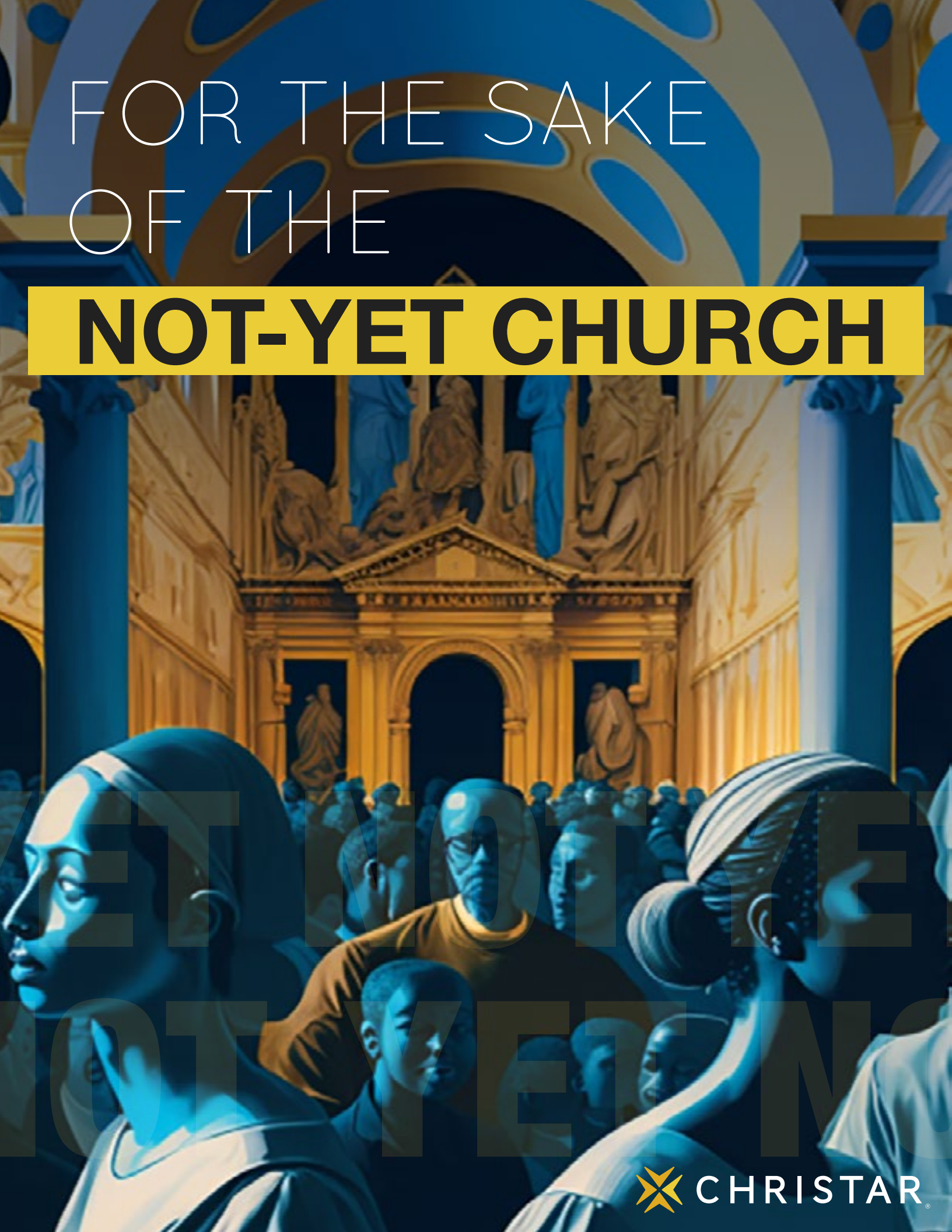


FOR THE SAKE  
OF THE

# NOT-YET CHURCH



# The vision of Christar is to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation in communities where He is yet to be worshiped.

We focus on the least-reached: those without access to a church that preaches the gospel in their heart language and worships in a way that’s relevant in their culture.

Why least-reached?



[christar.org/why-leastreached](http://christar.org/why-leastreached)

## Partnering to Reach the Not-Yet Church

**The Body of Christ isn’t complete—yet.**

Until representatives from each tribe, tongue and nation across the globe have embraced the gospel, the Church is still being formed. Scripture tells us that members of every people group on earth will worship Jesus around His throne. **We call these people the not-yet Church.** They’re individuals living in communities that are still cut off from the good news of Jesus, yet they are part of God’s purposes for humankind. God has tasked the entire Body of Christ with reaching the not-yet Church. He continues to invite every believer to help build up Christ’s Body among those He loves and desires to be part of His family.

Christar comes alongside the Church to mobilize the gospel—to partner with members of the Body of Christ to plant churches where they don’t yet exist.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### What does it take for a least-reached person to trust in Christ?

When we host short-term workers preparing for the field, my wife and I often use a simple illustration. After dinner, we set a balance scale and a bowl of sugar cubes on the table. On one side of the scale, we place a figurine of a woman, representing one of the billions of people worldwide living in communities that are cut off from the good news of Jesus. Then, on the other side of the scale, we begin to add the sugar cubes, one by one, each representing a single way the gospel is proclaimed or lived out in relation to this least-reached person.

The first few sugar cubes don’t seem to make any difference in the balance. But slowly the side holding the woman begins to rise, and eventually the combined weight of the cubes tilts the scale in the other direction. Then, I raise this question to the group: **“Which sugar cube was most important in tipping the scale?”**

Though the final cube prompted the scale to tip, each of the sugar cubes played a part in shifting the balance. In the same way, God sovereignly uses the contributions of many believers to bring a least-reached person into His family.

These “sugar cubes” come in many forms. Churches send some of their own beloved members to serve in communities where the Body of Christ doesn’t yet exist, and organizations contribute their skills, resources and expertise to facilitate effective ministry. Some people pray fervently for individuals they’ve never met, asking the Lord to open their eyes to the freedom and joy found in Christ, and others give financially toward efforts to share the gospel where it isn’t yet known. Still others demonstrate God’s love through acts of kindness and compassion that open hearts to Jesus. And some believers go, serving as the hands and feet of all those who add a sugar cube to the scale.

This Transformation Update is a celebration of the many ways the Lord works through His people to draw the least-reached into His family—to bring the not-yet Church into the Body of Christ. As you read, I encourage you to look for the ways that God is using you and consider how He might be guiding you to be involved. How is He asking you to help tip the scale?

Sharing the Treasure,

Dr. R. Stephen Coffey

Director, Christar U.S.





# Accelerating the Gospel Through Innovation

It's fun to solve problems that matter! Perhaps you sat in chemistry or math class thinking, "I'm never going to use this." But unlike the equations you may have left behind after high school, obstacles that prevent people from encountering the gospel have eternal implications for the not-yet Church.

These challenges remain because they're just that: challenging. But what if the future of missions wasn't limited to the traditional "missionary story"? Innovative approaches open doors for greater effectiveness, but they don't fit inside the boxes that many in the Church have come to expect. Employment opportunities for skilled professionals, business ventures with an expanded vision for a bottom line, and service initiatives that engage emerging social challenges all provide pathways for the gospel to transform communities where the Church doesn't yet exist.

**“The opportunity for the global church is no longer to send just a few full-time missionaries but to take advantage of globalized work ... and to adopt their workplace as their mission field and a place to honour God with their giftedness.”**

Liu, T. and Harp, R. (2019, June). Workplace Ministry Advanced Paper. Lausanne Movement. <https://info.lausanne.org/en/workplace-ministry>

# A DYNAMIC FUTURE

We're excited about the ways God has equipped the next generation of believers to build upon and beyond what's already been done. Our goal is to equip and inspire pioneering people who share an indomitable zeal to explore creative solutions to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation in communities where He is yet to be worshiped.

## Our Heritage



[christar.org/heritage](https://christar.org/heritage)

The video Bible study course *Through God's Eyes* in American Sign Language is the first resource of its kind designed to give Deaf believers an understanding of God's heart for the nations.

Decades of relational investment have prepared national churches to lead relief efforts following devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

Entrepreneurial workers are exploring opportunities to empower least-reached people through business and professional development while building relationships that provide a natural context for sharing the good news of Jesus.

Freedom to pursue proactive and innovative solutions is woven into the DNA of Christar. Since its origin in 1909, pioneering workers have tenaciously challenged the status quo to establish churches in communities where they didn't yet exist. In a rapidly changing world, we're grateful for opportunities to mobilize the gospel among least-reached people through **new approaches**.



# Your Part in the Plan

We talk a lot about seeing the gospel transform lives and communities. It’s easy to think this is something that a select few do in faraway places—but that’s only part of the truth. In fact, gospel transformation may be closer than you think!

If you know Jesus as your Savior, you’ve experienced this transformation. He’s given you life, spiritual gifts and a new purpose, and you fit into His bigger plan to spread the eternity-altering good news to all people.

The talents, skills and resources with which God has blessed you are designed not only for your personal good and the benefit of your local church but also to fulfill His purposes around the world. He uses these diverse gifts in harmony to expand and strengthen His kingdom in places where His grace and salvation aren’t yet known. We each have the joy of being part of mobilizing the gospel to reach the not-yet Church!

The Body of Christ is comprised of more than senders and goers. It’s made up of people with unique perspectives, giftings, vocations and experiences, all of which are essential and strategic. By engaging the whole Body, Christar is seeking to help workers more effectively engage creative opportunities to live, serve and cultivate the Body of Christ where the church isn’t—yet.

## Paving the Way for the Gospel

“It all is like a puzzle to help a person come to faith in Christ,” explains **Christar worker Evan.\*** As he and his wife serve among refugees in the United States, they’ve continuously seen the ways that God uses the love and witness of numerous believers over time to open the hearts of least-reached people to the gospel.

That was the case for Sayed and Zari, who had endured persecution and discrimination in three countries for being part of a religious minority group. However, some people treated them differently. As they later shared, **“The only people who have been nice to us are the Christians.”**

After being granted asylum in the United States, Sayed and Zari met followers of Jesus who demonstrated God’s compassion. These believers’ care paved the way for Sayed and Zari to accept the gospel once they heard it presented in a way they could understand.

Read the Story



[christar.org/primed](http://christar.org/primed)

# Christar: Coming Alongside, Going Together

Christar was formed by followers of Jesus who were passionate about sharing the gospel in previously unreached regions of the world. But they couldn’t have gone without people like you who partnered with them in ministry through prayer. From the beginning, Christar workers have been extensions of local churches and became conduits through which these churches could minister in communities where the good news wasn’t yet known.

Least-reached people responded, saying yes to Jesus and forming churches of their own. Now they in turn send their own members to serve across cultures. These groups developed mobilization centers, each with local boards, leadership and staff.

Today, Christar is an international organization with eight mobilization centers worldwide. As part of this wider network, Christar U.S. benefits from the wealth of perspectives and insights from Christar members worldwide.

## The Role of the CMCUS

The Christar Mobilization Center U.S. (CMCUS) recruits, trains, equips and cares for workers sent out by local churches in the U.S. The CMCUS team partners with a diverse network of congregations and individuals to mobilize the next generation of Christ-followers willing to bring the gospel to the not-yet Church.





# SENDING

The Body of Christ has been sending workers to the field since the first century (Acts 13:1-3). Believers in the Antioch church started with prayer, and the Holy Spirit guided them to commission Paul and Barnabas.

God still works through His assembled people—the local church—to send workers to the field. Congregations identify and commission, or appoint, workers to serve as their representatives in least-reached communities.

Sending is a responsibility that entails far more than providing needed funding. We as believers not only give financially but stay in touch and promise to pray regularly for those who take the message of Jesus to communities where He isn't worshiped yet.

The process of sending isn't for church leaders alone. It's an investment and sacrifice on the part of everyone within a congregation as church members give of their time and resources to support those who go. And it's an opportunity for each one to be involved in bringing the gospel to the least-reached. When a member of our church family goes to the field, God invites us to participate personally.

## Supporting Churches in the Joy of Sending

The local church's role in missions is multifaceted, involving the entire Body not only through going and sending but also through prayer, giving and practical assistance. This partnership benefits not merely those serving across cultures. It also blesses the congregations that send and support these workers as church members broaden their understanding of what the Lord is doing around the world and become more engaged in ministry among the least-reached.

Churches grow at different paces out of various histories and structures of leadership through which God fulfills His purposes. Christar's first priority in partnership with local churches is to listen so that we can ask better questions, encourage church leaders and come alongside congregations to help them effectively and joyfully participate in the Great Commission.

## A Culture of Sending

Sending is in the culture at NorthRidge Church. They believe that global messengers of the gospel are part of their church body and have been sent out—not just on their own mission but on the church's mission. "Our desire is to be as involved in the sending process as possible and make sure they have every resource we can give them at their disposal," explains the church's missions pastor, Andrew.

As Christar comes alongside churches like NorthRidge that invest deeply in sending, these workers, their churches and Christar are all blessed in their partnership to mobilize the gospel. Lane,\* a member of this church who serves with his wife in Southeast Asia, explains, "We see ourselves sent by our home church through Christar. Christar also provides another layer of oversight and training to help us stay faithful on the field." He adds, "The Church is God's plan for reaching the world. And we love that Christar is committed to helping churches be faithful to send workers and provide resources and networks to do that excellently."

**Read the Story**



[christar.org/northridge](https://christar.org/northridge)



# PRAYING

We can't accomplish the work God has called us to do in our own strength. Since we know that He wants all people to love and worship Him, we devote ourselves to prayer, asking Him to guide and enable us as we seek to make the good news of Jesus known in least-reached communities.

Every Christar worker demonstrates a prayerful reliance on God by developing a team of 100 people who are committed to praying for them each day. These daily prayer partners are part of workers' support teams, participating in ministry on the field through faithful time spent before the Lord lifting up the needs of workers and the people among whom they're serving.

## TOOLS TO HELP THE BODY PRAY

### Pray for Field Workers



[christar.org/pray](http://christar.org/pray)

Our Call to Prayer calendar compiles daily requests and praises, helping you pray specifically for workers, projects and people not yet reached with the hope of Christ. Lifting up the day's request takes just a minute, but it's a way to stand behind Christar workers and partner with God in what He's doing in least-reached communities.

Download each month's prayer calendar, print it out and place it somewhere that will remind you to pray—for example, you could hang it on your refrigerator or use it as a bookmark in your Bible. You can also sign up to receive the calendar each month via email or access it online.

### Pray for the CMCUS



[christar.org/circle](http://christar.org/circle)

Every part of our efforts to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation in least-reached communities requires God's provision, guidance and strength. This includes the ministry of the Christar Mobilization Center U.S. (CMCUS) as we recruit and equip new workers and serve those already on the field.

Consider joining the CMCUS Circle of Prayer, a group of individuals committed to praying for the ministry of the CMCUS. Members receive updates, requests and praises via monthly emails, enabling them to engage in regular, focused prayer for the mobilization center, its activities and staff.

## How Prayer Partners Participate in Church Planting

Moving to a new city with their child was not a decision Warren and Kim\* took lightly. They would be the only Christar workers living in a coastal town of one North African country where 99% of the population is Muslim. Church planting in Islamic communities like this is a notoriously long and difficult road, even with experienced team members. Warren and Kim knew there hadn't been a Bible-believing church in their city for at least a thousand years. But that was about to change because of the prayers of another kind of teammate.

Most Christar teams have a Day of Prayer with fellow workers every quarter. Feeling discouraged without anyone nearby to pray with them, the couple took the suggestion of a senior advisor and invited their newsletter readers to join them in prayer over video through Zoom.

A handful of their supporters responded. Now five to 15 people meet with them every few months to pray for specific needs in a virtual prayer meeting. Warren also started communicating urgent "911" prayer requests over text to those who volunteered to lift up their needs in the moment.

When the couple faced challenges with child care in their new city, their teammates back home prayed, and Warren and Kim found the perfect arrangement for their son. They expressed the need for a vehicle. People prayed, and God provided. But the true miracles of prayer are the hearts that were opened to the gospel.

In less than a year—a time frame almost unheard of for church planters among Muslim people groups—six North African friends have come to faith in Christ. Four have been baptized, and more baptisms are planned. Each person was regularly prayed for by name through the team back home.

While Christar is talking to a few people considering joining the team in North Africa, Warren and Kim know they are already part of a bigger church-planting team. The miles and oceans between are nothing to God. He hears them as they plead together with one voice to build His Church where it doesn't yet exist.

### Read the Story



[christar.org/prayer-teammates](http://christar.org/prayer-teammates)



# GOING

As local churches send workers to least-reached communities, God works through the diverse gifts, talents, skills and vocations of His people to demonstrate the gospel and build Christ's Body in places where it isn't yet established. Some workers go as entrepreneurs, introducing innovations that improve the local standard of living. Others work in areas such as health care and education, serving as lights for Christ in their professional roles and communities. Some offer relief and resources in areas ravished by natural disasters or changing political regimes. All are relationship builders, forming genuine connections with least-reached people rooted in trust and God's love. In all of these contexts, they look for opportunities to share the hope of Jesus that's within them.

Those who go become neighbors, friends and co-workers with those who have never heard of Jesus. They serve as access points for the gospel as well as representatives of the global Body of Christ and of the congregations that send them.

## Mobilized to Reach the Persian Deaf

**"There's no one here to teach us about Jesus."**

Olivia\* recalls these heartbreaking words communicated by one of the few believers among the Persian Deaf. As a member of the first Christar Deaf Initiative short-term team, she lamented the lack of workers serving among this least-reached people group.

She was one of a small group of believers who traveled to the Middle East in 2022 to explore opportunities for ministry among the Deaf. They helped long-term workers and a believing Persian Deaf couple hold outreach events for the Persian Deaf community. In just 10 days their service provided a foundation for future short-term outreach and long-term ministry among this people group that has been cut off from the good news of Jesus.

In spring 2023, Olivia returned to the Middle East as the first long-term Christar worker to serve among the Deaf. She shares, "I am thrilled by the prospects of ministry among this group!"

**Read the Story**



[christar.org/mobilized2deaf](https://christar.org/mobilized2deaf)



Christar helps cross-cultural workers use their gifts, skills and vocations to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation through means such as:

- Business
- Education
- Health Care
- Resources
- Crisis Relief
- Relationships

Christar workers serve in

**30+ countries**

among more than

**70 people groups**

throughout the world.

# TRAINING

Serving in a cross-cultural setting, far from family and friends, is difficult in many ways—from struggles with language learning and loneliness to cultural norms that stand in opposition to biblical principles. Christar is committed to equipping workers sent by local churches so they are well-prepared to face challenges in every stage of their ministries, serve effectively and thrive overall.

Our pre-field training teaches new workers to build teams of prayer and financial supporters and prepares them for life and ministry in least-reached communities. Through these programs they learn communication and conflict-resolution skills to help them interact with their future teammates in ways that reflect Christ. They also examine security and health concerns specific to their intended areas of ministry, as well as learn how they fit into the larger ministry of Christar.

Training new Christar workers isn’t a one-size-fits-all process, however. In addition to the pre-field conferences required for all workers, we come alongside each person preparing for mid- or long-term service with a tailored personal development plan. We consider each individual’s experience and desired area of service, and we use strategic assessments to help us create an individualized training path. This plan may include learning opportunities offered by other organizations, counseling, required reading and, at times, apprenticeships, all with the goal of equipping workers to flourish in cross-cultural life and ministry.



**BLAZE:**

**Equipping for Short-Term Service**

“Blaze/Christar staff value individuals and their personal relationship with God. Blaze emphasizes the value of a heart set on God, and what this looks like lived out in a practical way on the missions field.”

– Christar short-term worker preparing to serve in Spain

**New Personnel Orientation (NPO):**

**First Steps in Worker Development**

“I found NPO extremely helpful and practical in preparing us for this next phase of training and partnership development. It fully explained all that would be required of us and gave us helpful resources, tools and tips on things like giving presentations in churches.”

– Christar appointee preparing to serve in the Middle East

**Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO):**

**Final Steps to the Field**

“A set-aside week to be refreshed, encouraged and equipped was such a gift at this stage in pre-field ministry. Being with like-minded brothers and sisters who have served overseas or are also preparing to serve overseas was a means of grace from the Lord!”

– Christar worker serving in the Middle East

# COACHING

**Walking Alongside**

The journey to the field rarely runs in a straight line. Christar pre-field coaches come alongside individuals who are pursuing cross-cultural ministry, helping them grow continually in their faith and reach their places of ministry equipped for productive service. These coaches combine field experience and a passion for discipleship to assist with key aspects of preparing for full-time service among the least-reached.

# MEMBER CARE

**An Ongoing Commitment**

We invest in, support and love those who take the gospel to least-reached communities not only because we see the image of God in these workers, but also because we recognize that the members of Christ’s Body are the messengers of His good news. Our Member Care team promotes the physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being of our workers and their children so they all thrive in ministry and relationships. Throughout workers’ ministries, from application to retirement, this team comes alongside them with support and encouragement through heralding preventative soul care practices, debriefing those on home assignment and resourcing field needs upon request.

*“Keep on doing what you are doing! It was great. I really mean that. We saw that your hearts (you at the CMCUS) are helpful and caring, and you showed that by going to great lengths to serve and listen. That made me feel really valued and honored.”*

– participant in CMCUS RENEW debriefing retreat

**How We Train**



[christar.org/training](http://christar.org/training)



# GIVING

The generosity of financial partners like you waters the seeds of the gospel sown by workers across the globe. Whether through providing resources faithfully and steadily over many years to keep a worker on the field, or through offering a one-time investment that opens floodgates to change the course of a ministry, your participation is a vital part of fulfilling the Great Commission.

## Fueling Channels of Transformation

A quarter century ago, when an earthquake in Turkey (now Türkiye) caused massive destruction and claimed the lives of over 17,000 people, cross-cultural workers took the lead in providing aid, and a few local churches joined them in reaching out. But this time around, these workers are taking a back seat.

In the wake of great personal loss due to the quakes that hit Türkiye and Syria in February 2023, it's national believers who are providing basic necessities in cities that have turned into mazes of rubble. Many who lead ongoing relief efforts were left homeless. Some buried family members, but the hope of Christ within them compels them to serve in ways that spread that hope to others.

In communities where 99% of the population has never met a Christian, this compassion and care is a powerful picture of God's love. But it's more than that. The ministry of these national believers also demonstrates the massive growth of the Church in the region—transformation that continues to multiply.

Read the Story



[christar.org/unshaken-hope](https://christar.org/unshaken-hope)

## Christar Projects: When the Opportunity is Bigger Than We Are

Christar projects represent needs too big for one worker or team to meet alone. They're conceived when obstacles and challenges are re-envisioned as open doors for transformation. Sometimes projects emerge to address an ongoing need such as education or training, or to provide workers with an avenue for more effective connection in their communities. Others are created in response to disaster or tragedy. In all cases, they serve as conduits for the Body of Christ to give toward focused initiatives that enable Christar workers to cultivate spiritual, emotional and physical blessing in least-reached communities.

Explore Christar Projects



[christar.org/projects](https://christar.org/projects)



# PARTNERSHIPS

## Beyond Giving: Investing Skills, Expertise and Resources

Partnering to mobilize the gospel involves more than praying, financial giving and sending workers to the field. God invites His people to invest their unique skills, expertise and resources to help the Body of Christ minister effectively among the not-yet Church. We're grateful that numerous organizations and individuals partner with Christar in this way, exponentially multiplying the impact of efforts to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation.

These partners invest their specialized expertise to address challenges and maximize opportunities to serve among the least-reached. They generously offer their time, skills and thought leadership in collaboration with Christar projects and pursuits, both within the CMCUS and in conjunction with Christar teams around the world. Some also provide tangible gifts such as building materials or medical supplies that enable Christar workers to meet needs in timely and meaningful ways.

## Providing a Base for Ministry in the Earthquake Zone

"Believers are coming from everywhere in the world," says Abe,\* a cross-cultural worker serving in the earthquake zone in Türkiye and Syria. "They arrive and unload and get to work." These volunteers are able to jump right into service thanks in part to housing containers provided through Christar's Relief and Refugees Fund.

"Even before these containers were sent, God was going ahead, preparing the way for what is now a huge outreach in the area," Abe shares. The empty housing containers have become a staging ground for multiple relief efforts, from creating a filtration system that provides clean drinking water to packing bundles of hygiene items for displaced people. "It is a beautiful picture of the Body of Christ, each one doing their part."

## A Groundbreaking Resource Made Possible Through Partnership

In January 2023, we celebrated the launch of the first Bible study on God's heart for the nations created specifically for Deaf believers—something that couldn't have been accomplished without the participation of others within the Body of Christ! Produced in partnership with The BLESS Foundation and Deaf Millennial Project, *Through God's Eyes* in American Sign Language is a video series designed to give Deaf believers an understanding of God's global purposes and of the roles that He calls His people to play in bringing the gospel to the ends of the earth.

## NETWORK PARTNERS



## Read the Story



[christar.org/ministry-base](http://christar.org/ministry-base)

## Read More



[christar.org/TGEpartnership](http://christar.org/TGEpartnership)

## Transformation Through the Body

As the Body of Christ partners in the Great Commission, more of the not-yet Church is becoming part of the Body. This transformation is part of a cycle in which the Body of Christ works together to bring the not-yet Church into Christ's family.

## See the Cycle



[christar.org/cycle](http://christar.org/cycle)

## Virtual Volunteering: Connecting Believers for Kingdom Impact

Switchboard is bringing an innovative approach to teamwork for the sake of the gospel: building an online platform network to connect believers around the world to serve the Great Commission through virtual volunteering. As part of their pilot program, professional volunteers have offered their experience and skills to support several of Christar's projects and pursuits. For example, a civil engineer provided concentrated expertise, working through several solutions to provide a well and clean water for a community in the Philippines, and a business consultant has been guiding the development of a strategic business plan for a CMCUS initiative. Conversely, Christar has been collaborating with Switchboard to increase their understanding of global missions and shape their product, which will be launching in over 100 countries.



What's  
YOUR ROLE  
in bringing  
the gospel  
to the

**NOT-YET CHURCH?**

Participate



[christar.org/participate](https://christar.org/participate)



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Artwork for this project was created using data science technology to emphasize Christar's ongoing commitment to steward the past and embrace the future with excellence and creativity.