



# Gratitude and Growth

## Training in Mali

A group of 35 pastors coming from the many regions of the west African nation of Mali recently gathered in the bustling capital city of Bamako to study the New Testament Survey. This is Phase E of Harvesters' comprehensive training programme designed to equip pastors for evangelism and church planting.

The sessions were characterised by engaging teachings, interactive discussion groups, and an open forum for exploring questions. As the training drew to a close, there was an overwhelming sense of gratitude, with many pastors expressing their deep appreciation for the transformative impact of the daily sessions.

The discussion groups emerged as a popular component of the training, enabling pastors to delve into thought-provoking questions and scriptural passages, creating an environment of mutual learning and encouragement.

During the intervals between morning and afternoon sessions, as well as over communal meals, the pastors relished the opportunity to socialise together and engage in ongoing dialogues. For many pastors residing in remote regions, moments of fellowship and spiritual edification are a rare blessing.

One remarkable participant, Non, has demonstrated exceptional commitment by attending all the courses. He supports himself by raising chickens, and frequently journeys to several neighbouring villages to share the Good News.

Pastor Y, who pastors a church in the southern region, also ministers among several other villages, discipling groups of believers with the view of starting churches. He has a strong and steadfast desire to see others grow in the knowledge of Christ.

This group began their pastoral training with Harvesters in 2018 and are on track to graduate in November of this year, after which they will use Harvesters' Model to train and disciple others. Praise God for the ongoing multiplication of church-planting through evangelism in Mali. 🙌



### Also in this issue:

2

Delving Deeper: Claiming Ground in Central Asia

4

Let's Become DISCIPLE MAKERS



# Delving Deeper

## Claiming Ground in Central Asia

**F**riends like you have made it possible for Harvesters to open the way for the Gospel in more nations than ever before. Particularly, we are pushing deeper into unreached countries that are closed and hostile to the message of Jesus.

And, together, we are advancing the Kingdom.

**Recently, we had the opportunity** to visit a Muslim-majority country in Central Asia. The invitation came through our partners at Biblica. It read, "Come immediately, we have an army of young people planting churches and ending up in jail. They have a burning zeal for God but are untrained."

The words jumped off the page... young church planters, jail, burning zeal, untrained. The urgency was clear.

It's a beautiful country full of beautiful people, but tragically most haven't heard the Good News about the Saviour. With a mosque commanding every corner, it would be easy to feel a sense of hopelessness. But, secure in the message of Christ, we arrived with determination. The goal is to plant 7,000 churches and see two percent of the nation become born-again disciple-makers.

**The power and supremacy of God** left us in awe time and time again. After a weekend of sharing our vision and strategy, our Harvesters' representative on the ground was asked to preach at an underground gathering.







The room was full of Muslims. Some had been invited by friends through faithful evangelism. But, in most cases, Jesus had revealed Himself to people in dreams and visions, supernaturally calling them to come to this place.

After sharing the Gospel and offering an invitation to accept Christ, many flooded to the front for prayer. Story after story was heard of how young and old were tired of their dead religion and were ready to embrace the Son of the Living God. One man hugged me tightly and said, “I had a dream and I saw the grave of Jesus. He told me this morning to leave early and take the bus here! Here I am.”

**The next day, one of the leaders** who had participated in the weekend’s sessions went home with a reignited passion to evangelise. He invited his friend – the local Imam, leader of the mosque – to come and watch The Jesus Film. His friend said, “You know I’m a Muslim, I love Mohammed and serve Allah, but I will come because you’re my friend.”

During the movie they watched a scene where Jesus prays with his disciples. As Jesus lifted his head, the Muslim friend shouted out at the screen, “I know this man! A few weeks ago, I was attacked and left injured in the street. This man came to help me saying, ‘Don’t be afraid, you will not die, I have your hand.’” Another miraculous revelation of God speaking directly to the heart of a beloved man hidden in a spiritual wasteland.

**The average church planter** in Harvesters is 53 years old, but in this Central Asian country is just 23 years old. It fills us with so much hope for the future. Filled with passion and zeal, young people are discovering Jesus and sharing His message. But, as Biblica informed us, so many have been jailed. They are brave but unwise at times as they evangelise. Threats come from the authorities as well as the Muslim majority.

During a youth service, disguised as a music event, 150 young people had gathered, invited by a few fearless people we trained in evangelism. Their message was simple: “Come and hear the story of someone raised from the dead! There’s a live band and coffee.” Among them was a 21-year-old Muslim man named Ali\*, sceptical about the event.

Ali had run away from home as a young man and fallen into drugs and alcohol. He explained that his Muslim beliefs left him with no joy or peace or hope. While listening to the sermon, in his mind he challenged the God he was hearing about: “Okay, if I can have a personal relationship with you, show me.” Nothing happened.

The sermon continued, talking about John 7:37-38, streams of living water. Ali felt water start to flow from within him. “Something happened in my spirit,” he explained. “I felt it, it was a crack, and water started flowing through this crack – just a little. But it started flowing so strongly that I had to bow my head down. My head was on my knees and suddenly a dam wall just burst. Was that Jesus? Was that the living water?”

Ali gave his life to Christ that day and immediately received his very first Bible from Biblica. All of this was possible because someone believed in the power of evangelism! Even more young people are coming to the Lord in equally dramatic ways.

**Looking forward**, Harvesters will return in Autumn to begin training over 150 young people who are eager to be equipped with the tools for wise and strategic evangelism and discipleship.

Thank you for your support which makes it possible for Harvesters to reach people like Ali with the transforming message of the gospel.

\*Names changed for protection. 🇰🇷








# Let's Become DISCIPLE MAKERS

This year we launched a new version of our successful Disciple Makers Course, designed to support churches with discipleship and growth. We praise God for this success. Drawing on twenty-five years of experience and success with our evangelism, church planting, pastoral training, and discipleship strategies in over 80 countries, this course gets back to the biblical basics. The focus is on the message and methodology of Jesus for reaching the world with the gospel.

If you want to learn more about the Disciple Makers Course or invite us to come and present it at your church, get in touch today. ✉

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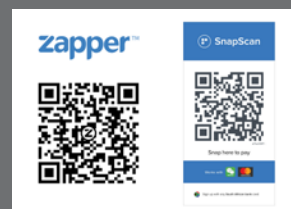
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*Get in touch with Harvesters Ministries if you would like us to come and present the Disciple Makers Course at your church.*

## Opening the Way