



Christian Associates Europe

2021 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. We live in a rapidly changing world. While we still battle the pandemic on many levels, we are now also confronted with war in Europe. People all over the world are re-examining faith and what it means to live a meaningful life. Jesus followers are stepping in to serve, in often dangerous circumstances, refugees from Ukraine and the hurting, displaced, and desperate within Ukraine. The vision of Christian Associates has never been more timely: **Transformed lives...Transformed neighborhoods...Transformed world.** As Christ's people, our call to make disciples has accelerated.

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 around the world and right in our own neighborhoods. And even during a pandemic and war, 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. Our church-planting resource, the Dynamic Adventure, has been translated in two additional languages, including Russian and Dutch. Even in the midst of Ukrainian and Russian conflict, leaders from both countries choose to learn together how to spread the Gospel in their contexts through our training and coaching programs.

Truly, there are so many stories we could tell of life-changing encounters with Christ. The church is the very presence of Christ in any culture, and we believe in the unique calling God has placed on Communitas 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.

The Board of Directors
Spring, 2022

**Stichting Christian Associates Europe | Zuid-Hollandlaan 7 | 2596 AL Den Haag | NL
www.ChristianAssociates-Europe.org | KvK #41206382**

The Pleasure of Giving to God

UNITED KINGDOM — As friends gathered at one of Christian Associate's church plants recently, Ashish and Dinara (names and photo changed for security reasons) each shared a special testimony.

Ashish talked about Matthew 11:28-29, and how he had experienced “rest for his soul.” Dinara shared from James 1:2 and the reality of finding joy in “various trials.” These young men have had so many trials we cannot imagine!



Ashish and Dinara fled Iran when the underground house church they had only visited twice was raided by the secret police. Their names were on a list that put them in serious danger so they paid smugglers a large sum of money and were hidden in the back of a truck. When they emerged several weeks later they found themselves in Denmark. A small but strong Christian church took them in, and they became ardent followers of Jesus.

After many months of legal wrangling, they were denied asylum in Denmark because of a technicality, but ended up in Scotland in the midst of the pandemic lockdown.

They began attending the livestream sessions of Upper Room Church. And once gatherings were allowed, they came in person to be part of the community.

One night, before leaving service, Ashish and Dinara gave their tithe “offering,” contained in an elegantly scripted envelope, to one of the pastoral leaders. This was now the sixth such envelope they had delivered and each of the six envelopes had contained £22 (about \$30) each time. They said they had learned “the pleasure of giving to God.”

A few weeks later, the leader delivered a small piece of furniture to their tiny flat and realized it was completely bare! Nothing except a mattress on the floor, a rickety table, two chairs, and a few pots and pans adorned their apartment. We realized £22 a month must have been a near fortune for them. But six months in a row, with beaming faces, they had given and said, “It is our pleasure to give to God.”

From the example of Iranian refugees, there is much to learn about generosity, trusting God, and experiencing joy through trials.

Clearly, these past years have been trying times globally. But most of us have not endured living in fear of the secret police for our faith, getting uprooted from our homeland, living with next to nothing and in constant legal limbo... and still finding joy in the midst of it all.

When the Apostle Paul wrote, “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7), he may well have been thinking of Ashish and Dinara.

Thank you for your prayer and generosity as we start and shape communities of faith on mission in the world. Upper Room church is one of over 125 churches and planting projects in the Christian Associates family.

Your partnership helps us reach and care for many who sometimes teach US how to live as Christ-followers. We are reminded that living in the Kingdom of God is not always easy. But it is always full of joy as we trust in a Father whose pleasure it is to provide for us!

God Never Stopped Working



UKRAINE — Christian Associates starts and shapes communities of faith that love like Jesus in their neighborhoods. We do this by sending missionaries to new cultures and by training people in their home contexts to start churches. Some of our work is happening in the disputed territory between Ukraine and Russia, which is currently very much in the news. Will you join us in praying for peace?

Pavel, one of our current trainees, lives in the disputed territory between Ukraine and Russia. He had been wrestling for a long time about whether God was calling him and his young family to start a new church, feeling

completely unprepared and yet yearning for something new for the city he loves so much.

Before he joined our training, during the active war on that country's border with Russia a few years ago, Pavel and about 50 other pastors and Christian leaders were kidnapped and taken to a nearby forest. Soldiers began to tie them to trees and then began to systematically shoot each one in the head if they did not promise to stop preaching.

All around him, pastors were being shot while tied to trees. Pavel was tied to a tree, as well, waiting his turn. They had killed dozens of men. He could hear the soldiers demanding the pastors deny Jesus Christ, but then realized they were shooting them regardless of the answer. Pavel was praying for God's mercy, of course, and especially for his young wife and child who were at home when he had been kidnapped.

As he tells it, "I'm hearing all the men being asked these questions and to deny Christ. But then they're shooting them anyway, so I said, 'Lord I'm not going to deny you. If you spare me, I will go back to our city and take over the church plant and do it however you want. But I'm also ready to die now.'"

As a soldier came up to him and told him to deny Jesus, the commander of the operation walked up and looked at Pavel. He said, "I know this guy." Years earlier, they had both been in prison together due to alcohol and drug convictions. The commander got out of prison and went into the army. Pavel got out of prison and went into ministry.

Pavel was standing there, tied to a tree, and the commander dismissed the soldier. The commander asked Pavel why he believes this Christianity nonsense. "Because I do," was Pavel's response. "Because it's real." "Well, I won't let them kill you today," replied the commander. He fired a bullet above Pavel's head and then cut him loose from the tree. "You better leave now and hope that I never see you again."

He started to run, and ran three to four miles back toward the city, praying not to be caught. When he got home, his family was all there, terrified and surprised at the same time. Pavel's wife said to him, "God has given me a vision!" He replied, "He gave me a vision, too... but you go first." Pavel's wife described how she had prayed that God would save him and that God assured her He would save Pavel and they were to dedicate their lives to the church in their city. This was Pavel's vision, too!

After a few weeks, they had to move, but they started the church without any training, and Pavel started attending a Christian university in Krasnodar to study to be a pastor. He got connected to Christian Associates International's Dynamic Adventure training that developed and coached him in church planting. He continued to increase in his boldness for Christ.

Now, as a taxi driver to support his family, every morning he drives to a larger city an hour away in order to make more money. Every day, he gets lunch at a little bakery. The two ladies in the bakery can hardly make ends meet; they don't have money to even buy a coffee maker for customers, but Pavel always wants a coffee.

So Pavel told his small developing church about the ladies at the bakery, about how poor they are, just trying to keep their bakery open. He asked them how their church could be a blessing to these women. The church members decided to buy the ladies a coffee maker! Now, Pavel is doing a Bible study with the ladies in their bakery, as well as text message Bible studies with other taxi drivers!

Pavel said this about our training: "Your training has opened my eyes! I don't need to ONLY do church in my house or in a building. I can do it in this bakery, or any other place, and even via texting with my friends who are so busy driving taxis!"

Soli deo Gloria—glory to God alone! God saved Pavel from death in the forest, giving him a second chance at life. Now Pavel is offering life to people every day, wherever he goes with the Gospel.



Note: This story was published before war broke out. Please join us in praying for Peace. May our God of Peace be merciful to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and would His name be made famous through the witness of Pavel and so many like him!

2021 Report of Activities

For the year 2021, the board of directors of Stichting Christian Associates Europe consisted of Herbert Habnit of The Hague, The Netherlands (Chairman), Eric Curtiss of Colorado Springs, USA (Secretary), Nicholas Webb of Gwynedd, Wales, UK (Treasurer), Andrew Perriman of London, UK, and Geoff Rinehart of Cour d'Alene, USA. The board met as required in regular meetings 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 network. 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 €335.745 to expenses of €366.853 for the year, compared to prior year income of €310.795 and prior year expenses of €303.487. Assets of the organisation decreased from €37.817 on December 31, 2020 to €6.613 on December 31, 2021.

Respectfully submitted on 18 April 2022,



Eric Curtiss, Secretary
Stichting Christian Associates Europe
KvK #41206382