



NEW GATEWAYS. NEW PEOPLE GROUPS. NEW AREA DIRECTOR.

Global Teams has opened access to over 220 million people from unreached groups with the appointment of our new Area Director, Makhset Djabarbergenov! The majority of these are Muslims living in the Turko-Russian world. As you can see from the map above, this incorporates a vast area of the world stretching from Siberia to Turkey.

We are grateful to God for bringing Makhset and his family to Global Teams to open up these fields for us. Makhset has years of church planting experience in the region and has suffered for his faith. See the accompanying article (Meet Makhset, page 2) to get to know him and his family better.

Makhset has wasted no time in recruiting new Global Teams field partners to engage the Kazakhs, Karakalpaks, Nogai, Kumyk, Crimean Tatars and the Uyghurs. Pray with us for more laborers to bring glory to Jesus in this desperately needy part of the world.

ASANTE!
اپ کا شکریہ!
Murakoze!
ধন্যবাদ!

Thank you! Your response to our crisis relief request has enabled us to distribute food to families in East Africa and South Asia, and distribution has just begun in Central Asia. The need continues to be great as more areas experience the economic effects of the pandemic. Please read "Unstoppable" on page 4 to learn more.



Emmanuel, GT Rwanda Coordinator practices social distancing while distributing food to field partners.

MEET MAKHSET

**Makhset Djabbarbergenov, our new
Turko-Russia Director, shares his story...**



I grew up in a Muslim family in Karakalpakstan, an autonomous region of Uzbekistan bordering Kazakhstan.

When I was twelve years old my elder brother cruelly shared news that changed my life: he told me I was not his “real” brother. I was adopted. Unlike in the West, to be adopted in my culture is a sign of great shame. Overnight I went from being a happy child, to being overcome with hopelessness and depression. Over the next four years, those feelings turned into bitterness.

I sought relief and since I was a Muslim, I turned to Islam and became a disciple of the Imam in our town. I learned the Koran and studied Arabic diligently. But my feelings of hopelessness and bitterness did not subside; they even increased.

I became a good boxer which helped me relieve some of my anger. One day at the gym, another Karakalpak athlete asked me, “You are studying Arabic and must pray in Arabic, but you don’t understand Arabic. If your God is really God, doesn’t He understand your mother tongue?” I was angry with his insolence, but I could not shake the logic of his question over the following weeks.

The next time I saw this man he said, “Makhset, I have something to tell you. God loves you. He really loves you!” That was crazy! My birth parents didn’t love me, they abandoned me. So how could God love me? Impossible! Allah is merciful, but He doesn’t love me. Despite all my arguments, the thought that the God of the universe might love me filled me with a rising hope that consumed me. By the time I saw my colleague again, I begged him to tell me how this could be true.

**How could God love me?
Impossible! Allah is merciful,
but He doesn’t love me.**

He patiently explained the ways of God, the problem of sin, and God’s answer in Jesus Christ – Isa Masix in my language. As I bowed to accept God’s grace gift of Jesus, the Spirit washed away my bitterness and I felt love and joy flood my soul. God saved me!

From the first day, God gave me the gift of evangelism and an apostolic vision to plant a house church in every region of my land. By his grace, we saw this happen, but not without much persecution in my Muslim country. I was in jail a few times in Uzbekistan.

Eventually, the government issued a warrant for my arrest and I fled to Kazakhstan through a miraculous series of events.

Once in Kazakhstan I had no money or documents, but I started planting churches again among Muslims. Though the Kazakh government had promised our family citizenship, months became years without results. One day on the way home, I was jumped by police who started beating me yelling, “We got the terrorist!” They were the secret police from Uzbekistan. When I called out that I was a follower of Jesus, not a terrorist, the Kazakh police intervened. They threw me in prison with criminals for three months.

Meanwhile the Uzbek government condemned me as a terrorist and demanded that the Kazakhstan government extradite me back to Uzbekistan. The police there were harassing the believers and told one of them, “We have your pastor now. Soon he will be in prison here where he will die!” But God’s people all around the world were praying for me.

**“We have your pastor now.
Soon he will be in prison here
where he will die!”**

On December 4, 2011, guards woke me up and told me to get going. When I asked where I was going, they heartlessly replied to, "To Uzbekistan." You can imagine my surprise when 24 hours later I was standing with my family in an apartment in Europe. God had done it!

We can't
wait to see
what God
will do!

While deeply grateful for the rescue, the next years were very difficult for our family since we had lost our friends, family, culture and our ministry. Slowly, the Lord began reopening doors for ministry not only in Europe, but back in Central Asia as well – though I was forbidden from traveling there. Being invited to join Global Teams to pioneer work among millions of unreached is an answer to years of prayer, and a fulfillment of dreams. We can't wait to see what God will do!



Makhset -- second from right -- after baptizing several new believers.

Makhset speaks several Turkic languages – Kazakh, Karakalpak, Uzbek, Kirgiz – as well as Russian, Swedish, English, and a little Chinese and Dari. He has a passion for seeing the church multiply throughout Russia and Central Asia. He is married to Aigul and has four sons and a daughter.



- Watch Makhset share his vision for GT's ministry at <https://www.global-teams.net/testimony-max.aspx>
- Read more of Makhset and Aigul's journey at <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2013/01/90-days-to-freedom/>

CHALLENGES IN CENTRAL ASIA

A small village in Kazakhstan has four families of believers, won by outreach from the church Makhset planted. They live among radical Muslims.



Not long ago, teachers found an electronic Bible on the phone of one of the believing young daughters, who is studying in the 6th grade. The teacher brought this student, Marina, before the school principal and psychologists who interrogated her several times and filmed her on camera.

After that, they held a large meeting at school and called her parents in. In front of everyone they demanded to know who she was. She fearlessly replied that she was a follower of Jesus! News spread throughout the school and it became a scandal for the school administrators.



Mocked by her friends, many simply stopped talking to Marina because of her faith, making her an outcast. Marina was a very good student at school and consistently landed on the dean's list. But after this case, the school administration removed her from all honor student lists. Yet, Marina remains unmoved, even though she is only 12 years old!

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
Mt. 5:11,12

UNSTOPPABLE!

Our field partners continue to reach out to neighbors with the Good News in word and deed by sharing their own resources, delivering food and medical supplies, hosting online prayer gatherings, feeding the homeless and stepping into many other gaps. Though constrained in movement, they are unstoppable. We praise the Lord that to date we have only one report of a Global Teams' field partner contracting COVID-19, a brother in Pakistan for whom we would appreciate your prayers.

Closed borders and airports cannot stop us from equipping our field partners to do this important work. We have moved our training online and have two Horizons courses in progress right now as well as participants in a Disciple Making Movements course offered from Kenya. While challenging, we are investing in technology allowing us to provide more opportunities. As you can imagine, there are some interesting challenges though in providing electronic training to say, desert dwelling pastoralists!

Yet, even with all of this good news, our field partners report a significant impact from economic measures. As fields go unharvested, many are concerned that hunger will take more lives than COVID-19. We feel compelled to help our field partners feed their families during this time of crisis.

Our leaders in Asia estimated that \$12 would sustain a family for a week, and one month would be \$50. During this season, we are all feeling the pinch. Would you help us supply food during this crisis to 300 of our most impacted field partners? Use the link below to designate your gift:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/crisisrelief>



One of our field partners with his family in Turkana land, Kenya

ANSWERED PRAYER

In March, we asked if you would commit more time to pray for Global Teams. Here are a few answered prayers.

- The daughter of field partners from Costa Rica serving in India was very ill and a doctor was five hours away so they prayed for her and she was healed.
- Africa Leadership had to cancel an important training due to the Coronavirus. A Kenyan leader heard, offered the training virtually and three Turkana leaders have joined it with more African leaders joining the next week.
- New workers in Central Asia have responded to the call to take the hope of Christ to the unreached people groups in the Turkic world. On two Saturdays in April and May, 18 leaders and potential leaders took part in online missionary training (Horizons).
- Ministry in Nepal has forged into a new area and a new unreached people group has been engaged.
- The Water system that has provided safe water and opened doors for ministry in some of the most difficult to reach places in South Asia is now also providing disinfectant at this crucial time.
- A field partner family in Malawi was able to board a flight arranged by the Embassy to the United States for furlough.
- Field partners in South Asia and Southeast Asia were able to safely stay in place and continue with their ministries.
- An indigenous field partner in South Asia has increased opportunities to engage with Muslims and Hindus as his team provides aid.



Making hand sanitizer in South Asia.

Let's give thanks for all the Lord has done and continue to push forward in prayer together!



Global Teams International, Inc.

800 Tuskawilla Rd, Winter Springs, FL 32708
407-388-0855 • contactGT@global-teams.net
www.global-teams.net

Give online at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/gtmain>

