



# Christian Associates Europe

## 2020 Annual Report

Dear Friend,

Christian Associates Europe, in cooperation with Christian Associates International, exists to start and shape communities of faith that love like Jesus in their neighborhoods. Over the last year we watched our world change in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. But in the midst of confusion, despair, and death for far too many people, our vision statement has become more and more important: **Transformed lives...Transformed neighborhoods...Transformed world**. As Jesus-followers, our call to make disciples has not changed!

Christian Associates churches and church-planting projects are actively transforming lives across Europe, North America, and Latin America, proclaiming salvation and demonstrating grace to those who desperately need it. We follow God's leading right around the world and right in our own neighborhoods. And even during a pandemic, as our churches and projects had to move online, we continue to see lives impacted, as you'll read in this report.

God is on the move. During the pandemic we have been able to INCREASE our training in church planting--due to moving online. Nobody has expected to meet in person, so doing training online has reduced costs and increased--maybe doubled--the number of trainees. (Not without significant drawbacks--we look forward to in-person events soon!). We are raising up and training missional pioneers within their home contexts and just a few weeks ago we appointed a group of new missionaries who want to go around the world with the Gospel message.

Truly, there are so many stories we could tell of life-changing encounters with Christ, even in the pandemic. The church is the very presence of Christ in any culture, and we believe in the unique calling God has placed on Christian Associates to start and shape life-giving expressions of Christ's church. With every prayer, gift, and story you share, you participate in Christ's Great Commission with us. We are so grateful to God for you.

The Board of Directors  
Spring, 2021

# “I ready for Jesus now. Can you show me?”

UNITED KINGDOM — Hassan\*, a Kurdish young man from western Iran, walked into the Upper Room church. From the very beginning, he began asking question upon question about the differences between what was taught there and what was taught in his strict Islamic upbringing.



The Christian Associates church he walked into is highly focused on refugees and immigrants from Central Asia, including Iran and Afghanistan. Our leaders there were ready to answer the questions pressing on his mind.

**One weekend, after the online-only service due to Corona-lockdowns, he responded to one of the Bible teachings. We concluded with a strong invitation to give one’s life to Jesus. He texted one of our missional leaders in his broken English: “I ready for Jesus now. Can you show me?”**

## **Hallelujah!**

We praised God as the next day we celebrated the privilege of guiding Hassan as he put his trust in Jesus! One of our young Farsi-speaking leaders from the church came along to translate.

A recent report shows 1.5% of Iranians claiming Christianity as their religion. But work in Iran is extremely closed. There is still much work to be done, and we are excited we are able to meet Hassan and so many others who are searching for truth after escaping from harsh conditions in their homelands!

Christian Associates starts and shapes communities of faith that love like Jesus in their neighborhoods. Can you think of a better way to spend our lives?

Would you join us in praying ardently for Hassan as our team disciples him in his faith walk with Jesus and walks with him as he shares his faith with friends—and even his family? With you, we are witnessing precious souls responding to the Holy Spirit’s prompting to follow Christ.

\*Name and photo changed for privacy

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# God Never Stopped Working

Told by Federico, our leader in Spain



SOUTHERN SPAIN — I have sometimes thought that we are more of a hindrance than a help to God's work. In moments of personal prayer I have surprised myself by asking God not to allow me to spoil what He alone does so well.

This is funny to me, now that we are getting out of lockdown and meeting our friends again. During our confinement, God has taken advantage

of this time to work on people's hearts, without us dancing around with our nerves, pressures and limitations of all kinds. This is something that Spain's Christian Associates team has been praying for during this long quarantine, and once again His faithfulness has become evident. His faithfulness and His will, for not wanting anyone to be lost, encouraged our prayers in that sense.

When we began to go out into the street, I wondered what we would find. And what we found was that on the first day of chatting with some of our friends we had conversations at a level of transparency and depth that we had never had before.

After windsurfing, returning to the playful activities that occupied us before the confinement, sitting on the sand of the beach, two and a half meters away from each other, Lilly told me "the truth is that when you think about it a little, life has no meaning." Giorgio, who was bragging about the board he bought recently, joined in the conversation and said, "isn't that right? When you realize how false and rotten everything is around us, you feel disgusted. And even more so when you reflect on it and have to admit that you are not very different from those who disgust you."

I wanted to talk, but Javier did before to add "I think the only thing worthwhile in life is love." "Yes, but what is love?" replied Giorgio. Pilar, who always speaks very sensibly, said "For me love is..." she thought for a few seconds, "...unconditional acceptance."

I remained attentive, unable to believe what I was hearing. For two hours they (and I want to emphasize "they") talked about love, religion, faith and truth. Even about the Bible. At some point I wanted to say something, but another one



came before me. All I wanted was not to be a hindrance, so I let it go. It was clear that the Holy Spirit had been working and was working at that very moment.

**In the end, when someone spoke of the truth, and we seemed to reach a dead end, I said, “Jesus Christ said, ‘I am the truth. Isn’t it incredible that someone would say such a thing? And not only that. He also said that if anyone is looking to go somewhere, He is the way. And for everyone who wants to live, He is the life. Ever since I heard those words I couldn’t look away.” Lilly looked me in the eye and put a hand on her heart.**

The sun had just set behind us. Her departure, along with the cold that visited us, seemed to mark the end of our conversation. “Guys, this is something to follow,” said Lilly as she began to gather her things. Will you pray for Lilly, Javier, Giorgo, and Pilar as they seek truth and life? And please pray for Federico as he begins discipling relationships... and all our missional teams around the world as we start and shape communities of faith that love like Jesus in their neighborhoods.

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## 2020 Report of Activities

For the year 2020, the board of directors of Stichting Christian Associates Europe consisted of Herbert Habnit of The Hague, The Netherlands (Chairman), Andrew Perriman of London, UK (Secretary), and Nicholas Webb of Gwynedd, Wales, UK (Treasurer). The board met via email during the year and approved financial statements and conducted such other business as was necessary.

Two employees and one volunteer served the organization in The Netherlands. Nine families served as missionaries through the organisation, with work in The Netherlands, France, Spain, Sweden, and Germany, with a global presence in many more countries through the Christian Associates movement. Missionaries worked to complete the purpose of the organisation as laid out in the Policy Plan and the Articles of Association.

Detailed financial reports were compiled by the Finance Director at the end of the year. Summary reports were approved by the board of directors for publication online, showing income of €310.795 to expenses of €303.487 for the year, compared to prior year income of €328.262 and prior year expenses of €327.457. Assets of the organisation increased from €29.222 on December 31, 2019 to €37.817 on December 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted on 28 June 2021,

Eric Curtiss, Secretary  
Stichting Christian Associates Europe  
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