

30 Years of Shining God's Light

A SPECIAL REPORT



CELEBRATING
THIRTY YEARS
EAST  WEST



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KURT NELSON
PRESIDENT & CEO

A Letter from Kurt Nelson

The number 30 is significant in the Bible. The age of 30 marked an age of maturity, and both John the Baptist and Jesus were about 30 years old when they began their ministry. For them, 30 wasn't the end of something but the beginning.

As East-West enters its 30th year of ministry, I'm viewing this anniversary in the same way. This is only the beginning of the incredible things God will and continues to do among the unreached worldwide.

And we truly believe it is God doing the work. Yes, we do mobilize the church and partner with local believers in more than 40 countries. We do share the gospel with those who have never heard the name of Jesus. We do train indigenous leaders to multiply disciples

and churches in their communities. But none of this would be possible without the provision and power of our Lord. He said people from all nations will one day worship Him (Revelation 7:9), and He will see that it is accomplished.

We invite you to join us as we celebrate all that God has done over the past 30 years and expectantly look ahead to what's next. As you read the statistics and stories in this report, I pray that your heart is stirred to want to do even more to partner with God in this gospel work. After all, we all have a role to play in the Great Commission.

Sincerely,



VISION

The vision of East-West is to glorify God by multiplying followers of Jesus in the spiritually darkest areas of the world.

MISSION

The mission of East-West is to mobilize the Body of Christ to evangelize the lost and equip local believers to multiply disciples and churches among the unreached.

Where We Work

NORTH AMERICA

EUROPE

RUSSIA AND THE CAUCASUS

CENTRAL ASIA

MIDDLE EAST

EAST ASIA

SOUTH ASIA

AFRICA

LATIN AMERICA

SOUTHEAST ASIA

East-West works among unreached people groups in **44 countries** that encompass **10 major world regions**. Of the countries in which we operate, **19 countries (43%) rank on the World Watch List for places where Christians are most persecuted.**



CELEBRATING
THIRTY YEARS

For 30 years, God has worked through East-West to take the gospel to millions of unreached people and multiply scores of disciples and churches. East-West has grown from operating in one Soviet-era nation to working in more than 40 nations and partnering with thousands of local believers where the name of Jesus is unknown. We are praising God for all the ways He has allowed us to shine His light in the world's spiritually darkest places.

A Snapshot of God's Work

Over 30 years, East-West has seen more than:



275 million
gospel shares

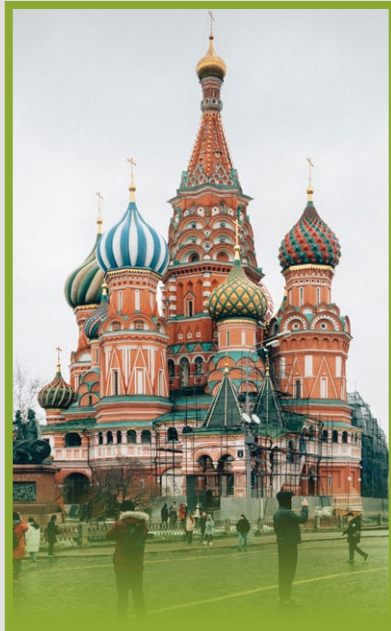


21 million
profess faith in Jesus



330,000
churches planted

Our History



1993

East-West is founded, starting in Russia

A STORY FROM RUSSIA

In the Beginning

Before the fateful fall of the Berlin Wall, two men began taking the gospel behind the Iron Curtain. John Maisel and Bud Toole followed the Lord's leading to reach the lost and train church leaders in spiritually dark nations—beginning with Russia.

John held lectures in some of the Soviet Union's most prominent universities with the goal of delivering a clear gospel message. John, Bud, and other believers who traveled with them encountered individuals who were starving for God's Word.

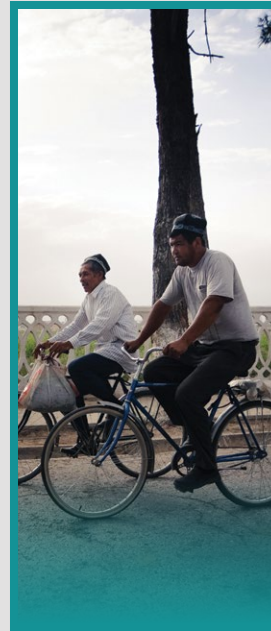
Anastasia* was one of those individuals whose heart was shrouded in darkness. For 50 years, Anastasia had embraced communistic beliefs, including an atheistic

worldview. She taught English at a prestigious language institute in Moscow, which was considered the center of communist ideology. She had never known God or heard the truth of the gospel explained.

In the early 1990s, she attended one of John's lectures, where he presented the truth of the gospel and invited the audience to respond by standing up if they believed it. Surprising even herself, Anastasia stood up. She knew God was beginning to replace the darkness inside of her with His marvelous light.

Anastasia was later baptized and was asked whether she believed in God. Loudly and unashamedly, she said, "Yes!" The light of the gospel had overcome years of living in spiritual darkness.

**Names have been changed for security purposes.*



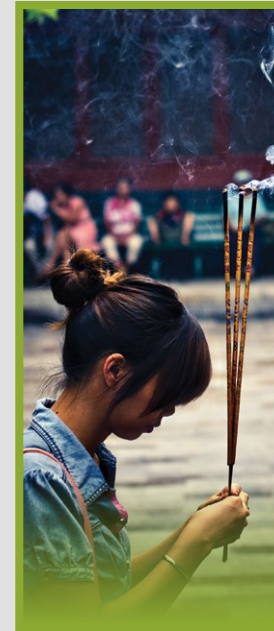
1995

East-West expands beyond Russia to Central Asia



1997

Ministry begins in Latin America and Europe



1999

Ministry begins in East Asia



2002

Ministry begins
in Africa



2003

Ministry begins in
Southeast Asia

A STORY FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA

Multiplying Disciples Amidst Persecution

Barata* was not going to hear the gospel from people in his community. He belongs to an unreached people group of 15 million people in Southeast Asia. Less than 1% of those in his community follow Jesus.

But, God had a plan for Barata and led Oscar*, an East-West missionary, to him to share the gospel. Barata had been a Muslim all of his life. Yet when he heard about the love and forgiveness of Jesus, he knew he had to give his life to this wonderful Savior.

Oscar discipled Barata until he was ready to unashamedly share the gospel and make disciples himself. Barata's wife, siblings, and uncle all decided to follow Jesus. But this family's newfound faith did

not come without consequences. Barata's wife was kidnapped by her family, angry that she changed her religion. Two of Barata's sisters died, and his uncle lost his job. It seemed like everything was falling apart.

Despite these hardships, Barata continued obediently sharing the gospel with his people group. Today, there are more than 200 baptized believers in Barata's people group—in large part because of Barata's faithfulness.

The cost of Barata following Jesus has continued to be high. In the past year, two of his disciples have been martyred, and he's relocated multiple times for his safety. Still, Barata has remained joyful through the persecution. Everywhere he goes, he multiplies disciples and churches.

**Names have been changed for security purposes.*



2005

Ministry begins
in South Asia



2007

East-West launches
church planting
movement strategies
on the field



2007

Ministry begins in the Middle East

A Dream Come True

One morning, an East-West national partner located in the Middle East woke up to an email from Bashira*, a Muslim woman.

She was distressed and desperate for help from someone who followed Jesus. A friend referred her to the national partner, and they set up a time to meet.

Upon meeting, Bashira began explaining a vivid dream. In the dream, she was in the middle of a vast ocean before daybreak. As the blazing sun expanded across the horizon, Bashira knew it was a sign guiding her to be baptized in the waters. She woke up to a sweeping peace and refreshment, curious about the Christian practice of baptism.

The national partner immediately pointed her to Scriptures describing baptism. He shared that Jesus is the righteous Son of God and that baptism was an outward profession of an inward faith in Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

That day they discussed the gospel for a long time, and Bashira began regularly attending church meetings. After some time, she voiced a desire to follow Jesus and be baptized—making her dream come true. Bashira took the plunge, publicly identifying with Jesus.

Today she soaks in the teachings of Jesus at church and finds consolation and hope in Him alone.

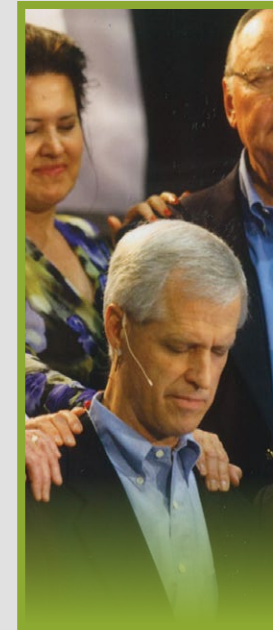
**Names have been changed for security purposes.*

A STORY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST



2008

Ministry begins in North America



2010

Kurt Nelson becomes President and CEO



2012

East-West focuses on disciple making strategies



2019

East-West acquires NEXT Worldwide, expanding missions opportunities for students



2023

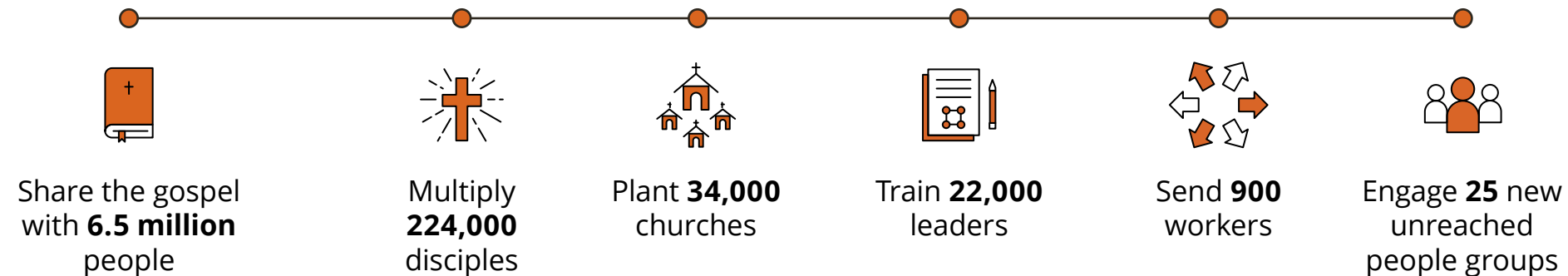
East-West celebrates 30 years of ministry



What's Next

The mission is not over. More than 3 billion people worldwide are still unreached with the gospel, and we need to do something about it. God calls all of His children—even you—to participate in this mission. The question is, how will you get involved?

2023 Faith Goals



PRAY

Partner with us by praying for the unreached and those ministering to them.



GIVE

Steward your resources to make an impact on the Kingdom of God.



GO

Witness the gospel multiply disciples by going on mission with us.

Visit www.eastwest.org/evenyou to explore your role in the Great Commission or take your next step in getting involved with the ministry of East-West.





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