

Dear Friends,

It's time to do a review of the year – a year that was marked by joy and pain, new experiences and familiar routines. This last update for 2023 begins as a giant thank you to people who have invested their time, prayer and funds into God's kingdom and the work I'm doing through GAIN. Without your support in 2023, I would not be able to serve in this capacity full time.



Morocco Response

As the lead for GAIN Worldwide on the Morocco response, most of my time is spent on this project. We are working quickly to provide support and shelter in the Atlas Mountains.

Working in disaster relief is a difficult job. Dealing with traumatized individuals, witnessing horrific sights and investing energy into what seems to be a growing black hole can be exhausting. Despite the challenge of spending six weeks in disaster zones this year, I loved every moment and would do it all over again in a heartbeat. On the old Couperus family coat of arms there is a bright red shield with a dove carrying an olive branch, spreading the peace of Jesus. The shield is flowing with red and gold robes similar to what clergy would wear. Finally it has the Latin words "Tuum Est", which can be interpreted as "it's up to you."

After spending 5 weeks in Turkey, I met with a good friend on my route home, and she had one question for me: "Did you tell them about Jesus?" While this may not be possible in all contexts, it has stuck with me everywhere I go. She urged me that there are people who may never hear the name of Jesus, and it is my responsibility wherever I am to share him, to the best of my ability.

In October, I spent two weeks on vacation, and while there, as I made friends and got to know other travelers, I told them each about Jesus, about my faith and why it was important. My two weeks of vacation re-assured me of my passion for humanitarian aid, for people, for the church and for a good travel story. ;)

All in all, I am very happy with my work situation. I have an incredible working environment with staff who are intentional about faith and community and living that out. I spent a week in Morocco for work, acting as a consultant with the leader of our GAIN WW disaster relief, Uli Fisscher. We are actively working on growing the vision of GAIN, expanding how we can serve the community more effectively and efficiently. Expanding on that experience, this year involved stepping out into the unknown, and 2024 promises to be a year of growth and development as I strive to make long-term goals for myself, as well as our organization.

While in Turkey, my Spanish Colleague Lucia consistently reminded me about how great it will be when we see Jesus again, whether that is the second coming or us meeting him in heaven. This year has been difficult for many; I personally lost a college friend to suicide, watched friends and colleagues lose family members, and mourned with people in different disasters. My church communities have seen sudden deaths and watched people battle strokes and heart attacks. To each of these, we pray, Lord come quickly.

As we leave a lot of the pain from 2023 at the feet of Jesus, we also thank our



Syria Aid

One of the many food distributions that has happened in Aleppo through our local partner.



Couperus Family Crest

The Couperus family has a long history of involvement in the church and government tracing back to the late 1500's. The gold and red symbolize the colors of the priesthood. The dove of peace carrying an olive branch, and the words Tuum Est reminding us of our role in faith.

God for all of the good things that have happened. My younger sister got married, I moved out west to Abbotsford, and my family welcomed a new baby nephew. I reconnected into my old church community, and coached soccer at Abbotsford Christian School. Looking forward to 2024, there are six pregnancies between family, friends and cousins that I'm very excited about. It is with great hope that I pray for God's guidance, grace and wisdom as we prepare to enter this new chapter,

Country	Shelter (Families)	Food Packages	Trauma Care attendees
Ukraine	2	10,000	15,000
Syria	Coming in 2024	6000	N/A
Turkey	120	400	N/A
Morocco	50	600	N/A
Haiti	N/A	1 Fish Farm	N/A

In each of our projects, we have different opportunities and unique ways to get involved in ministry. The amount of circumstances that continue to arise to share the love of Christ is only increasing. Thank you for being a part of my ministry in 2023. I will be visiting Ontario and New York in January to keep up with some fulfillment promises with churches and donors. If you are in those areas, please reach out and I will try to add a visit into my schedule.

Prayers



Pray for peace. Between the war in Ukraine and the ongoing turmoil in Israel and Gaza, we pray that evil people no longer prosper from the wars around. Looking to 2024, I have friends and cousins and a brother who are expecting to welcome children into this world! Please pray for healthy pregnancies and sustained families. Please pray that my meetings and relationships over the next several weeks go well, and that I can continue to grow connections with these church communities.

The link to giving page is: (or scan this QR code)
<https://secure.powertochange.org/p-1981-ministry-of-tyler-couperus.aspx>

If you choose to give via cheque, it can be made out to Power to Change. It's important to put Tyler Couperus' Ministry in the memo. And then you can get in contact with me to determine how it will be submitted.

In Christ,

