



So Many Doors of Opportunity

Doors and doorways carry many metaphoric meanings. One is the idea that just beyond a doorway lies new opportunity if only we step out in faith and step through to the other side. There is of course risk involved but there is also the reward of stepping into something new, into obedience to the Lord or just an adventure of discovery. When we left for Turkey in 2008, we stepped through a door with a two and four year old and the Lord met us there in so many ways. We continue to live in the fruit that was produced by that step. We stepped through another door - and in some ways it felt riskier - when we returned from Turkey in 2012. Another door presented itself to us when we joined Crescent Project in 2014. The Lord continues to put doors before us and invite us into His story and He continues to be faithful to meet us on the other side. He's good that way!

Don't worry, I'm not preparing to break big news, but this idea of doors of opportunity came to mind last week as I was at our yearly staff

retreat in Nashville. It was so refreshing to see friends and colleagues, not through little, screen entombed zoom rectangles, but rather in flesh and blood for four days! We are a great group and I love working with this team. Below is a picture of most of the guys working with CP. We are a motley crew I know, and we're spread all over the country.



But back to doorways of opportunity. While at staff retreat we were able to hear about all the initiatives and opportunities that our Crescent Project team are creating and managing. It was exciting to see what my colleagues are working together on and I wanted to share a few of those today.

Every Imam

www.crescentproject.org/every-imam

Every Imam is an initiative to connect every Imam in the U.S. with a Christian pastor or leader. There are over 2,000 Mosques in the

United States, each led by an Imam. Our team is finding ways to connect with these Imams one by one but they are having trouble finding Christian leaders to connect with them! They have created a great training process for those who want to be involved, but we just can't find enough people to sign up. It's crazy to think about but that's the reality. **Would you pray for more Christian leaders to step through this doorway of opportunity.**

Internship

www.crescentproject.org/internships

My good friend and colleague Thomas runs the Internship program which is now in it's fourth year. It is an exciting opportunity for young adults who want to explore and learn about Muslim ministry. There is a great group of coaches who work with the participants and it's a growing and much needed program to raise up the next generation of leaders in the world of Muslim ministry. **Would you pray for young adults to learn about this amazing opportunity and sign up to be a part of it.**

Mission Trips 2024

www.crescentproject.org/trips

They are not up on the website yet, but this summer Crescent Project is excited to offer two mission trips to work among Muslims. Consuelo and I will lead one of those and are planning on taking a group of 10-12 young adults to serve in Turkey June 7 - 22. [[Take a look at the trip overview](#)] If you know someone ages 18-30 who would be interested,

please put us in contact with them. **Would you pray that we are able to send two great teams out on mission this summer.**

Celine Steps Through

One of the beautiful aspects of leading the [Embassy ministry](#) is that I rub shoulders with so many seemingly ordinary people who have said yes and stepped through a doorway of opportunity. I think of Celine. She's a retiree who is a bit overwhelmed by technology but she gives an hour most mornings of the week to meet on zoom with an Iraqi mother and her eight year old daughter who is learning English. Celine met this mother on a language app that many of our volunteers use to make connections. Celine said yes and stepped through a door to figuring out that app. This mother is nearly half Celine's age, but as they began to connect, it became apparent that this Muslim mom wants to give her daughter the opportunity to learn English - so she asked rather boldly if Celine would mind tutoring the child a few times a week. Another doorway of opportunity. Celine said yes again and has been building relationship and serving this family for over a year now in this way. It's been hard at times. The mother has at times been demanding, wanting the very best for her daughter and Celine has at times needed to say, "No, I can't add one more lesson." Its not always easy but Celine keeps showing up.

Crescent Project founder Fouad Masri once quipped that "*90% of Muslim ministry is just showing up.*" I can't think of a much better example of this than Celine. Some would say that she is "just" a

retiree. But because she stepped through this door, God is using her in powerful ways. In God's eyes there is no such thing as "just a" anything. We are created in the image of God and as Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:10, "*We are the handiwork of God, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.*" So as a follower of Christ you'll never be just a plumber or teacher or stay at home mom or pastor or astronaut or anything. When we say yes to God, when we grab ahold of the cloak of Jesus and commit to go wherever He takes us, God uses us.

Where is God opening up doors of opportunity for you? Perhaps it's through Every Imam or the internship? Perhaps you know someone who you should encourage to join our trip to Turkey.

Whatever it is, step through. God will meet you there.

For His glory and the expansion of His kingdom,

Aaron