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A Journey Renewed

I have always wanted to do missions; GAIN has reignited that flame and given me a space to do that



Albania DART 2019

A photo of myself along with two other DART members, post-aid distribution with a local church after an earthquake in 2019

Dear Friend,

It's been a long time of hard work, growing within my community and personal development, and now the time has finally come for me to move on from the greenhouse industry and into the mission field.

Growing up with a Dad for a pastor is underrated; well, at least when it comes to my experience. Throughout my life, I have witnessed ministry done where everything was centered around the humility and grace of Christ. I became a member in the Christian Reformed Church while I was a teenager in British Columbia, and continued on through Christian secondary school in Ontario and then on to study theology at Dordt College (University).

For the past several years, however, the doors have not been opened. Well, at least, when it came to employment. However, I did have a boss in Lawrence DeGraaf who gave me a flexible work schedule to allow me to volunteer with the Global Aid Network in Greece, Latvia and Albania. Through these volunteer experiences, I have developed a firm relationship with GAIN, which now is growing into a formal position as the Disaster Relief Preparedness Manager for GAIN Canada.

When people ask me why GAIN, or why disaster relief, my answer comes quickly. We live in a broken world, with many people who are suffering and hurting. Global Aid Network has a mission; to reveal hope, and restore life. We run projects ranging from humanitarian aid, to water management and WASH programs.

So, what does GAIN do? How do they operate?

Well, the Global Aid Network began back at the end of the cold war, during a famine in the former Soviet Union. There came a point where the Soviets were absolutely devastated by a drought and famine, and their leaders realized that they needed to open their borders into receiving humanitarian aid from the western world. This is where Campus Crusade for Christ (now called Power to Change in Canada), comes in and the roots of the Global Aid Network are formed.

GAIN began with a group of students gathering food and humanitarian aid supplies. They organized a logistics trucking company to deliver food and hope into the Soviet Union. We are still fulfilling that mandate today. Currently, the Global Aid Network has 11 major offices, and does work in 43 different countries. Our most active project right now is helping the refugees and people of Ukraine. As per our last report, GAIN Germany has brought in over 6 million dollars worth of aid into the area, with an additional 1.2 million from GAIN Netherlands and here in Canada, the office has shipped a few containers and also raised considerable funds to aid Ukrainian refugees.

I recall in 2019, when I was going through Disaster Relief training, the founder of GAIN, Klaus Dewald and I had a conversation about our world and disaster relief. He reminded me that if we read the book of revelation, we know that disasters will continue, and as we enter the later days, the need for Christ-dwelling servants will continue to grow.



Next Steps

I moved from British Columbia to Ontario 10 ½ years ago, and finished a degree in missions 6 years ago. I'm excited to see what this new chapter holds.



My new role with the Global Aid Network, will be managing our disaster relief programs and our preparedness. In that role, I will be doing a lot of collaboration with our partners worldwide, particularly those in our Disaster Relief offices. My new position includes training new volunteers at our DART team training, as well as potential field visits, and ongoing conversation with our project partners about how we can work better together.

I have a passion for disaster relief specifically since my three month trip to Lesbos, Greece in 2019, when I volunteered in the refugee camp Moria. During that time, I really began to see the gospel take place first hand. The good news of Jesus, coming in the form of humanitarian aid. I acknowledge that I can't necessarily solve the world's problems, but I can help take steps to make change in the sphere that I'm placed in. In Jesus' story of the sheep and the goats, we are told that whatever we did for the least of these, we did for Him. Who in the world is the least of these, if it isn't a refugee, a person in famine or a person post-disaster?

In order to successfully fulfill our mission as GAIN, we need staff who can lay the groundwork, and do project management to empower our staff in the field as well as our local partners. That is where I come in. I will be working with GAIN full-time, and am looking for partners who will give me their time, prayers and encouragement, as well as finances so that I can fulfill my kingdom calling.

This will be my full time job, so I need to raise enough financial support and partnership to sustain me, as well as cover my ministry expenses. Thankfully through Power to Change, GAIN is able to give tax receipts for each supporter. I have been blessed by the church throughout my life; in each church we have celebrated together, mourned together and supported each other. I look forward to growing that community.

Would you consider helping me take this next step by partnering with me for a monthly gift of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500? Thank you so much for considering this investment in me and the future of what God is calling me to. Please prayerfully consider giving, as well as praying for me as I embark on this journey. I have left my contact information on the page and would love to hear from you, I will touch base with you in the upcoming weeks.

The link to giving page is: (or scan this QR code)
<https://secure.powertochange.org/p-1285-give-a-gift-change-a-life.aspx#staff-box>

In Christ,

Tyler Cooperus