



Nathaniel and Bethany Broughton  
336 County Rd B2 West  
Roseville, MN 55113  
(952) 797-4421

God is on the move in the Middle East! In one of our partnership cities in the Middle East 155 people accepted Christ last year! In the past, seeing one person turn from Islam to Christianity was a normal response rate.

In another country in the Middle East, our US team was forced to move completely to digital ministry through Covid. They were blown away that they saw a greatly increased response rate to the gospel! In face to face initiative evangelism they were having around 350 conversations to find the one student ready to respond to the gospel. Online, that dropped to 63 conversations to find one person ready to respond to the gospel! Now, they are working through how to connect with those students in person.

One of our teams in the Persian Gulf started focusing on praying for the Lord to move during the beginning of Covid. Over the next few months they saw 300+ people indicate decisions to follow Christ! Many of these new believers came to know Jesus through having the gospel shared with them by another Arab person!

When speaking with our missionaries in the area, it is not uncommon to hear quotes like... "I am a Muslim, but I feel a connection between me and Jesus, peace be upon him, because when I was young, I would dream about him a lot." Stories of men and women coming to faith after seeing Christ in a dream are more and more common. The pandemic seems to have awakened a hunger for the gospel in this part of the world.

Seeking to follow where God is at work, *the Twin Cities Metro team has decided to adopt a new partnership in the Middle East* to go alongside our long standing partnership in France. One of our favorite parts of working with college students is their unique availability, during the summer and even for a year or two after college, to be sent to the world to share the good news of the gospel with other university students. Often it is an esteemed privilege to attend university in these countries; college students are truly going to be the next leaders and culture-shapers, what could be more strategic than reaching them with the gospel?

We will be a part of a trip January 4th-11th to scout out the new partnership city we are going to in the Arab Peninsula. We can't share the name of the city to protect the safety of Christians in the country who are persecuted for their faith, but we are excited to share how God is at work there after we return!

We have great anticipation for what the Lord will do in 2023! He continues to provide opportunities for greater impact and broader scope on Nathaniel's team here in the Twin Cities and around the world through the work Bethany does sending Interns domestically and internationally. We continue to trust Him for the resources to match that vision. As you may know, year-end giving is significant to our overall budget. This year, we are trusting the Lord for an additional \$10,000 in year-end gifts to help fund our upcoming vision trip to the Middle East and supplement our ongoing needs. Would you consider giving a gift of \$500, \$250 or \$100? You can send a check made out to "Cru" in the enclosed envelope or give online at [give.cru.org/0583695](https://give.cru.org/0583695). Regardless of how the Lord leads you to partner with us right now, please know we are so grateful for you!

Until everyone hears,

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