



Training and resources to assist ministry among Persian-speakers in Europe

Welcome

Dear friends,

We are living in an historic moment. Right now, all over Europe, Iranian and Afghan refugees are knocking on the doors of churches, and thousands are turning to Christ.

Over the past few years, I have witnessed many local churches and ministries faithfully starting to reach Iranians and Afghans with the Gospel.

They are joyfully celebrating the spiritual devotion of the new believers and the renewed life they bring into their congregations. But they also soon discover the great challenges and issues of trying to disciple converts from a very different cultural and religious background than their own.

It is the privilege of Elam's Europe team to assist churches and ministries in these challenges. In this brochure you'll find an overview of the training events and resources we offer.

We are seeing countless Iranians and Afghans grow in Christian maturity and get equipped for ministry through our Persian training programmes. Also, we are seeing many pastors and lay ministers grow in confidence in discipling new Persian-speaking Christians.

We have adapted many of our programmes to be 'Covid-19 secure' during this pandemic, and I pray that that our programmes and resources may also be a blessing to you in your ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Kenneth Kühn

Europe Director, Elam Ministries

In this brochure you will find:

- An [introduction to Elam](#), and our ministry in Europe (p.2)
- An explanation of the [training and discipleship events we offer](#) in the UK and Europe (p.3)
- A presentation of the [resources we offer](#) to assist in discipling Persian-speakers, including Bibles, books, online Christian resources, and theological correspondence studies (p.4-5)
- An invitation to [find out more](#) about the remarkable story God is writing for Iran and beyond, and an invitation to partner with Elam to further strengthen the Iranian church (p.6)



Elam's Mission

Elam Ministries was founded in 1990 by senior Iranian church leaders with a mission to strengthen and expand the church in the Iran region and beyond.

To accomplish this we:

- TRAIN Persian-speaking leaders for fruitful, effective ministry;
- EQUIP the Persian-speaking church with Bibles and resources for evangelism and discipleship;
- SEND the Gospel through trained evangelists, church planters and the media into the Persian-speaking world.

Our desire is that all the people of Iran and beyond would have the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and follow him as disciples. We pray that Iran will continue to grow in becoming a missionary-sending nation, reaching others for Christ.

Elam's Ministry in Europe

Hundreds of thousands of Persian (Farsi)-speaking Iranians and Afghans have arrived in Europe over the past several years. While this has caused challenges in Europe, it has also presented the European church with a massive missional opportunity.

Since 2016, Elam's Europe team has existed to help churches and local mission agencies:

1. **Reach and disciple Muslim-background refugees in Europe:** Just like Iranians and Afghans in the Iran region, many in Europe are deeply disillusioned with Islam and curious to find out about Jesus. As a result, many Persian-speaking refugees are knocking on the doors of churches across Europe asking to know more about Christianity.
2. **Impact Iran and Afghanistan through relationships:** Those refugees who have come to Christ in Europe have been instrumental in sharing the Gospel with family and friends who are still in cities, towns, and villages across the Iran region.

We equip churches and agencies for this strategic ministry through providing:

1. **Training and discipleship events:** Our expert team provides culturally-sensitive training for local leaders engaged in evangelism and discipleship with Persian-speakers, as well as discipleship and training opportunities in the Persian language for Iranians and Afghans.
2. **Ministry partnerships:** We offer ongoing partnerships with local churches to assist them in developing the most fruitful and effective ministry possible among Persian-speakers.
3. **Resources for ministry:** It is our privilege to provide the highest quality Persian Bibles, Christian books, correspondence and online courses and other resources for evangelism and discipleship.

Training and Discipleship Events

All of Elam's trainings – in Europe as well as in the Iran region – seek to foster spiritual growth in the following five areas: Christ, Community, Character, Calling and Competencies (following the [ConneXions '5Cs' model](#) of leadership development).

- 1. The one-day conference** is a two-track event for European ministry workers and their Persian disciples:
 - *Ministry-workers track*: a mixed team of Europeans and Persians train ministry workers in how to reach and disciple Persian-speakers. Seminars deal with culture, history, challenges and blessings of the ministry. Available resources are presented, and plenty of time is provided for Q&A.
 - *Persian track*: for Iranian and Afghan disciples. The sessions consist of Bible teaching, prayer ministry and worship in Persian, led by our experienced worship leaders and teachers.
- 2. One-week discipleship courses** are residential courses (though hosted online during the pandemic) in the Persian language for Iranians and Afghans. The courses are for Christians who have some knowledge about their faith and the Bible. Students should have read the New Testament and will be expected to prepare in other ways for the courses. Instructions will be included in the application process. Two types of course are offered:
 - The **'Following Christ'** discipleship week equips believers to increasingly have a healthy relationship with God, themselves and others as they walk with Christ.
 - The **'Serving Christ'** discipleship week is for those who have already completed the 'Following Christ' week and who want to grow in their ability to disciple others.
- 3. The three-month training** is a residential leadership course in the Persian language for mature Christian Iranians and Afghans who are already active in ministry. Through four main dimensions of learning (instructional, relational, spiritual and experiential) students gain a deep knowledge of the Bible, Christian life, and ministry. Experienced Persian and non-Persian teachers take the students through weekly modules covering biblical, theological and ministry subjects. Students engage with a wide range of assignments and practical ministry tasks as well as classroom learning. Elam has been training Iranian and Afghan leaders and church planters through this course since 2005.
- 4. Online courses and topical webinars** are offered to help disciple believers and to encourage local engagement. The webinars on offer vary week by week. Visit our Elam in Europe [website](#) to see what webinars are on offer and for information about how to apply to join.

For more information about any of the above training and discipleship events, or to request training in your location, contact europe@elam.com.

Ministry partnerships

Learning Communities: Learning Communities (LCs) exist to help local churches become equipped and confident in reaching, discipling and integrating Persian-speakers into the body of Christ. Those ministry workers who join an LC embark on a two-year learning process together, with expert teaching and mentorship from Elam. LCs gather for biannual learning retreats and are mentored monthly online. With input from Elam, LC members help each other understand the Persian culture in their context and grow in effective ministry that bears lasting fruit.

For more information on Learning Communities, contact germany@elam.com.

Resources for Ministry

- 1. New Testaments for outreach:** To mobilise widespread evangelism among Persian-speakers in Europe, Elam is offering [pocket New Testaments](#) at shipping cost only.

The New Millennium Version of the Bible is appreciated for its accuracy and modern, eloquent Persian language. A section in the back of this beautiful edition of the New Testament explains the Gospel and asks the reader to make a decision about following Jesus. Hundreds of thousands of Iranians and Afghans have responded to the Gospel as they have read the New Testament. To order your New Testaments today, please contact europa@elam.com.
- 2. Safar.org:** The [Safar discipleship journey](#) was created by Elam to mobilise discipleship on a larger scale than ever before within the Persian-speaking church. Safar - the Persian word for *journey* - is a discipleship journey that enables any ordinary Christian to disciple a new believer one-on-one. Safar provides 30 simple, life-changing biblical steps to walk through with a new believer over 100 days. Serving as a roadmap, Safar helps lay the foundation in the new Christian for a life of devotion to Jesus. Safar is available in Persian and English at www.safar.org
- 3. [Kalameh.com](#):** Meaning *Word* in Persian, Kalameh is a hub for Christian content in the Persian language, featuring all the seasons of Elam's popular TV shows, topical articles, book reviews, short teaching clips and much more. Freshly relaunched in late 2019, and with sections on Prayer, Daily Christian Living, Worship, Women and Children, this site has helped thousands of Persian-speaking believers grow in their faith. Content includes:
 - TV teaching series, including [Women's World](#), [Bible for All](#), [Time for Worship](#) and [Kids TV](#).
 - A worship song archive providing access to hundreds of Persian worship songs, with downloadable lyric and chord sheets and PowerPoint lyric slideshows. There is also a YouTube playlist with more than 250 [Persian worship songs](#) with Persian subtitles.
 - A search function to find articles and teaching content on particular topics.
 - Easy access to the online Persian Bible and the online Kalameh bookshop.



4. **[Weekly Fellowship](#)** provides a weekly meeting outline that engages the participants in a simple, interactive worship service. It is the perfect resource for Persian-speaking groups in European churches who wish to have a mid-week fellowship in Persian, even if they don't have a Persian-speaking pastor. Worship songs and lyrics are provided online by an Elam worship group. Likewise, the preaching is a freshly-recorded short sermon by the Elam team. This resource has already been blessing many house churches in Iran and is now available for all to use.
5. **Hard-copy books and discipleship materials:** The online [Kalameh bookshop](#) is the place to order Persian Bibles as well as more than 200 Christian titles in Persian for self-study or group studies. These comprise books translated from English, as well as original Persian titles. Feel free to request a pdf catalogue of some of our most popular titles with descriptions in English by contacting publications@elam.com.

The following are helpful courses available to purchase via the Kalameh bookshop:

- **[Christianity Explored](#)** is an informal 7-week course exploring the Gospel of Mark for people who want to investigate Christianity. The [Leader's Guide](#), the [Handbook](#) and the [DVD](#) (dubbed) are available in Persian. The course is also available in [multiple other languages](#).
 - **[Alpha](#)** is an informal course exploring the Christian faith. The [Alpha Guide guest manual](#), [Alpha Questions of Life](#) and the [Alpha with Nicky Gumbel DVD](#) are available in Persian.
 - **[Come Follow Me](#)** is a discipleship course developed specifically to address issues faced by new believers from a Muslim background. Its format is inductive group Bible study. The course website provides [information on how to start a group](#). The Advisor's Guide is available for free download in [English](#) and [Persian](#). In Persian, the hard-copy [Advisor's Guide](#) and [Study Book](#) are available through Elam's online Kalameh shop. The Study Book and Advisor's Guide are also available in [several other languages](#).
 - **[Joining the Family](#)** is a course designed to equip your church to understand the challenges faced by believers from Muslim backgrounds, and to welcome them as family. This course - [available through our Kalameh shop](#) in English only - includes a film-based discussion course, seminar materials, a website and a book.
5. **Systematic correspondence studies:** Elam is the Persian-language hub of [Global University's](#) theological correspondence courses. Global University (GU) is a Christian university based in Missouri, accredited by the USA's Department of Education.
 - The foundational course is the **Christian Life Series (CLS)**.
 - The second, more advanced, course is the **Christian Service Series (CSS)**.

Both series consist of 18 books on essential Christian topics, and each book ends with a multiple-choice test that is submitted and marked. A certificate from Elam and GU is earned on the completion of each series. The study books are available on the free *Entesharate* Elam app (via the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#)) or for purchase in hardcopy via the Kalameh bookshop – [CLS](#)



Participants of a one-week discipleship course, 2019

and [CSS](#). The materials are also available for purchase in English: [Christian Life Series](#) and the [Christian Service Series](#).

- After completing the CSS, students can enrol for undergraduate studies in **Bible and Theology** with GU. Some modules for this course can only be studied in English.

For more information, or to enrol on a course, please contact correspondence@elam.com.

Discover more

- [Sign up](#) for regular updates by email about resources for Persian ministry and training from Elam's Europe team. These updates are available in English, German and Persian.
- You can also keep up to date on our 'Elam in Europe' [Facebook page](#).
- We would value your prayers for the church in Iran and beyond. To join us in prayer we recommend using the Iran 30 prayer guide. You can [download](#) this colourful and informative guide to use alone or in small groups. We also invite you to [sign up](#) to receive monthly prayer emails from Elam - available in English only.
- We recommend the book ['Too Many to Jail'](#) by Mark Bradley if you want to learn about the history of the church in Iran and discover why the house church movement is growing so rapidly, despite severe persecution. This book is also available to purchase for [kindle](#).

Your support enables more ministry

Elam relies on charitable donations to enable all its ministry, both in the Iran region and in Europe. If you, or your church, feel prompted by the Lord to support us, your gift would be gratefully received and would allow us to do more to strengthen and expand the Persian-speaking church.

If you'd like to give, it's quick and easy to [donate online](#). **Thank you.**

If you have any questions, or would like to give in another way, our supporter team in our UK office would love to hear from you on +44 1483 427778 or via contact@elam.com.

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