

Speaker 1:

Welcome, and thanks again for spending a little time with us to learn more about the Kingdom Come Ministries here at The Chapel.

Today's opportunity to hear from the heart of one of our partners is going to be a little different. Because they're serving in an extremely sensitive country to the gospel, we are not going to be able to share their name, their voice may sound a little different during the interview, and we can't tell you specifically where they're located except that it's in the Arab world, where life-changing decisions are being made to walk away from one belief system and toward the true transforming relationship with Jesus. We're also going to be intentionally vague in some of our conversation, because if the identity of our friend can be revealed, it doesn't just jeopardize the ministry but also the life of the individuals.

What you'll be hearing about is how their ministry is helping to create an addition and multiplication process that has the power to change the lives of not only individuals or families, but an entire culture. Leaders are stepping up every week to be pastors and teachers about the truth of the Bible. Brother, thank you for joining us today and thank you for visiting and sharing with us.

Speaker 2:

Thank you for having me.

Speaker 1:

Great. I'm going to just get us started right off by letting you share. You and I have talked about this question, do people in the Middle East, are they really interested in learning about Jesus or are we wasting our time or are you wasting your time?

Speaker 2:

Well, that's a very good question because we can definitely initiate this. When we really look, what is our call, who's our leader? Jesus is our leader, and he taught us to go make disciples. That means creating the gospel. You can see in the Book of Acts what was happening, and I believe the Book of Acts is still on the move. It's going alive in the Arab world, we can see the interest, especially those days. Not just the interest, but I can tell the thirst and the hunger of those people who want to know more about Jesus.

Why maybe you ask. What makes it different? They have their own religion. Every religion has been said goes to heaven. All the roots go through Rome. Every religion goes to heaven was different. You may think this way too. You're hitting me now, but I want to tell you there is one way to heaven. That's what we believe. Jesus who died on the cross and gave his life that I can live. I can have eternal life, that's what we believe. We believe in the word of God and we believe that this is our duty and this is your duty. If you are listening to me now, you are called to share the gospel. You shouldn't be in the Arab world, you shouldn't be in whatever, you can do it where you are because you have been called to start with Jerusalem and Judea and then to the end of the world.

Speaker 1:

There's a small population in the Arab world who would call themselves Christians. Most call themselves something else. Does a person in the Arab world even care to hear about Jesus?

Speaker 2:

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The other religions, we have a common ground. That's a good thing. They know about Jesus. They think they know better than us about Jesus and this is a very good ground for us.

Speaker 1:

How is that common ground connected?

Speaker 2:

They believe he is the great prophet and they believe in many things like he was born from Virgin Mary. He's the Holy Spirit. He's the first Adam. They even say, "You hypo critics, you change your Bible," because they have two miracles in their book, which we don't have. That's okay. Again, the interest goes through common ground to speak with them about Jesus.

Speaker 1:

There's that bridging gap. The name Jesus, the person of Jesus, that's a common bonding between the two belief systems which allows you to be able to speak in or at least engage in a conversation about who you believe he truly is, who we believe he truly is, so decisions are being made. People are making decisions to follow Jesus and so by faith, they choose God's son and his example to know and live by. Here in the US, we would seek out a church or find somebody who will have a Bible study, but how does a new believer in Christ in the Arab world, how does he grow when there's such a pressure on him? And even that, what does a church look like in the Arab world?

Speaker 2:

Well, you know how people really grow in Christ. Again, it's the Book of Acts. We continue to do what we learn from the Book of Acts. That goes one-on-one. As simple as it is, Jesus has called his disciples and worked with them for two years, well almost three and a half years. We also believe in using media, praise God for media. There are a lot of people coming through Christ through media.

Doing a discipleship or making disciples, I still believe that's what we are doing. To do it face-to-face because Jesus could also send angels and send different ways to speak with people. We need to remember we're humans. We need to talk with each other. We need to feel, we need to hear the tones. We need to see your eyes and talk with you at a personal level because it's about relationships. Jesus came to build this relationship with us. Even when he taught us to pray, he said, "Say our Father." He really wants to build up this contact closely with each other. How these believers grow? We do one-on-one discipleship, then we move it to a home group, then this person starts with a new person.

Speaker 1:

What does a church look like?

Speaker 2:

Well, a church looks like... it depends where in the Arab world. We have cases where we already have existing churches, buildings, and that goes normal. In some countries, you are only allowed Christian to be in those churches or buildings. In very few countries, maybe two countries allow some Muslims to attend youth church. But the most area in Arab world, we go to home groups or house churches, whatever you want to call it. In some places it's not easy to do house churches. We have to use different ways.

If you are a group of eight people, let's say maybe every week we go with one home, we have to have excuses. We're not really unexcused, but what's this gathering about or we do birthday parts or we celebrate something in this home. The neighbor needs to know what's going on because they like to come and visit, "Oh, what's happening," or happy period day or whatever. Yes, we need to find some excuses. I tell you the truth. The most effective way to make disciples is the home church or small groups. I'm not saying only the small groups can grow, but even the churches who really want to grow, you find them doing house church groups and discipleship.

Speaker 1:

So can we talk about risk?

Speaker 2:

Absolutely. Well, the risk is there wherever you are. It's not just in Arab world. Whatever you are, there is risk of course. It depends on how strong it is. I have friends who lost hands, ears, and eyes for Christ. I have friends who have been in prison. Today, we have people not mentioning countries who have been in prison for three months who are praying for them. That God will relieve them. Beside the torture, we have people who are being killed because they come to Christ. That puts us in reality to be in Christ, how much today you are really living the manifested presence of Christ in your life. It's not about you saying those words, but do you believe in Christ and that's it, and you join the church. This is not Christianity. For us, Christianity is to live first before you proclaim you live. When you live, you will already be proclaiming Christ and people will come and ask you what's happening in your life.

Speaker 1:

So you are not only having an opportunity to meet with individuals one-on-one, but you are targeting leaders and you're challenging leaders in different ways. Can you talk about that a little bit?

Speaker 2:

Yes. We have been for a couple years equipping, preparing leaders because we are seeing the harvest is wide. If the Bible is telling us the harvest is wide, there are no workers. That means the harvest is wide and that's true. Sometimes you are quiet or you are tired or you don't want to do it, but you know what? Jesus is alive. Today, you are still seeing people who are seeing Christ's vision like a white person. They cannot see his face because it's brightening and so much. If you are lazy, he's in control. He's doing it, but if the name of Christ is on you, you have a duty.

Speaker 1:

So these leaders, they get disciplined.

Speaker 2:

We disciple them. We train them how to do it, how to grow in Christ so they can also teach others. We praise God and see many of the leaders. Since last year, we trained over 350 leaders. That was a significant number even for last year because we never trained in a year this number.

Speaker 1:

So you've got to have some kind of goal. You've got 350 people this past year and you have some type of expectation for them. What would that be? What kind of goals do you set for them?

Speaker 2:

Well, training people what you will be expecting to be multiplied because sometimes you think about discipleship, you think it's like evangelism. I see it differently. Evangelism is adding, but discipleship is multiplying. When you disciple somebody, he's multiplying himself. When you evangelize, you are bringing him to your side or to your church. That's it. We believe in discipleship because that's what Jesus command us, go and make disciples. What we are expecting, we are expecting at least 300 leaders which already we have contacts over, I can easily say over 7,000 to 8,000 persons. We are expecting within five years those will be multiplied.

Speaker 1:

The 350 contacts within their own network, they would know 7,000 other believers in their country, they would begin to try to influence disciple and they would try to make them leaders as well?

Speaker 2:

That's correct, yes.

Speaker 1:

Maybe a pastor of a small eight member house church.

Speaker 2:

Well absolutely. You have now part of what we trained of those 350, they already have been new leaders. That means came up from a home group, house group and they become pastoral leaders.

Speaker 1:

So if you said you had a goal-

Speaker 2:

Oh man, I dream big because my God is big. Sometimes it's so big that you cannot even maybe believe it could happen. But when God leads you, then you don't even think about it or how to say it. You don't pray about it. If I want to tell you this way, when God tell me to do something, I do it and then while I'm doing it, I pray about it. My expectation this year is to reach out more because we have already set up many other training this year so far. Some it has been already set and some it's coming. So we are expecting almost triple the number I said for this year.

Speaker 1:

So I know that when people come in, they don't come in already saying they're going to a conference like we can do here in the US, "No, we're going to this conference, we're going to attend this for several days. We're going to learn this. We could easily say that here," but there people are just going on vacation or they're going to visit a friend and they take time away to learn from you, to be trained by you and your team so that way they can go back to where they've come from and continue to develop and multiply.

Speaker 2:

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Absolutely. We don't call it conference in a way. We call it training because I don't believe very much in conferences because there is a goal for us. We want to train those disciples so they will go and make disciples.

Speaker 1:

For the audience, if you've ever read any article about what can happen to a person who makes a decision to change their belief, you know that you're putting or that they're putting themselves or their families or often even their friends at risk of death in when we talk about the Arab world. So brother, thank you for letting us partner with you and letting us help to see your nations know the truth. This is fantastic for us to be part of this. So thank you very much.

Speaker 2:

Well thank you very much also for you guys to partner with us and to be part of this ministry because we believe in partnership. We believe that there is a saying in the Arab world, "One hand does not clap, so we need another hand to clap two hands." So praise God for you guys and we ask the Lord that will be helping out this year that we can accomplish what God called us to do.

Speaker 1:

Good. If you could leave us with three things to consider to pray for, what can we pray for?

Speaker 2:

Yes, please I would like you to pray for our training in different countries and even bringing people from different countries to some areas. That's one segment. We're really planning for a big outreach, so it's significant. It's very unique for this year. So we wanted to also be praying for that. Thirdly, I would like you please remember our leaders because it is not fun to make disciples in the Arab world. I want to tell you it's not fun, but it's joyful. The [inaudible 00:16:36] hand with you saying that Jesus is changing and doing things with those leaders makers. You just enjoy and get joyful. So please pray for us, pray for protection, pray for that our families will be safe. Pray for those who are already persecuted. Pray for those people who are in jail already because of Christ, and I'm seeing those who are in jail who from different backgrounds. They're not Christian backgrounds, but were just trying to follow what God has called us to do as any Christian. So I appreciate your prayer.

Speaker 1:

We'll do that. We promise to do that. Blessings, and thank you again for your time.

Speaker 2:

Thank you so much.