



The Newsletter of Reaching Unreached Nations UNREACHED UPDATE

April 2016



UPCOMING TRAVEL

April 13-16: USA

Becky helps share evangelistic media and Bible translation updates at an annual Central Asian people group conference.

April 18-20: USA

Eric co-facilitates a network meeting of church leaders "focused on the finish" - engaging with unengaged people groups.

April 24-29: Middle East

Eric hosts a team of researchers and mission leaders at a training for first generation believers leading an underground house church movement in the region.

PRAISE REPORT

At Christmas time many of you generously gave to help feed the families of pastors suffering persecution in the Middle East. We have received their thanks as well as a lovely hand carved wooden plaque which reads "our sincere thanks for your love and help for the suffering church." We pass their gratitude on to you, thankful for your partnership with RUN Ministries.

CONTACT RUN

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Rescuing Girls

For many months we have partnered with national colleagues to rescue and help the recovery of countless victims of ISIS' carnage. Some victims are women (many still just girls) sexually enslaved by ISIS fighters or used for sex trafficking. As their numbers grow, so has our need to provide safety and shelter.

Teammates "on the ground" recently rescued "Kaarina", a teenager beaten and treated so violently as a sex slave that our rescue team knew she needed professional medical help to survive. But to get her that help forced them to make the risky, even life-threatening decision to take her to find trained medical help, ready to beg them to take her in. They found not one clinic that would treat her due to threats they had received from ISIS.

Desperate, they searched area villages for anyone who might have a medical background.

The Lord led them to the village home of a widow who had lost her entire family to ISIS' terror. This widow was a gynecologist!

Not only had we gained an "on staff" gynecologist, but she sent word out to colleagues she knew and we now have a volunteer team of several doctors who will

care for rescued girls! This is great news for the many young women and girls we care for in "Esther Houses" ("safe homes" or temporary shelters) where survivors begin the healing process.

You are needed in their fight for healing. "How do we fight against the works of darkness?" you might wonder. You fight evil every day by presenting the gospel, with words and with actions, to the broken and despairing. Together we are an army of believers demonstrating that "greater is He who is in me [and you] than he that is in the world!" (1 John 4:4).

"You fight evil every day by presenting the Gospel with words and actions..."

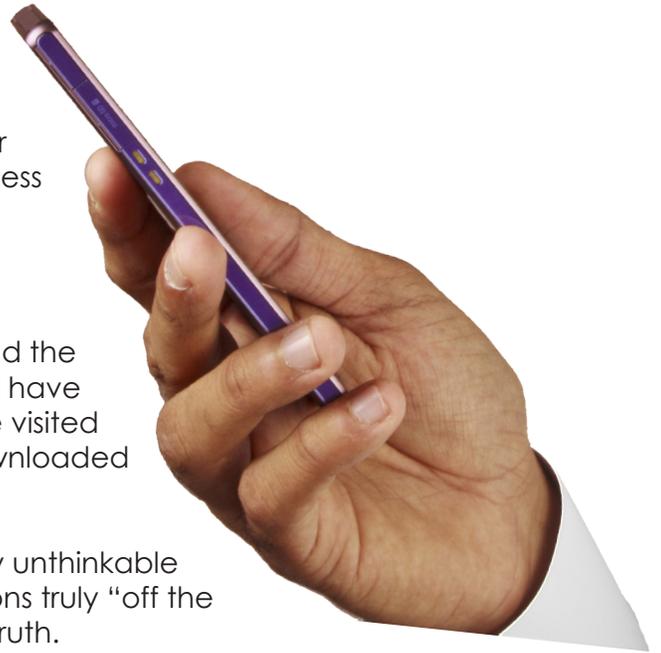
Sowing Strategically

Often we hear about savvy internet users advancing their causes through online messaging. Now the Good News is able to be shared in the same way! For months our evangelistic media team colleagues have strategically communicated the Scriptures via internet, phone app, and social media to a vast and isolated Central Asian people group who otherwise would never know of the Scriptures' existence in their language.

Through creative dissemination of online Scripture videos, daily messaging on social media and web interaction, our media team has accomplished "broadly sowing" awareness of the Scriptures in 99% of their villages!

Now the team is engaging with online relationships to fuel meaningful dialog about the Scriptures and our faith. Where once only handfuls of people knew they could read the Bible in their own language, now over half a million visitors have connected with our Scripture website, and over 32% have visited the site multiple times! Additionally, over 70,000 have downloaded pdfs or MP3 audio of the Scriptures.

Remarkably, the Scriptures are now available in previously unthinkable numbers among unreached villagers and in isolated regions truly "off the grid." Thank you for partnering with us to share life giving truth.



Grieving with Stephen

Not a day passes that I don't think of Stephen and his family. The first time we met I was a bit intimidated. God made Stephen a big, strong, burly man – more like an American football linebacker than a Middle East Bible translator. That day he was dressed in a crisp, starched, and pressed full-length white Arabic robe and a tribal leader's head dress. Honestly, his size and demeanor would, at first, frighten some.

But the warm embrace we exchanged was genuine and showed our mutual affection for the Lord and for one another. As I shared that day at RUN's Middle East Training Center, Stephen was respectful, attentive and eager to learn. He asked perceptive questions. As the first day of training came to a close it was clear that Stephen was eager for a stronger and deeper relationship with the Lord.

Since then I have met with Stephen many times, visiting where he works and sharing meaningful times of fellowship and personal ministry.

Last month we had the incredible privilege of ordaining Stephen as an affirmation of the ministry

to which God has called him. He is a leader of a Bible Translation team focused on Iraqi Arabic (the technical term is Mesopotamian Arabic). The geographical heart of this language lies between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Iraq and is known as the "cradle of civilization." It is near the region of the Garden of Eden, the birthplace of Abraham and Sarah, and much, much more!

But today there are six million Iraqi Arabs who do not have a New Testament in a language they can easily understand and take to heart. Stephen's passion and mission is to lead a New Testament translation team bringing the Good News of Jesus to them.

But the reason I think often of Stephen is that he missed the last day of our recent training. While together we learned that a group of terrorists had launched a grenade attack on the "safe" place he had arranged for his family to stay during our training time. Stephen's wife and two of his five children were killed. I have mourned with Stephen every day and prayed for him to continue in strength, boldly serving Jesus by translating the words of life in such a dark world.