

Dear Friends of The Antioch Partners (TAP),

As we all know, the world into which we have been sent by God is changing rapidly. The rate of change is so fast it's hard to keep up with, no matter how hard we try. For example the "Arab Spring" continues, and it's impossible to predict what the ultimate outcomes will be. New countries have been born after years of conflict, such as the Republic of South Sudan, even as established countries, such as Mexico, confront levels of violent conflict that not long ago would have seemed unimaginable.

In the midst of all this change and upheaval, as followers of Jesus we proclaim and live out our confidence that there is one, the Lord God, who is in control. He is sovereign over all. We worship the God who is at work in and through history accomplishing his purpose: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

Earlier this year I had the privilege of being in Central Asia, and in many ways what I experienced and observed there was a microcosm of what is happening in many other parts of the world. The area I visited is an area that had been relatively free of serious ethnic conflict over the past twenty years. Though ethnic tensions had been evident, the primary ethnic groups had largely coexisted, many living peacefully together as friends and neighbors. Then suddenly, as a result of multiple factors (power, political instability, organized crime, etc), violent conflict erupted between these ethnic groups over several days leaving hundreds dead, thousands of homes destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of people displaced. Tragically, the terror of those days did not end when the conflict ended, because even today members of the one ethnic group are subjected to abuse, injustice, extortion and violence. They now live in fear, even in the city where their ancestors have lived for generations. As a result, many have left, and those that remain are struggling to survive.

Yet, in the midst of this hopelessness and suffering, God is at work. Many members of the ethnic group that have suffered disproportionately have been open to followers of Jesus reaching out to serve and support them. And, as these Jesus-followers have demonstrated God's love in tangible ways, there has been an increasing openness on the part of people within this Muslim ethnic group to studying the Injil and learning more about Isa (Jesus). As the Holy Spirit moves, increasing numbers of people from this ethnic group are becoming followers of Jesus. The situation in this region has changed dramatically, but new opportunities are compelling and widespread. Jesus' words continue to ring out across the centuries, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37).



Smoke charred building and rubble still waiting to be cleared



City in Central Asia hit by ethnic conflict



Charred remains of a once lively, bustling house

Whether we look at North Africa, Central Asia, or other parts of the world, we are seeing new opportunities for service in the midst of these dramatic changes. As we know, God is continuing his work in the world, and as expressed above, his purpose is that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” Our challenge is to try to discern what God is doing in the midst of upheaval and change, and determine how he is calling us to participate. So, we ask you to pray with us as we explore new opportunities for cross-cultural servants in our rapidly changing global context. Pray also that God will raise up many men and women who are ready to respond to his call to go. God is more than able, and even as we ask for your prayers, we praise God for what he is doing because we are seeing the number of missionaries serving through TAP continue to grow. Thank you for your continued partnership in this effort!

Finally, I want to share with you some very good news. We have been searching for a person to serve full-time as our Administrative and Communications Coordinator, and by God’s grace, the search is now over! Hope Manley has now joined the TAP Team here in Houston.

We are excited about Hope and all she brings to her role. Hope completed her undergraduate studies (Business major/Religion minor) at Lee University in Cleveland, TN in December of 2008. She spent a year involved in international, cross-cultural ministry with AIM (Adventures in Mission) after she graduated. Hope is passionate about God’s mission in the world and she is considering long-term, cross-cultural service at some point in the future. I want to thank all of you who prayed with us about this need, because Hope is definitely an answer to prayer!

Gratefully in Christ,

W. Andrew Adair
Executive Director, The Antioch Partners



Hope Manley - New TAP staff member. She served last year with Adventures in Mission