

VISUAL STORY NETWORK

A community of 2600 visual storytellers in 90 countries
communicating Christ and kingdom to the ends of the earth

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Mobile Ministry Forum • Middle East Women's Leadership Network • Mission Media U • Mission AR/VR

Father of the Turkmen Church Shohrat Bazar, age 46, is from a Central Asian village in northern Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan is a former Soviet state of 5 million people and mostly Muslim. At 10 months of age, a 50-year-old woman and a disabled World War II veteran adopted Shohrat. He loved the simple rhythms of his rural upbringing. ***As a teenager, everything changed when his mother became blind and his uncle passed away. He became terrified of death.*** According to Islam, he had to cross the Sirat Bridge to reach paradise. The bridge is as thin as a hair and as sharp as a sword with the fires of hell beneath. He felt his destiny balanced on a string above destruction.



Maya & Shohrat with U.S. film crew

He married, started a family and became close with his brother-in-law, Ashyr. One day Ashyr told him he had found the Straight Path. It was Jesus. ***Shohrat wanted to strike him for promoting "Russian religion."*** Many discussions followed. Through the Jesus Film he heard the offer "come to me all who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest." Shohrat invited Christ into his life and felt something powerful and new. He began to tell his friends and family. Several fellowships of new believers began though he had no idea what a church was.

They lost a young daughter when the KGB tried to assassinate the family. Shohrat was then arrested and tortured. After the seizure of their home they went underground. After several years, they immigrated to the United States. He now leads the only Christian television broadcast focused on Turkmenistan. ***VSN is co-producing a 14-minute film of his conversion story*** which will be filmed in three countries and prayerfully be completed by the end of the year. It will be broadcast through satellite and distributed through the underground church. ***Please pray for the film's long-term impact among the Turkmen.***

"Portions." In October, 2015 our Middle East Women's Leadership Network hosted a two-day media summit equipping women to use media in their mission. As a result, ***Nancy and Najj*** began a partnership to make a short film to show women in the Middle East that God offers abundance, not scarcity. Shirin became an executive producer and it was filmed last summer. ***The film has won several awards and will appear in the Burbank Film Festival on September 6-9. It is now available on the Jesus Film app and website. Pray God uses "Portions" mightily among women.***

Turkish? When I visited Quinn in Lebanon in April, I flew on Turkish Airlines. ***Hearing Turkish on the flights and during layovers in Istanbul sparked an interest in studying Turkish.*** When we lived there in 1988-89 I was moderately conversational, but most of that was lost over the decades. In May, when I spent a week in bed after hernia surgery, I picked up my old Turkish grammar books and haven't put them down since. I try to study an hour each evening. I'm approaching the 100-hour mark. I'm not sure where this will lead, but I trust that the Lord will use it.

We appreciate your partnership!

Clyde & Shirin



Studying Turkish grammar.

Century Team Members: 99 (The number of partners who pray and give regularly to our ministry. Our goal is 100 team members)
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