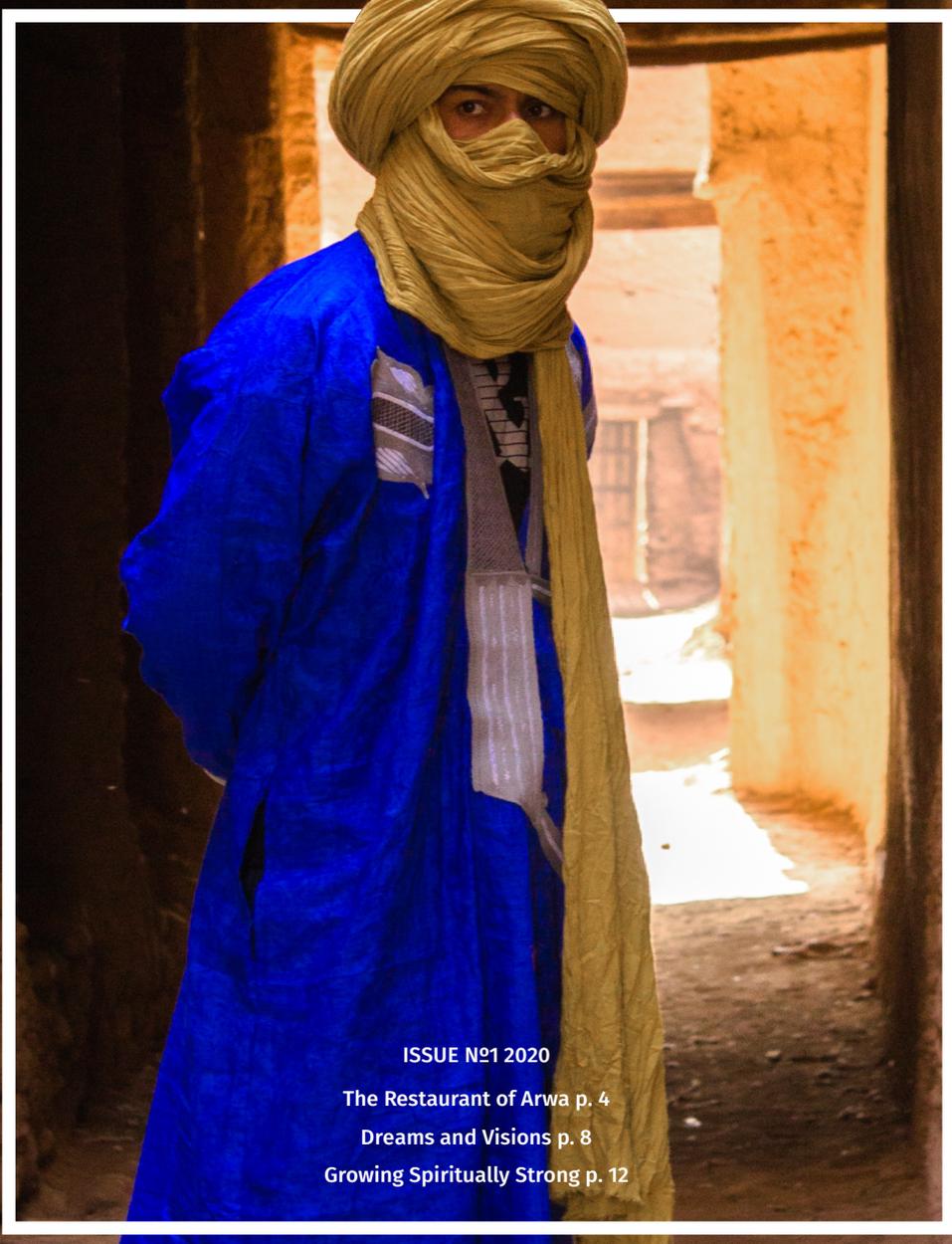


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Crossover Global passionately seeks to glorify God by providing gospel access through the planting of multiplying churches among the unreached peoples of the world.



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THE RESTAURANT OF ARWA



Since the Arab conquest of North Africa, between 647–709 AD, Muslims have called the five nations of North Africa the Maghreb, meaning “land in the West.” A nuance of the same word is also used as the last of five daily prayer rituals Muslims observe as the “sunsets in the West.” Over 77 million Muslims live in the Maghreb completely unaware of Jesus Christ, living in hundreds of villages and towns throughout the desert and the mountain range that stretches throughout the region.

Our team took a five-hour drive through those mountains. During the drive we saw dozens of small towns in what, for us, was in the “middle of nowhere.” I asked our local teammate why these people live so far from the major cities. He explained that the majority of the people living in these towns were Berbers, or Amazigh as they prefer to be called,

and during the Arab conquest most of them lived close to the Atlantic Ocean. When the Arabs invaded their lands, they gave them three options. Either you become a Muslim, keep your religion and pay heavy tax, or death. Hundreds of thousands of them fled to the mountains.

Over a thousand years later, Islam has become the official and practiced religion in the region. The Islamic practices survived even when the French colonized the country from 1911 to 1934. In every town we passed, we could easily identify the minaret from the local mosque first, even from afar.

Driving through these towns, I was once again reminded of the urgency and reality of the task at hand. These people need Christ just like someone in a major city like Atlanta or New York. The only, and major, difference is access to the Gospel. Our teammate confirmed that most of the people living in these towns have never heard about Jesus even once in their lives.

Our destination was a medium-sized city where a house-church that was planted by our team was meeting. Upon arriving in the city, we drove to a local restaurant. After enjoying a delicious meal, we spent time with the chef, Arwa who opened a restaurant at her house. Her husband, Ali, hosted us the entire time. Arwa is a follower of Jesus but her husband who is open to the Gospel, is still a Muslim. We openly talked about the scriptures together and with the permission of Ali, we took the Lord's supper together in order to encourage our sister in her walk. The message was that she was not alone. We acknowledge that she may feel lonely, but that God was there with her always. And we, as part of the body of Christ, were there in prayer.

Our experience reminded me of the story in Acts 16 when Paul and his companions met a business woman named Lydia. The Bible says, “she was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home.” (Acts 16:14-15) The house of Lydia became a point of Gospel access to the local community. The Restaurant of Arwa is the only point of Gospel access for thousands of Amazigh people.



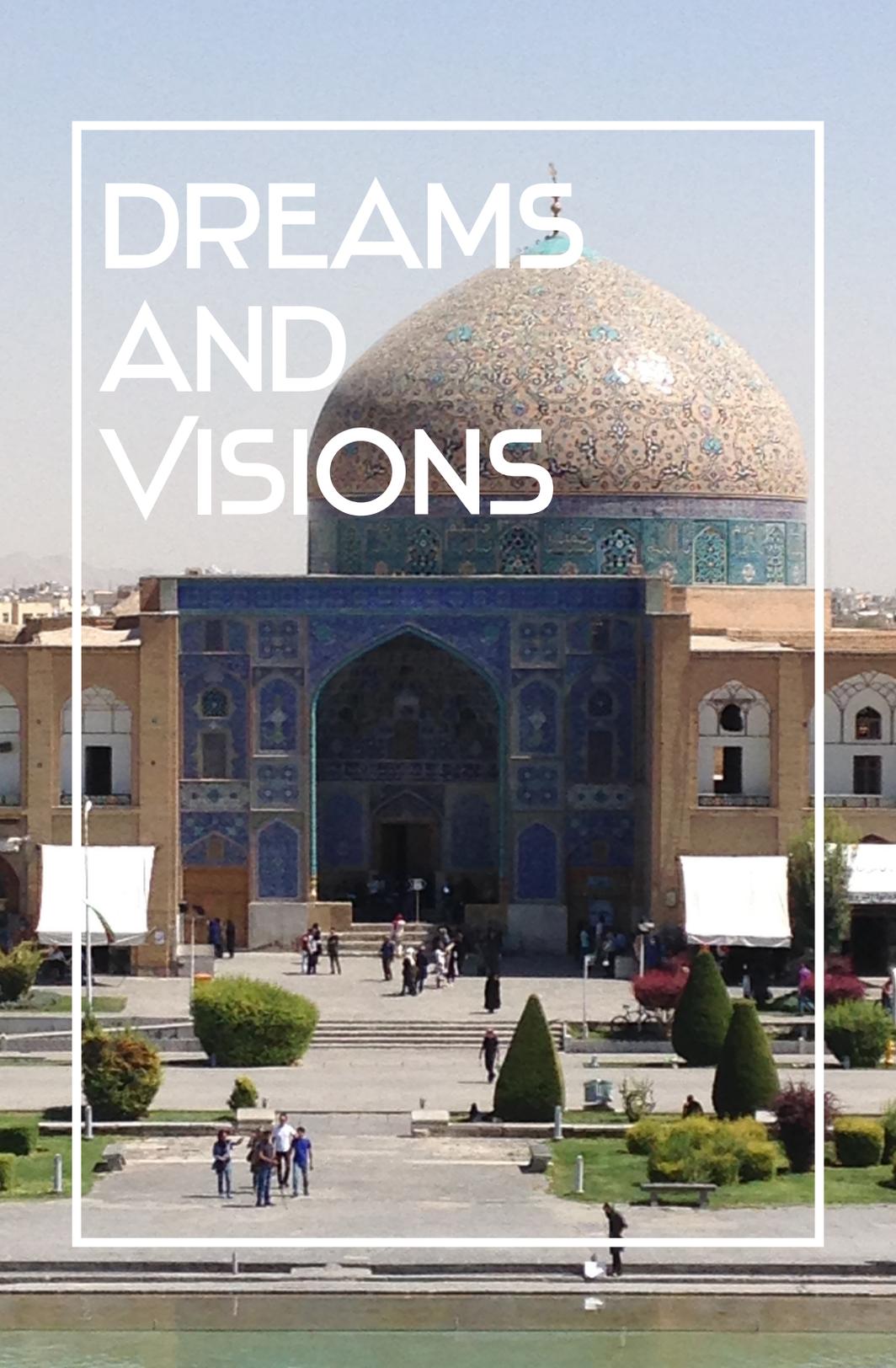
As the Gospel message goes forward, join us in prayer for house-churches, or in this case a restaurant-church, being planted in some of the most distant places on earth.



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

Some names and locations have been omitted for security reasons.

DREAMS AND VISIONS



I dream every night. In color. Vividly. And I remember two to three of my dreams the next morning. I remember some of my dreams for years. I still remember dreaming in 1979 that someone was holding me under water and I was drowning. That's forty years ago! When I woke up I was thrashing my arms in the air... while my wife Debby, sound asleep, had the palm of her hand on my forehead. In another dream from that same year Debby and I were fishing and she kept catching fish so quickly that I never had time to fish due to baiting her hook and taking the fish off of her line. I distinctly remember telling her in my dream, "It's just not fair if you catch ALL the fish."

DREAMS AND VISION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Those dreams are nothing in comparison to the dreams and visions occurring throughout the Muslim world. God is using



them to bring thousands of people to faith in Christ! I once watched two videos taken by the wife of one of our workers serving in a Middle Eastern country that is listed among those most dangerous to follow Jesus. The first video showed the church planter sharing the gospel with a Shia Muslim. At the end of the video the Muslim man asks Jesus Christ to forgive him of his sins and give him the free gift of eternal life. In the background you see the wife of the man who just accepted Christ. She does not seem to be very happy. She did not want her spouse to give his heart to the Lord.



Later that night the Muslim wife sat up in bed. While her husband slept beside her, she had a vision. (A vision is like having a dream except you are awake.) She saw a throne hovering over her husband's chest. It disturbed her greatly. Not having someone in her life with whom she could discuss spiritual matters, she contacted the female missionary who had videoed her husband and asked if they could get together. When she

arrived, the Muslim told her about the unusual vision of a throne hovering above her husband's chest. The female worker told the Muslim woman that when her husband had invited Christ into his life, Jesus had taken up residence in his heart as King and kings always sit upon thrones. That was all it took.

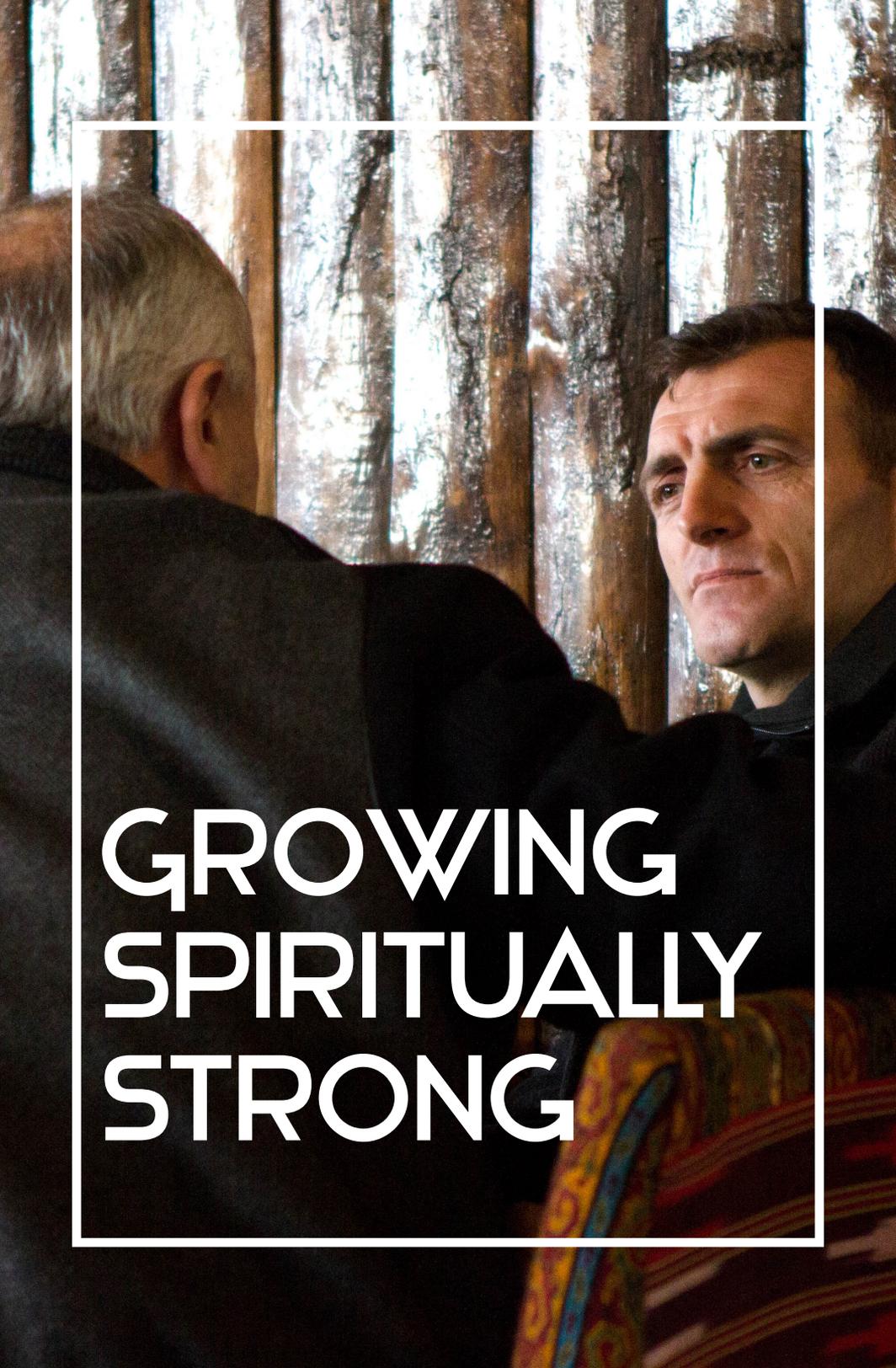
The second video I watched showed the Muslim woman smiling from ear to ear as she talked about inviting Christ to sit upon the throne of her own heart and be the King of her life.

ANOTHER KIND OF DREAM

Not only do I frequently dream at night, but I also often dream throughout the day of Crossover Global planting tens of thousands of multiplying churches around the world among unreached people groups, particularly Muslims and Hindus. Perhaps, just maybe, the Lord will give me the privilege to live long enough to see tens of thousands of small congregations worshipping Christ in a myriad of languages. Together it is definitely possible.

This story was provided by Bill Jones the Co-Founder and President of Crossover Global.

Some names and locations have been omitted for security reasons.



**GROWING
SPIRITUALLY
STRONG**

A young man, Omer, started coming to Bible study in Turkey. After a long struggle, he came to faith in Jesus. Since then, I've been walking through a time of spiritual growth with him.

At the beginning he was a hot flame of faith. He was constantly reading his Bible and he went on a service trip to another city. He was filled with the peace and presence of God.

Not long after, as one might expect, he faced trials and they pulled him away. He became fearful of telling his family about his new faith. He wrestled with temptation and didn't always win. When he failed, he was overcome with guilt causing him to isolate himself. He knew Jesus calls him to love others, but he was easily irritated by people.

Then came a breakthrough.

One day Omer got so angry that he punched a wall and broke some bones in his hand. It was a wake-up call for him

that he'd let his anger harm his life. He knew he needed to get back to a closer relationship with God, but this reminder was a bit more forceful. Instead of continuing down the same path, he decided to make some changes.

Around this same time, Omer's old friend, Yusuf, moved back to our city. They used to be friends but they had a falling out several years ago and have been angry with each other ever since. Yusuf has several mutual friends with Omer, so they ended up seeing each other a few times and things got tense. I encouraged Omer to forgive Yusuf but he was extremely resistant. I was having dinner with Omer and out of nowhere he said to me, "I know God wants me to forgive Yusuf, I just don't want to do it!" It was amazing that Omer recognized God's voice and was wrestling with it. Soon after we got together again and I asked Omer about his relationship with Yusuf, he smiled real big and said, "Aw we made up, I just told him that we shouldn't let that old problem keep us from being friends."

The same week, Omer broke up with his girlfriend. She is a believer and a wonderful lady, but he realized that their relationship wasn't healthy and that they were holding each other back instead of pushing each other forward toward Christ. Letting go can be painfully difficult. I am so encouraged that he saw this need and made the decision on his own.

Through it all I had sleepless nights of prayer and worry about Omer. I would drop everything at a moment's notice when he needed me. I forgave him when he offended me, and I tried to wait patiently when there was nothing else I could do. One night, Omer sent me a message. First came the verse, 2 Samuel 1:26, "Jonathan, I miss you most! I loved you like a

brother. You were truly loyal to me more faithful than a wife to her husband." Next he wrote, "Hey dude, I wanted to send this to you. You were always sincere to me and always so faithful in our friendship." I was blown away at his words.

As I look back, there are a few lessons I'm taking away from what I've seen in Omer's life. I pray that God would continue to build Omer up into a powerful man of God.

Behind every church that is planted through Crossover Global there are teammates who are building relationships, investing in the lives of believers, and planting seeds of the Gospel. Progress of the Gospel among unreached Turks does not come easily. This story provided by a Crossover Global worker is just one example of the diligent work of our teammates in this region of the world.

Some names and locations have been omitted for security reasons.



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Unreached with
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