

Monday 31st August

Generosity and Business Loss in a Time of Crisis

A Frontiers couple share about extreme financial loss and how it's opening doors to share Christ with their Muslim friends.

The year 2020 was to be the best yet for our travel business on the field. For more than a year, our office staff had been working hard to put tours and events together. We had already hired new employees and trained others to become managers.



Then the pandemic arrived and our plans for the business were severely disrupted. Every day brought another postponed event or cancelled trip. Suddenly we went from preparing for over a thousand travellers, to working overtime to process refunds.

The day we closed the office and started working from home, we reminded our local staff of something we had always told them: "This company belongs to God. Just as always, we trust Him to care for all your needs and to show us how to get through this crisis."

We soon realised that we needed to start making hard decisions to keep the company afloat. God reminded us of the fishes and loaves in Matthew 14. Jesus took them as offerings, gave thanks, and multiplied them to feed thousands. "God is asking us to do the same," we told our staff. "He's asking us to take what He has provided, give thanks for it, and share it with those less fortunate around us."

Then we told them that even though we didn't know what the future held, we had enough left to pay their salaries for that month. "This is so radically different from what my friends are experiencing at other companies," one employee said. "Everyone else I know is being laid off without pay."

Before the pandemic, we had seen our Muslim friends and local employees go through real hardships. We tried to walk through their trials with them and to speak meaningfully into their lives. But try as we might, our privileged circumstances kept us floating above their realities, and they knew it. Now as our business suffers extreme loss, we feel the pain of having to put half our staff out of work, drop the salaries of others, and take a tremendous hit to our own finances.

But we also know that if we are going to live in this Muslim country to incarnate the gospel, then we wouldn't have it any other way. We don't want to be untouched by the pain our local friends and employees are now experiencing. As we are hit by the painful uncertainties and financial crashes, we're leaning into Jesus. And in His grace, He's allowing us to participate in the lives of Muslims by grieving more sincerely, loving more deeply, and living more genuinely among them.

- Please pray for Frontiers field workers as their livelihoods are affected by economic downturns.
- Ask the Lord to provide for workers in ways that exalt the name of Jesus Christ and shine His love into the lives of Muslims.

- Pray that Christians around the world will rejoice in every circumstance and testify to God's unfailing love and provision. Let's ask this will be a powerful witness to the people around them.

Tuesday 1st September

Growing Pains in a New Culture

My first months on the field have been full of awkward moments and growing pains as I learn to navigate life in a new culture. Neighbours and local friends are incredibly patient with me. I've



worked hard at the language, and on my best days I can understand about half their words.

But those words can be arranged in so many different configurations, and I almost always miss the overall meaning of what's being said. Some days, I feel so lost. Questions go through my head constantly: What in the world are they saying? What did I just eat? Am I making any progress in this language? Why am I crying again? What am I even doing here?

These questions often lead me to my very own private pity party. But God keeps reminding me that this isn't my story. It's His. He's the hero, not me. I play a minor role in God's story—the greatest story ever told, a story of redemption.

So every time I ask why I am doing this, I try to remember to look outside of myself for a God-sized answer. The role I play may be small, but it's full of the purpose of God. It's helping Muslims in my host culture hear the gospel for the first time. And that is an incredible honour.

- Please pray for our workers to lean on God's strength every day and honour Him as they play their part in His story of redemption.
- Ask God to fill workers with joy each day as they join in His wonderful plan for the nations.
- Pray for grace, energy and flexibility as workers engage in the humbling task of learning local languages.
- Ask the Lord to give Frontiers workers the words to speak to help soften the hearts of Muslims to hear and respond to the gospel.

Wednesday 2nd September

Listening to God during Lockdown

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Ps 91: 1-2

This story is from a Frontiers family in Africa.

As Covid-19 hit and we went into a 4 ½ month lockdown with no access to medical care, we needed to be reminded over and over again that God is our shelter. We studied Psalm 91 as a family and from the oldest to the youngest our experience was that we have found refuge under the shadow of the Most High. Nonetheless, the lockdown brought losses and unpredictability.

In my years living in the desert in one of the world's poorest countries, I have got used to daily power cuts. One of the things that strikes me most when they happen, is the silence – the quiet that falls on the house when everything is 'unplugged'. The world has been 'unplugged' during lockdown, and we hear things in the silence that we didn't hear before. For me these times of silence are an opportunity to grow in listening and responding to the Father's prompts. I have time to look at what is going on in my heart.

As racism has been highlighted in the West, my family and I want to cleanse our hearts of any such attitudes. Racism is very prevalent here. There are so many small ways we can easily judge the people around us by their skin colour, tribe and history. We see the effects of colonialism here in Africa. Many people assume we will be racist because we are white. We want to model a different way, living boldly and loving people of every race and language. Jesus looks at our hearts and we want to focus on that too. We often serve people in very unexpected ways and it seems to shock them. They just don't expect the white man or lady to do THAT for them – normally here it would be the other way around. Or we often tell people they're beautiful and emphasise that God created them and therefore they're masterpieces. They just don't seem to believe us or believe that we actually mean it. We are committed to continuing to listen to God, to be moulded by Him and to better reflect Him to those around us.

- Pray for this family to be Godly role models, allowing God to change their own hearts and in turn the hearts of those around them.
- The White Moors and the darker-skinned Fulani in this country have an ongoing hatred towards each other, especially as the Moors continue to mistreat the Fulani. Pray for forgiveness and reconciliation between these two main tribes.
- Pray that people there understand that they are fearfully and wonderfully made and that God loves each and every one of them.

Thursday 3rd September

Treasure hunting in the Middle East

In November last year, a colleague went to a Frontiers team in a Middle Eastern country to encourage them in reaching out and praying in their local Muslim community. On the first day of training, they were encouraged to spend time listening to God and asking for details of who and where God was going to send them. The following day they went out two by two. Ben and Tim had the words: a blue door, an electrical shop, heart palpitations and the name Maatuq. Tim was sceptical that they would find their 'treasure' as he had never met anyone called Maatuq in all his time in his host country and the name of the shop didn't make sense to him.

Eventually they came to a shop that seemed to fit the description. They walked in and found five people gathered by the shop counter. Speaking to them it was apparent that none of them were ill and they didn't know anyone who was sick.

Suddenly the owner of the shop saw a friend pass by and invited him in. Ben and Tim explained to everyone that they had listened to God and He had told them that they would find someone in a shop which seemed to fit this description who had heart problems. The shopkeeper's friend said; "I have a heart problem." They asked if his heart raced sometimes. "Yes" he replied. They asked if his name was Maatuq. He was surprised and said; "Yes, how do you know all this about me?" They explained again about talking and listening to God. He then yelled out to everyone who could hear him; "I have never met these people in my life and they know all this about me. Tell me more about how you know all this."

He was so intrigued that he suggested they exchange phone numbers and come round to his house. He ordered drinks for everyone and then rang his father and told him that he must meet these people because they hear from God. He even gave them the phone so they could to speak to his father! They prayed for Maatuq and then others in the shop began to ask for prayer for their various ailments.

Months went by of unsuccessful follow up. Then just recently, Maatuq contacted Tim and said "I must know more about how you knew my name." Tim went to visit him and his wife and now they have both accepted Jesus and asked to be baptised!

- Let's thank God for the obedience of workers who step out to do God's will, even when things don't seem to make sense, in order to show Muslims the One who knows all about them and who wants to show them His love and mercy is for them too.
- Pray that Maatuq and his wife will be baptised soon and this will be a powerful witness to the rest of their friends and family.
- Pray for the group of people who witnessed all that happened in the shop, that they too will accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

Friday 4th September

He Sets the Lonely in Families

My team went through a major transition and two of my closest friends moved away from the field. In addition, global crises and increasing political tensions in the region have made everything feel heavy and uncertain. My loneliness has felt amplified. So much was happening that I wasn't sure I'd be able to bear it.

Forced into new terrain with God, I began naming the fears and doubts that had taken hold in my heart. Some of the ones I kept coming back to were these:

- Maybe people were right when they said they didn't think I was called to the field.
- Is it supposed to be this hard? Am I supposed to be this tired?
- God has forgotten about me and my needs. It looks like He's there for other people, but not for me?

At my core, I knew that these fears and doubts weren't true. So I strived to keep a firm grip onto the truth: God had called me to reach Muslims and He hadn't forgotten about me. Even though my heart was tired and bruised, I fought to keep holding on to what I knew to be true.

Then in the middle of all my questioning and wrestling, God left me without any doubt that He had made a place here just for me.

It happened in an unlikely moment as I ate a sandwich surrounded by Muslim friends in a hole-in-the-wall café. As we ate and laughed together, God showed me that I have a home among several families in my Muslim community. Five, in fact. That's five sets of adoptive aunts and uncles, siblings and neighbours.

God put me not in just one family, but in multiple families. They know that I follow Jesus Christ and many of them want to know more about the Word of God.

- Pray that God will use late-night talks in families' homes to draw them toward the Saviour.
- Thank God for calling single men and women to the field and pray that many more would say yes to reaching the lost.
- Ask the Lord to equip single workers with courage, perseverance and joy as they share the perfect love of Christ with Muslims.
- Pray that Muslims will be drawn to the hope of the gospel through the faithful ministries of single labourers.

Saturday 5th September

Encountering the Love of God in a Lockdown

"Why are you helping us?" the woman asked Hafid, a Muslim-background believer who partners with a team of Frontiers field workers. The woman, an older Muslim named Wadha, had approached Hafid and his small team of believers as they gave out emergency food packages to families in a Muslim village hard hit by the coronavirus lockdown.



For a brief moment, Hafid hesitated at Wadha's question. He thought about the group of extremist Muslims who lived in the village. If they disapproved of Hafid's witness, the situation could turn unpleasant, even violent. Even so, Hafid responded

with boldness. "You remind me of my mother," Hafid said to Wadha. "I like you. And did you know that God loves you? That's why we're here; to share the love of God with you and your village."

Wadha looked shocked. "How does God love me?" she asked. "I've never heard anything like this." She was a devout Muslim who'd read the entire Quran several times throughout the course of her life. But in its pages she'd never encountered anything about the love of God.

“I was just like you once,” Hafid said. “Reading the Quran, I never learned about the love of God. But when I read about Jesus and saw Him in a dream, then I began to understand God’s love. Since then, I’ve tried to help everyone to know His love and peace.” Wadha stared at Hafid for several moments, then she began to cry. “I had a dream last week,” Wadha told Hafid through her tears. “In the dream, I saw Him holding me in His arms. My son, do you think that was Jesus?”

“Oh, yes,” Hafid said. “That was Jesus! He wants to show you His love!” As Wadha cried even more, one of the Muslim-background women on Hafid’s team wrapped her arms around her and prayed for her.

- Praise God for giving a timely dream of Jesus to Wadha and pray for Hafid’s team as they follow up to study the Word with her.
- Ask the Lord to continue pouring His love into Wadha’s heart and pray she becomes a powerful witness for Christ among extremist Muslims in her village.
- Let’s thank the Lord for opening new doors for Frontiers teams and their partners to bless those who are suffering and to share the gospel in times of uncertainty.