



Nousazan Press

The Newsletter of The Iranian Church On The Way

Vol. 1, Sept. 2002

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Greetings from all of us at Nousazan. We hope that you are well, and the blessings of the Lord enriches your lives daily. We are proud to send you the first volume of our new Newsletter.

Transition

As you know our church has started a new season. Pastor Shahrokh Afshar, the founder and the former Pastor of Nousazan, has officially resigned as of the beginning of this year. To help the transition, the elders temporarily accepted pastoral responsibilities while they sought the Lord for a new Pastor. After few months of prayer, talking to eligible candidates from Europe and America, and consulting with our senior pastors at TCOTW; God led one of our elders; Farhad Ershadi, to accept this responsibility as of June 2002.

We appreciate the supervision and support of Rev. Dan Ussery (our District Supervisor); Pastor Scott Bauer (Senior Pastor of The Church On The Way); and Pastor Shahrokh Afshar throughout this process.

Pastor Shahrokh Afshar

As for Pastor Shahrokh Afshar, God has blessed and promoted him to the position of the Regional Coordinator of the Foursquare Churches in the Middle East and Central Asia. In addition, his cross cultural expertise and his knowledge of Islam has made him a much sought after speaker for many churches in and outside of the US. We are all proud of his ministry and we praise God for rewarding him with such an expansion in his ministry. May God bless him, his dear wife Karen and their children Todd and Megan in greater new dimensions.

And Now...

Our church is evolving into a new sphere of ministry and understanding the heart of God. Our plan is to update all our supporters on God's great works regularly (twice a year to start, quarterly there after). With God's Grace, the help and assistance of the Senior staff of ICFG and TCOTW, plus the collective effort of our members, and your prayers and financial support; here are our achievements in the past eight months.

New Year

To launch off 2002, we had a successful Christmas celebration in late December and also a celebration of the Iranian New Year in March. Many people were invited from the community. In both events, apart from plays, poetry reading, worship and music; we enjoyed good fellowship with the guests over lunch. The good news is that after a short sermon in the March gathering, twelve people accepted Christ!! What a wonderful encouragement!

Our Vision

In February we presented our 2002 vision for the Church to our congregation. The Lord is completing this vision gradually as we grow in grace. The main emphasis of this vision is on “**Evangelism**”, “**making Disciples**”, and training “**Worshiping Servants**” for the Lord. We believe that this orientation and focus for the Church will make it effective as a live and spiritually healthy “Body”. The new effort in all three aspects has already touched the majority of our congregation and has refreshed both the young and the old. In addition to our emphasis on **Evangelism** and **Discipleship** for all members; we have formed smaller ministry groups as follows:

- Intercessory prayers for Iran and the world
- Visiting the sick and praying for them
- Serving in hospitality and follow-up activities
- Finding housing for visitors and low income people
- Job placement for the new and the needy
- Helping people with food, clothing and furnishing
- Providing information on medical and health related issues
- Providing information on immigration matters, etc.
- Helping the Iranian community fight addiction
- Providing transportation for the old and the needy
- Helping with Babysitting and Sunday school program
- Planning/ Coordinating church picnics and celebrations
- Participating in the worship team,
- Helping with interpretation, overhead projector, sound room
- Services related to Catering/kitchen
- Weekly Bible study and monthly women’s group
- Services provided by Ushers
- Supporting the church financially and in fund-raising events

A few other ministries such as visiting prisons and monthly parents’ meetings are under consideration. If you are interested in participating or have any suggestions, please feel free to contact the church office.

TCOTW

The other development in our communal spiritual life is discovering the work of the Holy Spirit in The Church On The Way and their ministry. We encourage the Iranian congregation to participate in various ministry programs such as WOW JAM, weekly food service to the poor (Wednesdays), and etc. which they have embraced. At the same time, after five months of accommodating Iranian Narcotics Anonymous meetings in the lamb’s Chapel, the effort is bearing fruit with two members receiving salvation and another one very close to doing so!



WOW JAM



One of the great programs that our church participated in was the WOW Jam 2002 event in late June. Various communities were invited (through distribution of thousands of English/Spanish, and a few hundred Farsi/English flyers) to join a festive atmosphere of fun, games, food and music with many great giveaways and free services. Then sometime in the midst of all this fun and relaxing gathering, a short message was delivered by Steven Tavani.



People were invited to open their hearts to Jesus and were led and helped by the ministry groups. After 5 events at different parks in LA, all the new believers were offered a free ride to the Santa Monica beach on Sunday June 30th. There, after listening to Pastor Scott Bauer's short introduction to the meaning of Baptism, more than 500 believers were Baptized in the Ocean (6 from the Iranian community) by some 50 Pastors.



All in all, in a span of a week with the help of 79 interns, 1000 volunteer workers (26 from our church) and with the help of 15 churches, more than 2000 people received Jesus. We are thankful for having the opportunity to serve in this outreach.



Upcoming Events

- Please join us for the Nousazan's anniversary celebration of on September 15th. A special service will replace our regular Sunday service from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Fellowship will follow the service.
- Every year around Christmas time, our church participates in the "Operation Christmas Child" by donating many gift boxes for the Kids around the world. This year our Youth group has volunteered to help in the Processing center. They are planning to go on Friday, Nov. 29th for a full day. If you would like to participate as a volunteer, or simply make a donation; please contact the Church office .
- The Annual General Membership Meeting is coming up in late September. Please contact the Church office for more information.

In Preparation

- Starting a **Resource Center/Library**
Books, Audio/Video library; Kid's and teenager's study material—in Farsi and English ,
- Setting up our new and updated **web site**
Articles and Selected teachings, Audio/Video streaming, Shopping Cart, Testimonials, Calendar of events and tons of links to great Christian sites! (All in Farsi and English),
- Translating, typesetting and publishing Farsi/English tracts and books,
- Starting a new season of **TV broadcasts**

Prayer Request

Please pray for the following needs :

- Wisdom and endurance for the leadership of the Church
- Encouragement and empowerment for our Youth group
- More active people in our Service Ministries; and guidance for their leaders
- Growth in principles and blessings of The International Church of The Foursquare Gospel; and to better integrate with The Church On The Way, in all aspects of ministry and fellowship.

Praise Report

God has done a great and mighty work to keep us going and growing in faith, ministry and fellowship in 2002. Many miracles, signs and wonders of His Grace have kept us together, made us stronger and more focused than ever on the future of our church. We thank God for His mercy on us through the office of our current Foursquare District Supervisor Rev. Dan Ussery; and his successor for the Northern Valley District Pastor Scott Bauer.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we thank you specially for your help, encouragements and prayers. Without you we would have never been able to get to this point and hopefully with your continued support, suggestions and participation, we will be more effective in serving the Lord and pursuing the "Great Commission".

Faithfully and gratefully yours
in Love of our Lord Jesus,

Farhad Ershadi

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