

## Underground Churches Transform Iran

Dear xxxxx,

At every opportunity, I emphasize this: we are not a TV ministry; we are a church planting ministry using TV and social media to plant churches. To plant a church, we, of course, need to evangelize, disciple, and train leaders—and with your partnership, we are doing all of that.

**A Personal Story:** In 2002, right after we started our satellite TV broadcast, I presented my plans to use satellite TV to plant underground churches to a mission funding agency, asking them to support us financially. This had never been done before. Understandably they were very skeptical that we could succeed and decided that it would be a waste of money to invest in this plan. But thanks to many of you who are visionaries and supported us, by the grace of God, we did just that! So far, we have planted over 800 underground house churches in Iran in addition to several building churches in the US, Europe, and Turkey.



*Mustafa's Underground Church Group*

**With your help, Iran Alive has become a pioneer in a new missions concept: planting, feeding, leading, and multiplying underground house churches using media.**

Our global church is called “Church 7” and oversees all the local churches, including building churches outside Iran and underground house churches inside the country.

To expand ministry in Iran, we follow a principle from 2 Corinthians 1:3–5. Those who are comforted by Christ must serve others in the same area that Jesus has served them. For example, we train and send ex-prostitutes to reach out to prostitutes, and ex-addicts to set free other addicts from the bondage of addiction.

Through our discipleship and training, former drug addict Mustafa found a purpose in life—to reach out to drug addicts especially those with suicidal tendencies. This is his testimony:

*I had been a drug addict since my teen years. I had attempted suicide several times, before I joined an NA (narcotics anonymous) group in Tehran, and went through their 12 steps to freedom. It was then that I started watching your Celebrate Recovery TV programs and realized that the teachings of NA were based on the truths of the Bible. So I called to pray with you to become a Christian.*

*Thanks to your training and encouragement, I started reaching out to my friends who were also drug addicts. In a short time, many of them came to Christ. I started several house groups, and now I want to share with you a funny thing:*

(over, please)

*So many drug addicts have come to Christ through me that I recently started one house church just for those who were both drug addicts and had attempted suicide.*

*The requirement to be a part of this church is that one must have been a drug addict and have attempted suicide at least one time by cutting his/her wrist. I am sending you a picture of this group (please see the previous page). I am also sending you a picture of their wrists, all with scars because of their attempts to commit suicide. They truly love each other.*

*Please pray for them so that they, like me, will be trained and sent out to reach others.*



*A Church just for suicidal drug addicts*

My dear friends, the ministry goals of Iran Alive are twofold: (1) every person must be transformed by the Gospel and then become an agent of transformation, and (2) every church must be a center for transformation.

Your partnership not only enables us share the Gospel with millions of Iranian Muslims, and bring several thousands of them to Christ every month, but it also enables us to identify and train leaders such as Mustafa in order to start underground house churches. Your gift is truly advancing God's church in Iran.

We need you to come alongside us so we can multiply our efforts in training house church leaders and planting underground churches. We now have over 800 house churches, but Iran is so ready for revival that with your help, this number can easily go up to 8,000.

In order to support that kind of growth, we must increase our partner base. You have been a visionary helping us. If you have been blessed by the growth of God's church in Iran, would you join us in spreading the word and excitement? **We are looking for 800 new partners to pray and support this great work.** Would you help us find them and encourage them to join us?

Tell your friends and congregations and neighbors about Iran Alive and what God is doing in Iran. They can easily **sign up for news, testimonies, and updates by texting "Iran" to 74784.**

Iran not only has the potential of becoming the first Islamic nation to turn to Christ, but it has the potential to impact all other nations in the Middle East with a domino effect. With your help and the help of your friends, we will transform the whole Middle East.



Yours for transforming Iran,

*Hormoz Shariat*

Hormoz Shariat, Ph.D.  
President & Founder, Iran Alive

 Donate NOW!

**P.S.** Please remember to tell your friends and neighbors to text "Iran" to 74784 so they, too, can become visionaries transforming Iran!

And go to [www.IranAliveMinistries.org](http://www.IranAliveMinistries.org) to give today.