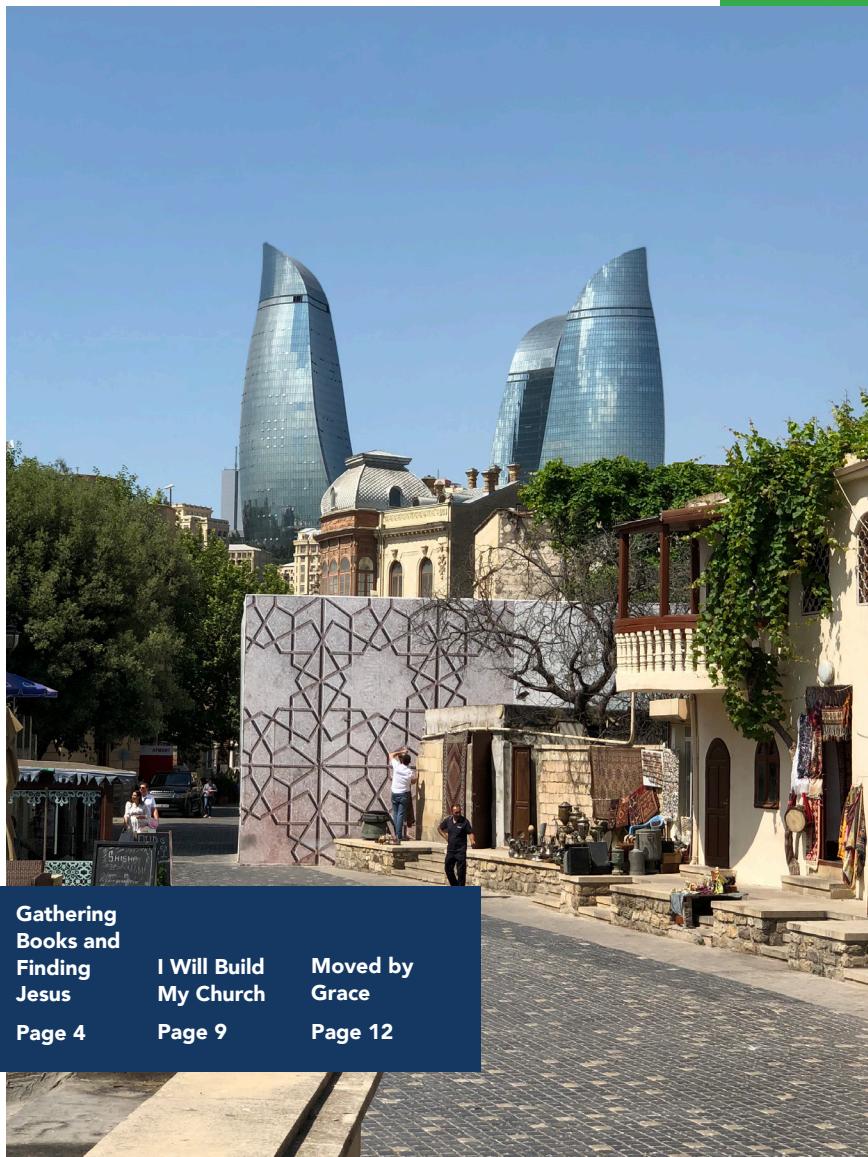


CROSSOVER GLOBAL

# COMMUNIQUÉ



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# CROSSOVER GLOBAL COMMUNIQUÉ

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## Crossover Global Affiliations



Crossover Global passionately seeks to glorify God by providing gospel access through the planting of multiplying churches among the unreached peoples of the world.



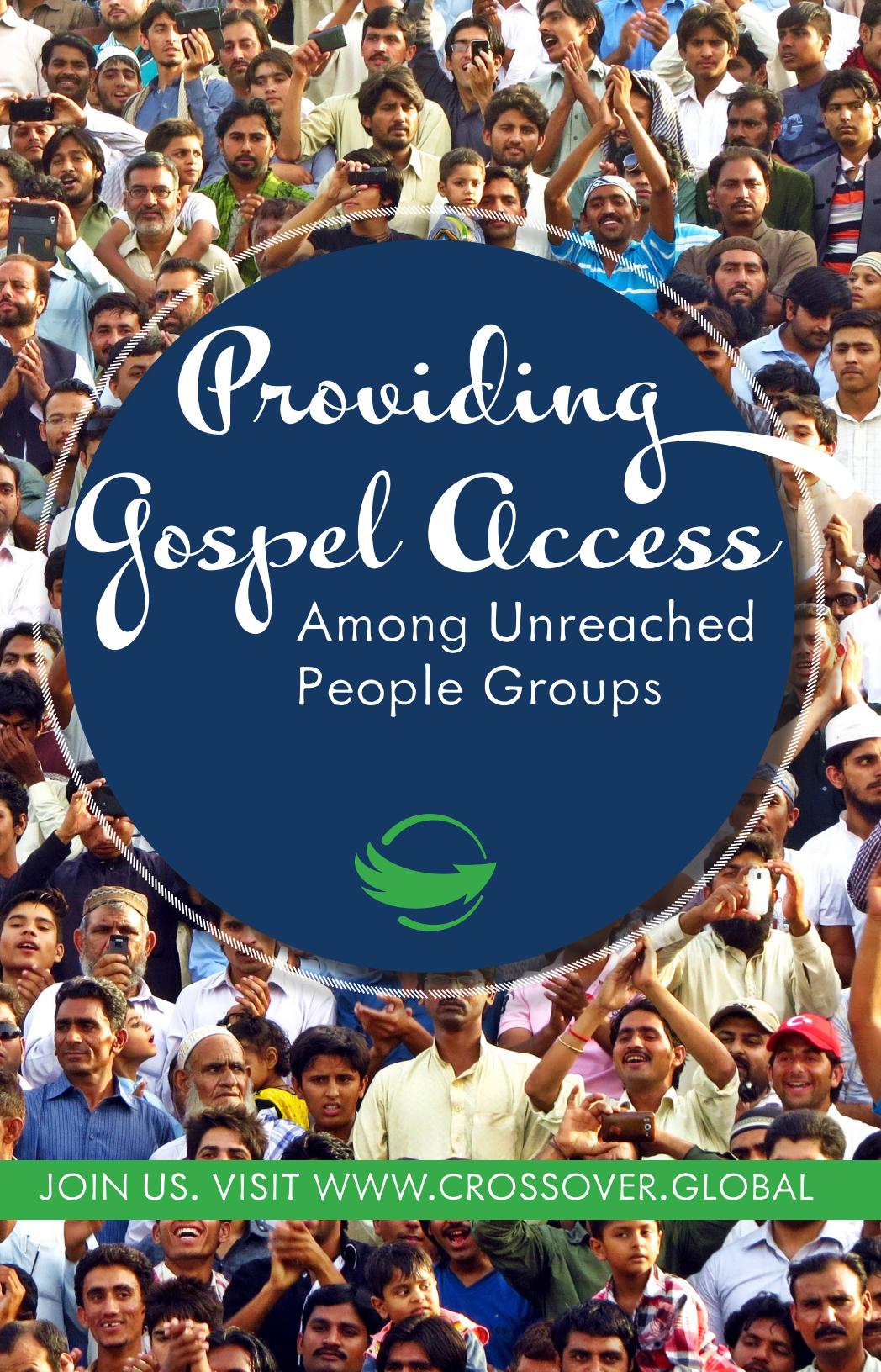
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Providing  
Gospel Access  
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People Groups



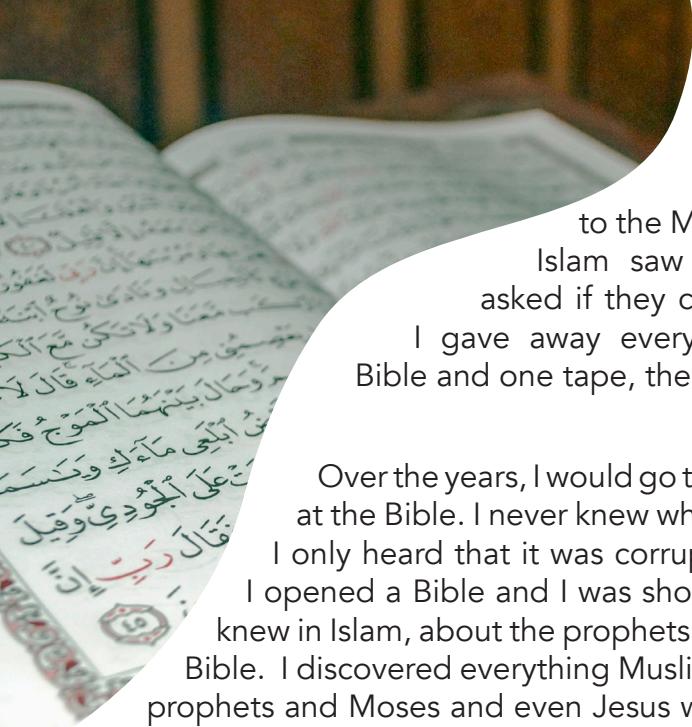
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# Gathering Books and Finding Jesus

I was a devout Muslim all of my life. When I was in college, I received a Bible in a very interesting way. My friends and I heard about Christians who would distribute booklets, Bibles, and tapes to people on campus. We came up with a plan to get the books so they would not get into the hands of weak Muslims. We did this so much that in my dorm, I had acquired a pile of these Christian booklets, Bibles, and tapes.

My friends and I would reuse the tapes to record Islamic material. I also wanted to get rid of the Bibles. As a good Muslim I was not allowed to burn or throw the Bibles in the trash because it is a sacred text. My militant friends who came





to the Middle East to study Islam saw the material and asked if they could have a Bible. I gave away everything except one Bible and one tape, the story of Jesus.

Over the years, I would go to the shelf and look at the Bible. I never knew what was in the Bible, I only heard that it was corrupt. Then one time

I opened a Bible and I was shocked. Everything I knew in Islam, about the prophets, was actually in the Bible. I discovered everything Muslims knew about the prophets and Moses and even Jesus was actually copied from the Bible. Whatever Muslim theologians and writers wrote about the prophets came straight from the Bible. In the Bible, however, we have the whole story, in the Quran it is just mentioned. It was when I came to this realization that I started raising questions about my Muslim faith.

I had questions about everything we [Muslims] would say about the Bible and about Christ so I went back and started reading. I could relate to the Old Testament and almost knew it fully. The New Testament was different but it was amazing. That is where God captured my heart.

When I started my research, I wanted to meet with religious people, Bible people, and God led me to a nurse in a hospital. She began explaining from the beginning, in Genesis, through the prophets and then to Jesus. She told me lots of things about Jesus.

As a Muslim, I had lots of questions about the cross, "Why do you want to see Jesus on the cross?" The Trinity – why three? God is one – "Listen O Israel, the Lord your God is one." Why is it three? After the nurse and I finished talking, she asked if she could pray for me. I had no idea what that was about. It sounded like she wanted to pray to me. I thought, "I'm not God." But then she started praying and I was very touched. I never expected anyone to connect me to the Most High God and God touched my heart that minute. I could not stop myself from crying. After that prayer, my attitude about everything I had heard about the Bible changed, from rejecting it and questioning it to embracing it. That is when my journey started with the Bible and Jesus.

*What a powerful story of how God is able to reveal truth to someone who was attempting to keep the truth from other Muslims. After trying to remove Christian material so others would not have the opportunity to be "corrupted" by it, our church planter has now dedicated his life to sharing the gospel with those who have no access.*

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This is the testimony of Daoud, a Crossover Global strategic coordinator who organizes Crossover Global's efforts to plant churches in the Arab World.

Names and specific locations have been omitted for security reasons.



# I Will Build My Church

It was a hot summer day on the shores of the Caspian Sea. We had just finished the service at the house church and we prayed together for those who were taking the step to be baptized. Among those being baptized were Ahmad, Fatmah and their son Musa.

It was approximately two years ago when Selma, the wife of a Crossover Global church planter reached out to Fatmah for the first time. Fatmah was open to hear and wanted to learn more about Jesus, but her husband Ahmad forbid her to meet with Selma again.

The Huseinov family are from Sumqayit City in Azerbaijan. Though nominal Muslims, they felt strong about protecting their Shia Muslim family traditions. Ahmad, the father, felt threatened by the idea that his wife was talking about Jesus from the "Injil" (New Testament) and not about Isa from the

Quran. For over a year they would have conversations that ended with Ahmad saying: "we are Muslims and I forbid you to see this lady again!"

Now, on the inside Ahmad was empty and had no hope. He struggled to find and keep a job. In Sumqayit City, due to the wave of Wahabism Sunni Muslim influence, 30% of the men had joined ISIS as fighters with the promise of paradise and a salary for their family. Joining ISIS could have been an option for Ahmad but instead he turned to drinking and doing drugs.

Life was not going well for Ahmad! With a wife and a young son, Ahmad found himself in the local jail once again for the night. The police had arrested him because he was found disturbing people on the streets while under the influence of drugs. The next morning he decided to pray to Jesus - this God from the "Injil" that his wife talked about it. As soon as he said the name Jesus, an overwhelming peace came to his heart. That very same day after being released from jail, Ahmad told his wife about what happened and asked for an Injil. Ahmad read the whole New Testament in three days and was really hungry to know more about Jesus and His promises.

Back to the hot summer day on the shores of the Caspian Sea. It had been one year since Ahmad prayed to Jesus inside of the jail. There in the Caspian Sea I had the greatest honor and privilege to baptize him, his wife Fatmah and his son Musa.

We walked together to a part of the sea where there were no tourists. Some of the church members stayed behind at the

shores watching out for people and the police. As the waves were coming against us and the sun shining strong over our heads I asked Ahmad who was his Lord and Savior. He said: "Isa Messih — Jesus, the Messiah." Upon that profession of faith that Jesus was his Lord and Savior, I baptized him in the waters of the Caspian Sea!

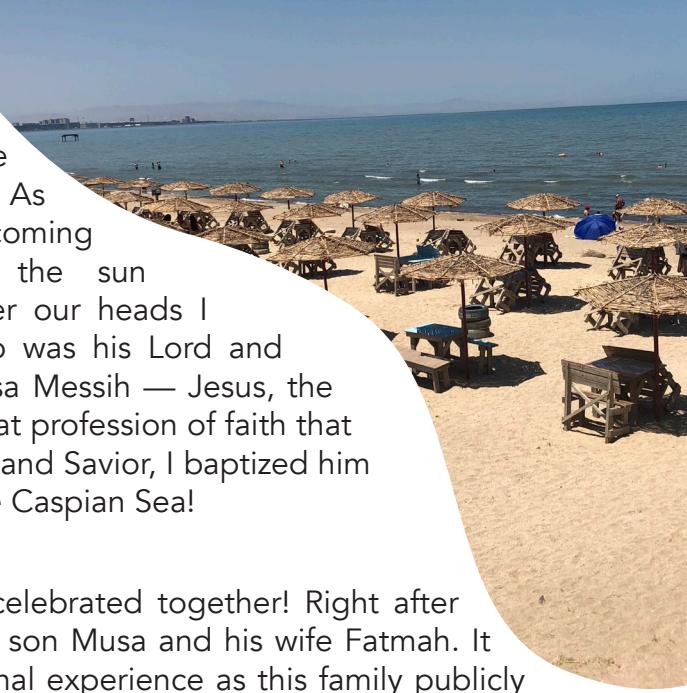
We rejoiced! We celebrated together! Right after him, I baptized his son Musa and his wife Fatmah. It was a very emotional experience as this family publicly professed Christ as their Lord and Savior, together.

Later that day, I kept thinking that for centuries people all over the world, like Ahmad and his family, have been professing Christ as their Lord and Savior and that is how Jesus is building his Church! Ahmad, Fatmah, and Musa's lives are another reminder that nothing will stop Jesus — no religion, drug, or persecution. He will continue to build His Church one profession of faith at the time!

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This story was provided by Ken Katayama who serves as the Crossover Global Senior Vice President of Operations and the Executive Director of the USA Base.

Names and specific locations have been omitted for security reasons.

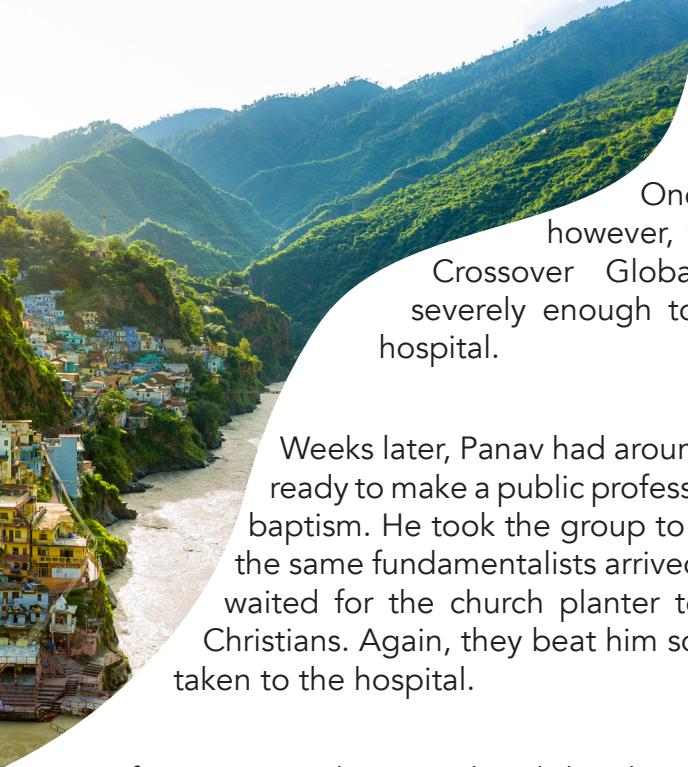


# Moved by Grace

Panav, a former Hindu man from India crossed over into a personal relationship with Christ. After being established in his walk with Christ, he wanted to help Crossover Global plant more churches among the unreached people of India.

After weeks of sharing the message of Good News, Panav had five people who had come to Christ and wanted to be baptized. He took them to a river to baptize them. During the service, several fundamentalist Hindus arrived. Out of respect for the religious ceremony, they





were quiet and caused no trouble. Once finished, however, they beat the new Crossover Global church planter severely enough to send him to the hospital.

Weeks later, Panav had around ten more people ready to make a public profession of faith through baptism. He took the group to the same river and the same fundamentalists arrived. They respectfully waited for the church planter to baptize the new Christians. Again, they beat him so badly that he was taken to the hospital.

A few more weeks passed and the church planter had over twenty people ready for baptism. At this point in the story, you have to wonder if he found a different place to baptize people. Apparently, he hadn't because the same group arrived and, after patiently waiting, beat Panav so badly that he went to the hospital for a third time.

By this time his fledgling church had grown in numbers, sufficient enough that when they went to the local police to report the incident the officers took notice. The officers arrested the thugs and threw them in jail. Proudly, the church members reported the victory to Panav, only to be shocked by his response.

Panav hobbled from the hospital and headed straight to the jail. There he requested that his persecutors be released. Shocked, his tormentors asked why he would drop the

charges after the way they had treated him. Kindly Panav responded that because Christ had forgiven him, he could forgive them. Overwhelmed by God's grace, some of those men gave their hearts to Christ. The God of grace once again was on the move.

*The second most populous country of the world, India, has the largest concentration of unreached people groups. There are 2,330 ethnic groups unreached by the Gospel, which equals over 1.2 billion people, or 95.6% of the population. The majority of Indians are Hindus. They have millions of gods, countless practices and rituals, cultural aspects rooted in Hinduism, which govern the lifestyle of everyone.\**

*Through a network of pastors established by our missionaries, we develop trainings that strengthen the ministry of Indian pastors and leaders, enabling them to plant healthy churches. We also invest in mentoring in a way that allows them to grow in their faith and resist the rise of persecution believers are facing in the country. The above story is just one example of how God is moving in India and using Crossover Global church planters to show His grace and forgiveness to those around them.*

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This story was provided by Rachel Ethemba who serves as the Crossover Global Regional Coordinator for Southeast Asia.

\* Statistics taken from joshuaproject.net 2019

Names and specific locations have been omitted for security reasons.



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