become Christians there. Until then, Ghulam had a negative view of Christians, telling others that he would never ever become a Christian, even if he were offered "all the Euros of Europe."

Starting over again in Greece was very difficult, however, after six years of school in his new country, Ghulam had learned Greek. An Iranian friend invited him to come with him to church. At first, he declined, but after three invitations, he decided to go to learn "what the infidels were speaking about." He continued attending the church to debate with church members and tell them they were wrong. After six months Ghulam's heart softened ever so slightly.

Staying in Greece proved difficult, however without proper paperwork Ghulam was unable to leave the country. In desperation he cried out to Jesus for help,

Staying in Greece proved difficult, however without proper paperwork Ghulam was unable to leave the country. In desperation he cried out to Jesus for help, "If you are really the son of God like the Christians claim, please help me!

"If you are really the son of God like the Christians claim, please help me! I want to leave the country. I want to have papers." The following night, he had a dream. In this dream, he saw his [immigration] folder in the police station, covered in dust. A wooden cross came down and came to rest on the folder ... and the folder moved in front of a police officer who opened it up. Waking up the next day, Ghulam brushed the dream aside, thinking it was indigestion. Two weeks later his lawyer informed him that the Greek government had granted him residency papers valid for five years!

From this moment onwards, Ghulam started studying the Bible and the Qur'an side-by-side. In 2012 he accepted Jesus and was baptized! He then went on to evangelize Muslims in Greece and was able to lead many to Christ. He is married now and resides in another European country with his wife. ■

Fawzia

Dreams changed the course of her life ...



F

Fawzia (name and photo changed) from Somalia always sought to please Allah. No matter what she did—be it fasting, praying or otherwise—she still felt like his slave and that Allah was very distant. After moving to Europe, someone sent her a video. In the video, Fawzia saw a group of Muslims reciting

the Qur'an, before beheading a man on the ground in front of them. Fawzia was horrified! For the first time in her life, she got furious at Allah and at Islam. She asked Allah, "How can I follow you?! Why didn't you save this innocent man? Why did he have to die in your name?" Sobbing violently that night Fawzia decided she could no longer follow Allah ... since his followers had killed this innocent man. From that day forward, Fawzia stopped reciting her evening prayers.

Later the same night, Fawzia had a dream in which a man appeared to her, saying, "Come all of you! Come and be saved!" Fawzia dreamed that she bowed down to the man and said, "You are my God!" The following night, she had another dream. In it, her mother gave her a Qur'an and, as Fawzia opened it she replied to her mother, "Jesus is the way, the life and the truth, no man can come to the Father except through Him!" She had never heard these words before and was very surprised! As the dream continued, Fawzia's mother requested some food and water. Fawzia fetched some from the kitchen on a tray, which she set on the table, when suddenly the food and the water turned into the shape of crosses. Fawzia tried to hide them, but it was too late. Her mother exclaimed, "You have become a Christian! You have become an infidel!" and ran out of the room.

Fawzia was frightened. Immediately the man from her previous dream re-appeared and lifted her like a child, saying "Fear not, my child!" With these words he took Fawzia high up into the sky ... she could see her house from above and then soared even higher,

into the Milky Way. The man took her to the most beautiful place—one which words cannot describe. Fawzia asked the man, "Where am I?" upon which he replied, "This is the place. This is heaven ... the place I have prepared for you and everyone who believes in me. Fear not my child because you are safe!"

When Fawzia awoke she went online searching the Internet for "Jesus is the way, the truth and the life" and found John 14:6. Then she found another verse which read that one day Jesus will come down from heaven and every eye will see, every knee will bow down, and every mouth will confess that He is the Lord. Upon seeing all this, Fawzia wanted to follow Jesus, too. Continuing to search, she found Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no-one can boast." From that moment on, Fawzia fell in love with the Word of God. She recalls kneeling down and giving her life to Jesus. Fawzia went on to share her new-found faith with her husband and extended family who all reacted very negatively towards her. They threatened her and told her she was dead to them. In the end, her family gave her husband two options, either take the children with him and leave Fawzia or kill her. He refused. She was his wife of twelve years and the mother of their children. His family told him that—failing to obey—he was no longer considered a Muslim. This drove him away from Islam, and he started reading the Bible. Four years later Fawzia's husband surrendered his life to Christ! In the meantime—unbeknownst to him—their children had also come to Christ! ■

Khairulla

God protects in a miraculous way ...



Many who choose to follow Jesus end up losing their lives as a result. Others have to flee their homes, families and communities. Khairulla Khan (name and photo changed)—a Pakistani Islamic scholar with a doctorate in hadith from Cairo’s al-Azhar University—returned to Pakistan completely disillusioned with Islam. After eight years of intensive study of the Qur’an and Qur’anic tradition, he went on a search ... until he found Jesus! His family tried to kill him repeatedly, but God’s hand protected Khairulla in a very special way. Khairulla’s father owns five villages—with five thousand serf inhabitants—along with a large sugar factory. Khairulla’s father hired five hitmen to kill him as he

was making his way from a bus stop to one of his father’s villages. These hitmen took up position in front of the village, and when Khairulla got off the bus, he walked right past them and into the village. His father and brothers watched from a vantage point on top of the village wall. “Why don’t they shoot?” they asked themselves angrily! After the last passenger got off the bus, the hitmen went to the village to the father saying, “Your son didn’t get out. He wasn’t on the bus!” The father replied furiously, “What? I paid you good money, yet you didn’t kill him! There he is!” and pointed Khairulla out to them. When the hitmen saw Khairulla, they threw their weapons down and ran away in fear. They realized that God had done something inexplicable and supernatural by keeping their eyes from seeing their target. They had not seen the landlord’s son!



Zia

Martyred for God's Glory ...



W (As recounted by a former missionary in Pakistan)

When I was in Pakistan, I met a blind Pashtun named Zia (name and photo changed). He helped with the translation of the New Testament into the Pashto language. Prior to being hired as a language assistant, Zia had nothing to do with Christianity. He had been dependent on begging for his livelihood. His involvement in translating the New Testament into his mother tongue changed his whole life. Little by little Zia kept asking questions about this Jesus, whose words and deeds he now translated into his mother tongue.

Zia wanted to know the meaning of Jesus' miracles. He was amazed at Jesus's teachings. All this moved him greatly. He told the translators, "I want to become a Christian. I am so touched by what Jesus has said and done!" The translators thought he just wanted to please them and told him, "You will receive your salary for your work. You don't have to become a Christian for us to keep you employed." Yet, Zia pleaded with them, "You don't understand! There is such a power that emanates from these words! I must belong to Jesus!" The translators warned him, "Do you know what happens when someone leaves

Islam?" He replied, "Of course, I know what happens, but I can't help it! I must belong to Jesus!" Zia decided to follow Jesus and was baptized. Yet, only a few months after his conversion, Zia was kidnapped.

It was several months before the missionary learned what had really happened. He recounts, "The Pakistani secret police approached a colleague of mine several months after Zia's kidnapping saying they needed to get something off their chest. They had been investigating Zia's disappearance and learned the full story."

Zia had been taken into Afghanistan, where he was terribly mistreated in a prison cell. His persecutors beat and kicked him almost to the point of unconsciousness. They threatened to kill him if he did not recant his conversion to Christianity as a follower of Jesus Christ. Yet Zia remained firm. As a blind man, he could never tell when or where the next blow would strike, but he persevered throughout repeated blows.

When his torturers realized they could not break him in this manner, they changed tactics, offering a 'carrot' instead of a 'stick'. They told him they 'only wanted the best for him.' They wanted Zia to be happy as a Muslim, as a member of the "best people", the Muslim ummah. They offered him a house of his own with orchards, farmlands, and workers.

He would have no cares in life. Zia responded that they had nothing to offer him. He had everything in Christ. Jesus meant everything to him. Realizing that the ‘carrot’ was not working, and frustrated by his resilience, they threatened to cut out his tongue if he continued in this “blasphemy.”

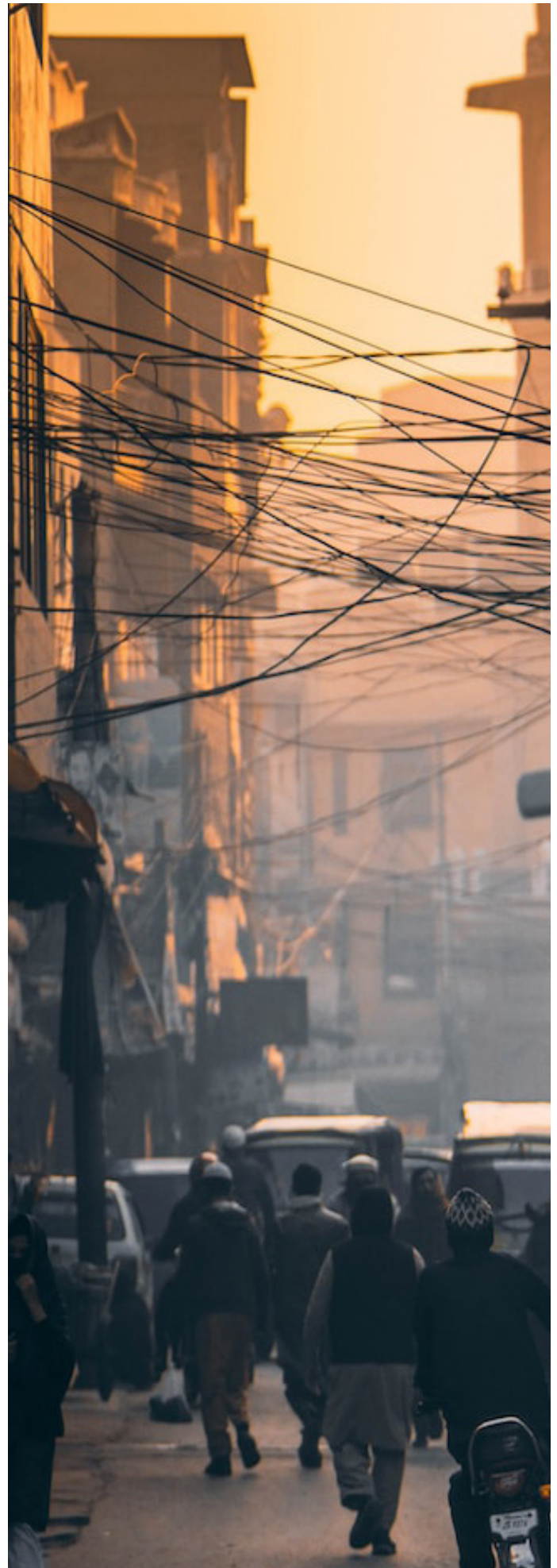
According to the secret police report, Zia continued to stand firm. The torture escalated with utmost cruelty in an effort to turn him back to Islam. When all efforts failed and Zia continued to refuse, they brutally killed him.

The missionary concludes, “This story moved the secret police so strongly, that they felt compelled to share it. They knew that the only person they could share it with was a foreign Christian. So they approached my colleague and told him.”

By God’s amazing providence and leading, we have come to know the story of this modern martyr of Christ’s body, the church. His name is Zia, and we share his story with you as a testimony of God’s faithfulness and the power of testimony. Even the secret police were moved by Zia’s testimony and steadfastness in his faith.

At Communio Messianica we are privileged to stand alongside many like Zia who are committed to glorifying Jesus above all and at any cost ... the world is not worthy of them, and we commend them for their faith. ■

“They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” – Revelation 12:11



Our Regions

We work worldwide in countries with a significant Muslim population. Communio Messianica is currently organized around the following geographic regions, namely:

- East Africa and the Nile Delta
- North Africa
- West and Central Africa
- The Arabian Peninsula
- Central Asia, Caucasus and Russia
- Southeast Asia
- Europe
- Iran and Afghanistan
- Levant

While these are our primary areas of focus, Communio Messianica does, of course, work with MBB churches and individuals in other parts of the world as well, and we are starting to partner with strategic ministries at a global level where appropriate.

Communio Messianica has a team member assigned to serve each region, and we are in varying stages of on-the-ground activities and presence in each region. Some of our activities are also world-wide, like our involvement in prayer campaigns.



Afghanistan and Iran

Afghanistan

July marked the one-year anniversary of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan which followed the hasty retreat of US and coalition forces. Thousands of Christians and others that are threatened by the Taliban fled in August 2022, and we have been supporting families in safe houses in neighbouring countries since then. This includes training them in what it means to follow Jesus. It is a great joy that—among those we have been supporting—five Afghan families were baptized in 2022!

Iran

Communio Messianica co-sponsored a conference in September which gathered key leaders of the exiled Iranian Church. The sheer growth of the Body of Christ amongst former Iranian Muslims is mind-boggling. God is omnipresent, and may His name be lifted up high across all of Iran!



East Africa / North Africa and the Nile Delta

Sudan

In January 2022, we received the news that twelve refugee communities of former Sudanese Muslims—who are now in neighbouring countries—have declared an affiliation with *Communio Messianica*. Elsewhere, displaced Darfuris who have become followers of Jesus are returning to their homeland, Darfur (in the western part of North Sudan, on the border with Chad) to tell their fellow tribesmen about Jesus and about the new “Ummah of the Messiah,” namely *Communio Messianica*.

Libya

On September 4 the Misurata Court of Appeal, the first criminal court of Libya, issued a judgment in case No. 211/2019, against defendant Diaa El-Din Ahmed Miftah Balao, our MBB brother. The court sentenced him to death for “insistence on apostasy from Islam.” Pray for Diaa Balao and other Libyan believers who are undergoing severe persecution, imprisonment, and in some cases death row for their faith in Jesus.



West and Central Africa

Mauritania

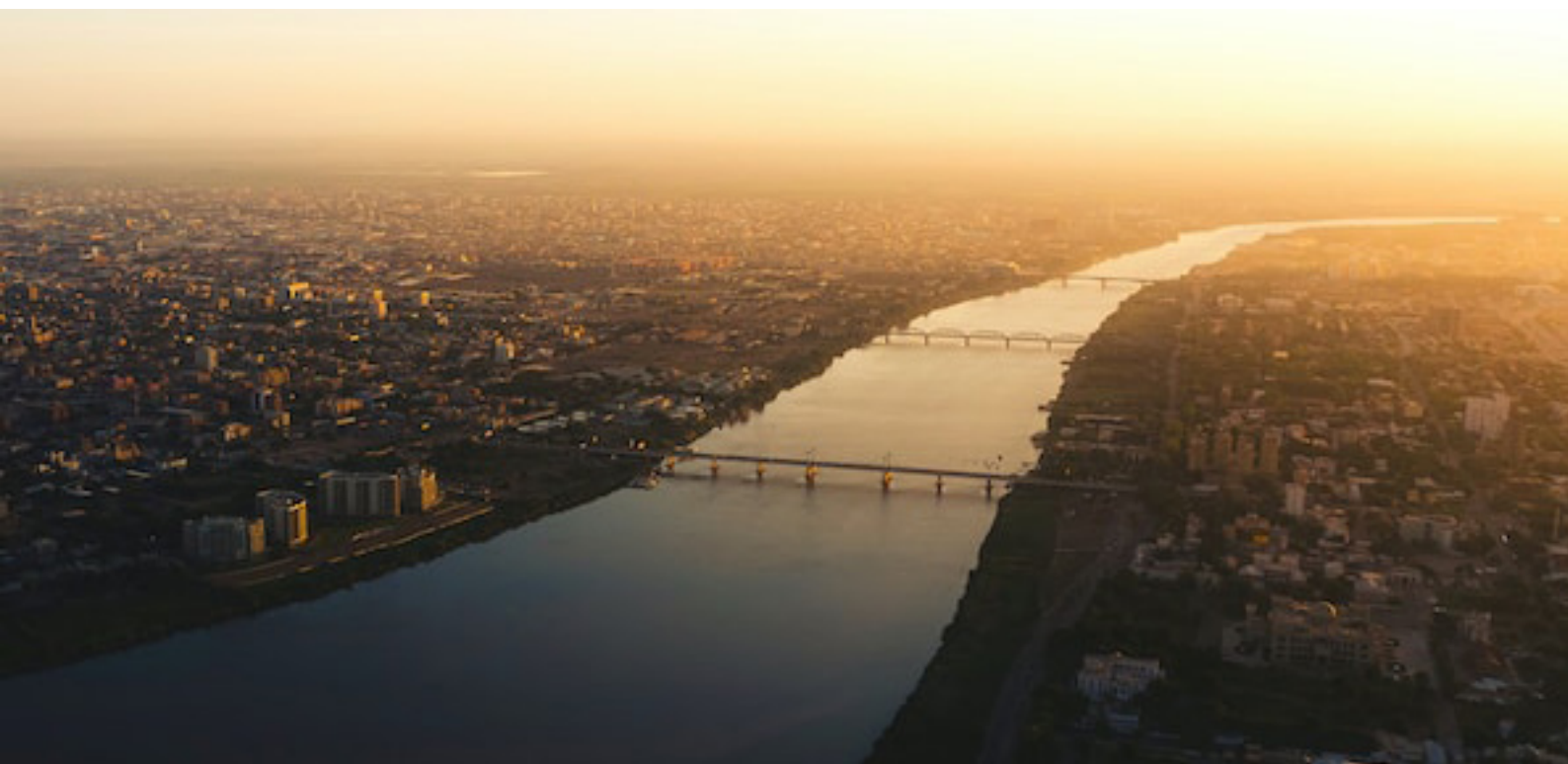
Activities for West Africa concentrated on the consolidation and continuation of earlier efforts with Mauritania and the Fulani Network of MBBs in West Africa.

The young Mauritanian church is in crisis. The leaders approached us with a request for training in the faith and for intercession. We have been conducting Bible training online for them. These MBBs have been registering their names with us so that we have the opportunity and authority to advocate for them if the situation worsens. By the year 2022 over 100 MBB families from Mauritania had registered with Communio Messianica, represented some 600 individuals. Registration was done securely in the event Communio Messianica advocacy would be needed in the case of increased persecution.

We also established excellent ties with several leaders—largely within the Fulani people group—spanning eight countries. Yassir Eric and Sam Solomon carried out a series of weekly discipleship sessions with the Mauritania leaders.

During the fall of 2022, we finalized the plans for a Communio Messianica West Africa Consultation, set for January 17-21, 2023. The stated goals of the Consultation are:

- to gather a community of MBB leaders from the Fulani community;
- to discuss and explain Communio Messianica to these leaders;
- to teach about key issues related to the nature of Islam, mission work and discipleship;
- to identify MBB issues and concerns within their respective countries and regions and
- to demonstrate how Communio Messianica can be of value in dealing with those issues; as a result of this consultation a council of elders is established to organize and oversee the formation of a CM regional council in West Africa.



Europe

“Cultures” training course

We are actively training former Muslims in Europe. Our current focus is on German-speaking countries, notably Germany, Austria and Switzerland (‘DACH’ countries). In 2022 we added a new Communio Messianica staff member in Switzerland who has been organizing discipleship training for European MBBs in cooperation with three other institutions. The course is called “Cultures” and provides discipleship and intercultural leadership training specifically designed for MBBs (<https://andcultures.ch>).

Course topics include identity, bible knowledge, biblical foundations, leadership, discipleship and missions. In the future this training will be translated into other languages. Pray for the work of Communio Messianica and our partners in the theological equipping of Arabic-speaking MBB leaders across the DACH region.

Catch the Vision Weekend

In July 2022 we participated in a moving weekend — called ‘Catch the Vision Weekend’— aimed at MBBs and Christians with a migration background (refugees, migrants & their descendants) in German-speaking Europe. Over 120 participants assembled in Switzerland representing more than 20 different nations, including Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Syria, Sudan, Algeria, India and Egypt. The focus of the conference was evangelism, discipleship, church planting and missions, and we met many potential future leaders at this event.

Board Meetings in Spain

The Communio Messianica board met for several days in Malaga, Spain after more than two years of COVID restrictions. The topics of this meeting included the planning of regional conferences, landmark decisions and approval of the financial budget.



Europe

Preparing for the official registration

Our core office team has been supported through significant secondments and other arrangements with strategic ministry partners. In 2022, as part of our growth objectives, we completed the registration of Communio Messianica e.V. as a legal entity in Germany, which paves the way for us to obtain charitable status and then hire staff directly. This means that at the end of 2022 we now have legal entities in Switzerland and Germany, charitable status in Switzerland, and Friends of CM 501(c)(3) a non-profit organization based in Seattle, USA.

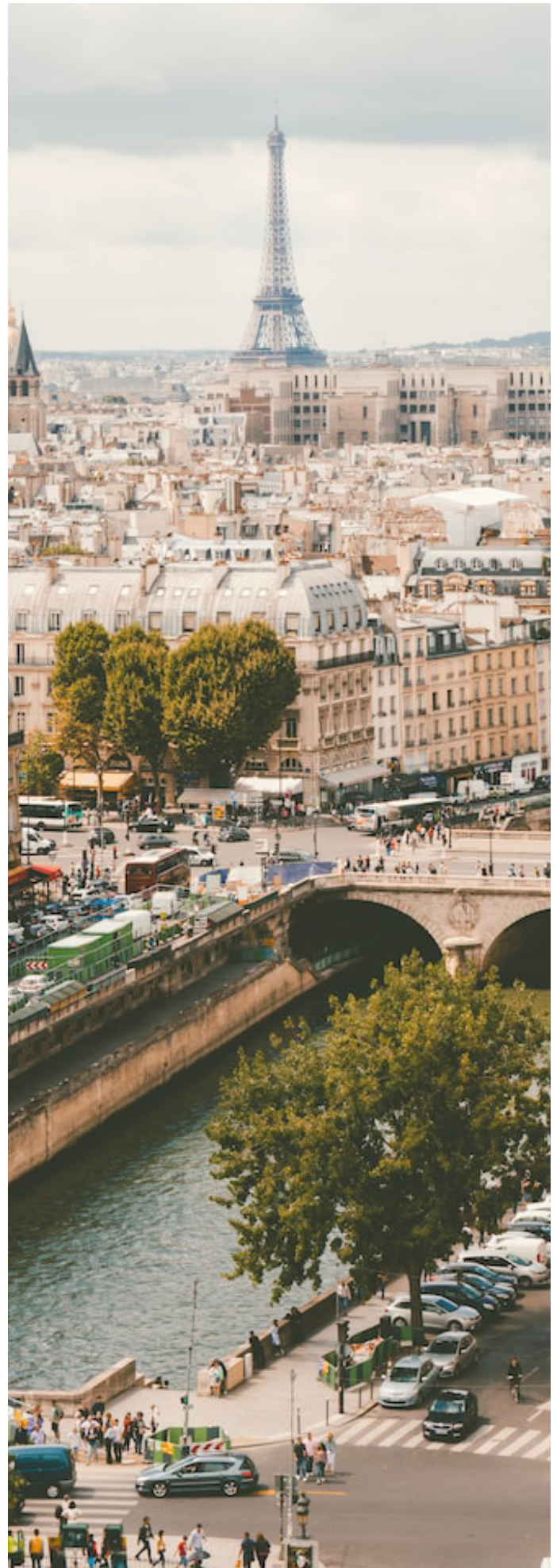
Theological research and training material for and by MBBs

Communio Messianica partnered with Word of Life UK (<https://word.org.uk/>) in two back-to-back consultations, followed up by two online forums on marriage issues critical to our MBB community. The first of these gathered theologians from a Muslim background involved research advancing movements and churches. The scope of this research is very broad, including background research, sociological studies, contextual issues and applied theology for various MBB situations. The Hikma Partnership was founded for this purpose ('Hikmah' is Arabic for 'wisdom').

Communio Messianica has been playing a major role in this effort.

The second consultation dealt with the development of materials and courses to support MBB networks worldwide. The diverse situations and needs across the Islamic world call for specialized courses and material to be produced which takes into account the unique needs of MBBs.

Communio Messianica is thankful that we can partner with over 40 other groups and individuals in this important task.



Central Asia, Caucasus and Russia

Most of the activities for Central Asia focused on consolidation and continuation of monthly teaching sessions since their initiation in August 2021.

In addition, there were discussions with key leaders of the various Central Asian countries to lay the groundwork for the formation of the individual Communio Messianica National Councils. We envision eventually combining the national councils within Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Russia (CACR) to form the consolidated Communio Messianica CACR Regional Council. So far, only Turkmenistan and Tajikistani have formed National Councils.

The consultation for the CACR Region was originally planned for 2022, but because of issues such as the travel restrictions due to COVID and the Russian-Ukrainian war the date is yet to be determined.

Monthly teaching sessions in 2022 with agenda topics jointly agreed upon by the Communio Messianica team along with attendees in Central Asia, Russia, and the Caucasus. Average attendance was around 100 people. Communio Messianica teachers included Sam Solomon, Atif Debs, Yassir Eric and Paul Murdoch.

Topics included: Burial of MBBs (theological and legal issues); Islamic strategies in Central Asia; Fasting in the Bible and within Islam; Role of the supernatural in Central Asian Islamic societies, and its impact on the MBBs; Explaining the Da'wa, "The Call to Islam"; the Role of music in Christian worship as compared to the prohibition of music in Islam, and; Allah of the Qur'an vs The triune God of the Bible.



Levant

Lebanon

We have been involved in the nurturing of MBB churches and home groups through teaching and training, with many having been baptised by us or ministers who are working alongside Communio Messianica. These MBBs share in the suffering of most Lebanese, and often suffer even more, as their faith has created barriers to receiving international help. In some cases we have seen instances of persecution and martyrdom of MBBs in Lebanon.

Turkey

Communio Messianica includes a number of communities of refugees with a Muslim background in Turkey. Among the millions of refugees in Turkey, there are many converts from Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and other countries. We have been able to organize and conduct joint meetings and trainings for them.

This year we organized a Christmas campaign for the children of MBB refugees stranded in Turkey, mainly from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. There are 17 MBB churches in Turkey who have become affiliated with Communio Messianica, and these together have more than 1,000 children. Communio Messianica provided 30,000 Euros in aid to 1,000 refugee children from MBB families, who otherwise receive no financial help and live in abject poverty. Each child received a gift including a jacket, a pair of durable shoes and a small toy, helping them to make it through the tough winter.



Southeast Asia

Indonesia, Malaysia & Brunei

Late fall of 2022 saw the first Communion Messianica visioning trip to Southeast Asia. Visits were made to MBBs in Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

In Indonesia, we met with MBBs representing most regions of Indonesia, notably leaders of Disciple Making Movements (DMM). We estimate the Indonesian MBBs number in the millions, with Indonesia being the world's largest Muslim nation. Persecution varies by state, with some facing extreme persecution and others less.

Brunei and Malaysia, on the other hand, both prohibit conversion of Muslims to Christianity, which has caused a clear divide between Malay believers and those from other ethnic groups.

The Chinese churches, for instance, are strong in Malaysia—and also present in Brunei—however have set aside most contact with the Muslim majority people (the Malay) in favour of 'harmony' (i.e., to avoid illegal proselytizing of Muslims). Sadly, this means MBBs are not welcomed in Chinese churches and largely scattered amongst small house churches and some DMMs. Persecution comes in various forms.

The high-profile case of Raymond Koh is the most visible example and continues in the courts, with no answers to his whereabouts since his 2017 disappearance, though the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) concluded in 2019 that Pastor Koh was abducted by state police. Communion Messianica was able to bring greetings and encouragement to his family. We continue to invest in Southeast Asia.



Worldwide

Cooperation with global players

Communio Messianica is privileged to have world-class partners in theology and discipleship training. We have also begun discussions with leaders in Disciple Making Movements (DMMs) in Africa and Southeast Asia, as these are key to learn from as it pertains to rapid multiplication and discipleship. We are also involved with others developing discipleship courses in the Islamic context, including several well-known theologians working in this field.

Conferences and teachings

Communio Messianica continues to have significant involvement in relevant conferences as speakers, organizers and participants. We were able to expand our network in 2022, teach on a large variety of issues related to the situation of MBBs and establish good contacts with partner organizations. We have ongoing teaching sessions (online and offline) for MBBs from different regions and in different languages. For security reasons we cannot provide details. Total conference attendance was 39 days in 2022. Over 70 days of teaching were provided.

Networking with churches and church communities

Communio Messianica is a full member of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and we have been experiencing a warm welcome by churches and church communities worldwide.

Prayer Campaigns

In 2022 we have been increasing visibility and involvement in global prayer events focused on the Muslim world.

Once again this year, some of our team members provided assistance to the content team behind “30 Days of prayer for the Muslim World.” Communio Messianica played also a key role in the third annual MBB Global Day of Prayer in November (<https://mbbglobal.net/>). It was an amazing day and a great success, with the live feed being broadcasted to over 40 countries on 73 channels and in 5 different languages (English, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi and Turkish). Many churches and groups formed zoom meetings in different parts of the world to pray together, and Al Hayat Ministries Brazil organized a 24-hour Zoom prayer meeting attended by 51,920 spanning many churches.

We also continued building relationships with International Prayer Connect and assisted in leading a part of the 24-hour long “One Night of Power” prayer event, during which over 110 million believers are thought to have been praying in one way or the other.

Global Outreach in Arabic, Russian and Farsi

From May 4-8, Yassir Eric spoke at an outreach event in Germany which was broadcast around the world with simultaneous translation in Arabic, Persian (Farsi) and Russian (for the Central Asian and former Soviet Muslim-majority countries).

Our Team

In 2022 Communio Messianica had team members— MBBs and CBBs — based in seven different countries. Some are seconded from partner organizations, while others are self-employed or volunteers.

During 2022 we grew to eleven team members accounting for approximately 6 Full Time Equivalents with individual contributions ranging from 20-100% FTE. We work remote the majority of the time, and meet as a whole team once a year in person.

Even though we are from different ethnic, professional and denominational backgrounds, we are united in our faith in Christ and our passion to provide a home and a family for former Muslims who have decided to follow Jesus. As the ministry grows, one of our priorities is to increase capacity, and we look forward to welcoming more team members in 2023.



Working at Communio Messianica

This past year 2022 has been an exciting year to be at Communio Messianica. The impact of our work has been felt by Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) around the world, on every continent. We spoke with some of our staff and volunteers about their time working with Communio Messianica. We asked them, **“How do you see Communio Messianica having an impact?”** Here are some of their answers.

“When I consider the impact of Communio Messianica I think of a place of ,belonging‘. It’s a place where you feel safe, it’s a place where you grow up, it’s a place where you are nurtured and cared for, and a space where you give.”

“Communio Messianica is the kind of ministry that we have been always dreaming of—but never knew existed. A personal vision that the Lord gave me is that Communio Messianica is going to be the umbrella in the aspect of media for all converts from Islam to Christianity and for all those who don’t have a voice.”

“Communio Messianica provides a home for MBBs worldwide, uniting them into the ‘ummah’ of all Muslim Background Believers, integrating them into the global Body of Christ, and empowering them with ‘staying power’ as the persecuted Church in their cultural and national context.”

“The words ‘family’, ‘home’, ‘refuge’, ‘unity’, ‘network’ and ‘advocacy’ come to mind when I think about the impact of Communio Messianica.”

“I think of walking together, following Jesus, coming alongside former Muslims and following our Lord together.”

“Communio Messianica has become a growing family of believers who are working towards ways to gather and to support former Muslims so that they can become a part of the global church. “

“Communio Messianica allows freedom for MBBs to develop their faith and has become a spiritual home—a home-base—for MBBs worldwide.”



Our Future Plans



Communio Messianica entered 2022 with charitable status as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) established in Switzerland, accompanying constitution and bylaws, an international council and an executive board. In 2023 Communio Messianica will continue with growth and expansion.

Formal registration in Germany

This year one of our focus areas is the completion of all necessary steps to establish Communio Messianica as a charity with operations in Germany. This will facilitate the establishment and maintenance of the required infrastructure to support our global network. We are working towards being able to employ staff directly rather than requiring them to be seconded from other organizations.

Building team capacity

We are looking forward to welcoming more staff members this year. With rapid network growth comes increased work load, requiring us to augment our existing team with more capacity and skillsets.

Annual team event

Once a year many of our core team members from around the world meet for strategic planning and team building. Over the course of several days, we come before God corporately to seek His direction. This is also an important bonding time. The annual team event is scheduled for the fall in Germany.



Regional Events



West Africa

This year will see the establishment of Communio Messianica in West Africa. We began the year working with leaders representing eight countries and representing a large number of MBBs from different communities such as the Fulani unengaged and unreached people group. Our focus for the year includes a leadership conference in-region, exploration of needs spanning West Africa, and establishing support structures to represent these MBBs and their unique needs. We thank God for the open hearts of these brothers and sisters and look forward to continue working with them as the year unfolds.

Central Asia

We are planning to hold a long-awaited consultation for Central Asia as soon as the situation allows. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, this consultation has been three years in the making. We expect to meet in one of the former Soviet Republics. Our goal is to officially establish Communio Messianica in this region by forming a leadership framework and infrastructure within these nations. Since our last consultation in Central Asia, our team has been working regularly with many of the local MBB leaders.

South-East Asia

After an exciting fact-finding and vision casting visit in Indonesia, Brunei, East and West Malaysia last fall, we are planning to hold an in-region consultation in late 2023 with local leaders in Southeast Asia to better understand their needs, bring some of the leaders together, and offer to establish support structures for the MBBs in this vast region. We expect this to lead to the eventual formation of a regional Communio Messianica council. We are excited about serving the local MBBs and hope to be able to offer support to the Discipleship Making Movements (DMMs) which are at various stages of maturity across the region. We seek to serve these MBB communities in a way which will multiply their impact as a light to their own nations.

Training, visits and conferences

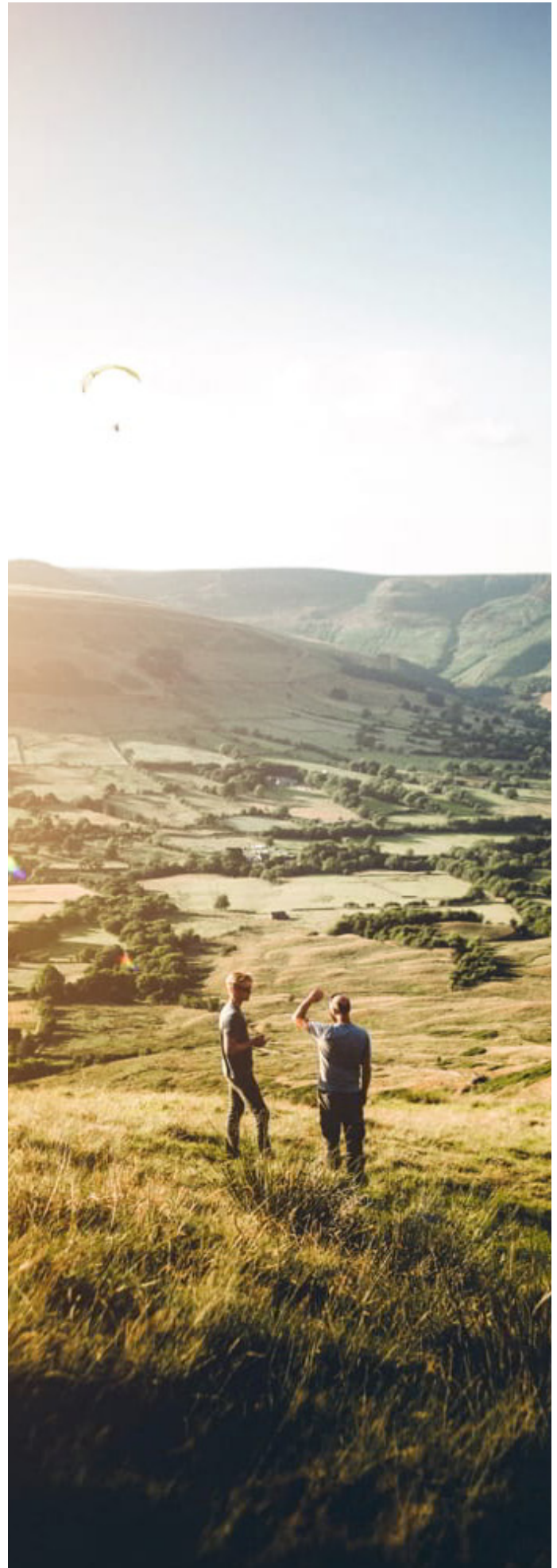
This year will see us continuing our ongoing training and in-country visits in different regions to connect with more MBBs and to strengthen relationships that we already have. A part of this work involves different Communio Messianica team members participating in a range of conferences and gatherings as speakers and participants – both online and face-to-face.

Discipleship project

Communio Messianica started to develop a discipleship project for MBBs in 2022, and will continue to formalize this in the current year. It focuses on discipling Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) at two levels, Leaders and second-generation children and youth. MBB leaders require intensive and focused training in many aspects related to their faith, life, and work in a hostile environment. These include questions of persecution, a need for church planting, identity, legitimacy, and a sense of belonging. Second generation children and youth – including those brought up with parents who have newly come to Christ – are exposed to pressures and influences which affect their faith and walk in the Lord.

Communio Messianica has experienced success in our early leadership discipleship efforts, and we plan to make this available in a media-based interactive program for MBB leadership training. The second-generation component has investigative and developmental components as it is based in training MBB parents and families to disciple their youth and children. We also seek to train children and youth in becoming ambassadors for Christ in a Muslim environment.

As we continue developing this contextualized discipleship training programs we are focused initially on MBBs in the Middle East and North Africa region. Initially it has been developed in the English language and then translated to Arabic. This allows the base materials in English to be translated and adapted to other regions in the Muslim World. Part of the success of such a program will require us to package the service offering in a consistent way and to market and roll it out in a way which scales. ■



Get involved



Do you want to stay updated on our work? Would you support us in prayer?

Our **newsletter and prayer letter** provides regular updates on Communio Messianica and some of what is happening in the worldwide MBB community.

Our **website** (www.communiomessianica.org) provides links to our newsletter and prayer letter in several different languages.

For those wishing to support us financially, our work is entirely supported by donations.

Thank you for considering supporting us this way!

Should you be interested in joining our team, taking part in our worldwide community ... or if you simply have any questions or feedback, we would love to hear from you!

Inquiries can be sent to us by writing an email to [info\(at\)communiomessianica.org](mailto:info(at)communiomessianica.org).

Our new bank details:

European Donors:

Evangelische Bank, IBAN Evangelische Bank
IBAN: DE32 520 604 100 005 039 355
BIC: GENODEF1EK1
Tax number: 45 255 19625

North American Donors:

We will be able to offer a possibility for donation through TrustBridge Global soon. Details will be shared on our website and publications.

Thank you!

We extend our sincere thanks to all those around the world who have contributed in some way—prayer support, financial support, or otherwise—to the forming of *Communio Messianica*. Many have gone before us and served in Muslim countries and communities, often going years or decades without visible results. Much prayer has been poured out over decades for the salvation of Muslims.

Communio Messianica is a result of these efforts and prayers. We are experiencing, firsthand, the incredible season of harvest which so many have

been longing for. Our hearts are full of thanks for the millions of Muslims who have come to see the light. We are deeply humbled to be living at this moment where we can see the results of prayer for and missional work amongst Muslims. It has been through your partnership in the Gospel.

But the work is not yet done, so we look ahead to where God will lead in 2023.

Soli deo gloria! May the name of Jesus be lifted high above the squares of Cairo and the markets of Damascus, above the old city streets of Sanaa and the islands of Indonesia, and above the food stalls of Kuala Lumpur and the very Kabaa of Mecca.

Thank you!



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