

Dear Friends,



### Gleaners food Abroad

I have the privilege to help with shipping food from Gleaners across Canada to our partners worldwide. This photo comes from our support for Armenia, and features a box from Niagara Christian Gleaners



### Syria Aid

Every other week our local partner distributes food to approximately 250 families who were displaced by the 2023 Earthquake. We are grateful for this partnership to aid the people in Northern Syria.

As winter fades into the beautiful colors and warm sunshine of spring, we are all challenged to look at the future; do we plant beans in the garden or tomatoes, did we get the campsite at the provincial park, and which projects are we taking on for the summer jobsites? For us at Global Aid Network, springtime is full of planning, budgets and conversations geared at future growth. Working as a project manager from Canada is much different than being on-site in-person and taking in the situations, but that doesn't make it less fulfilling. Last year, around this time, I was hopping on a plane, working 19 hour days and overconsuming local cuisine in Turkey (It's been 377 days since I last ate a Turkish Doner, and I'm okay with that.) This update will highlight a couple of project's I've been working on from Canada, and how lives are being changed worldwide.

### Syria

Since the February 2023 earthquake, GAIN Canada has been supporting a local Syrian church who has been working in Aleppo doing bi-monthly aid distributions. The Pastor brings his team to Northern Syria by bus, bringing blessing bags to help alleviate the suffering by providing good food.

In one testimony, a man who was injured during the Syrian Civil War explains how, after the earthquake, the government allowed people who lost their homes to stay in the schools. Our local partner brought aid to that school to help the many displaced families. He continues to say that he is so grateful for the continued support, but more importantly, that there are no caveats included in their reception. Post-Syrian civil war, there are many distribution agencies who will ask which side you supported, what your religion is or where you're from in order to receive the help. It is of extreme importance that we as humanitarian responders respect the privacy of those we serve, and our love and aid is not conditional but inclusive.

It is important, however, that they know why we are there and who we serve. In the same report, that man thanked the people of the cross for their support and gifts. In the local mosque, they are praying prayers of thanks for the people of the cross. Our local partner estimates that ten percent of the over 10,000 people whom we have served, have asked further questions about Christianity and Jesus. In a highly muslim nation, where doing this can be dangerous, this is an incredible movement.

We are currently entering a rebuilding phase, where we are hoping to help repair 25-28 homes so that families can begin to return to home. I'm excited to see how this project progresses.

## Morocco

Morocco is the other project that I hold responsibility for on the GAiN Worldwide scale. This means that I am the lead agent, making the decisions on where funding will be spent on behalf of our entire worldwide network.

We have focused on two areas of need in the high atlas mountain range. Through our local partner, we have built 50 Transitional Shelters, and 25 Latrines. These transitional shelters are efficient, sturdy and when the time is for them to be torn down, every piece is reusable. We are now almost seven months removed from the earthquake, and I have seen videos of these shelters with proper electric and TV's installed as families settle in and make their shelter a temporary home. Looking to the future, we are planning on engaging again in building transitional shelters while people continue to rebuild their lives.



### **Transitional Shelter Project**

After the September Earthquake in Morocco, a lot of my focus was placed on building transitional shelters for people in the rural Atlas Mountain range. So far we have built 50 shelters for families, with plans for 50 more.

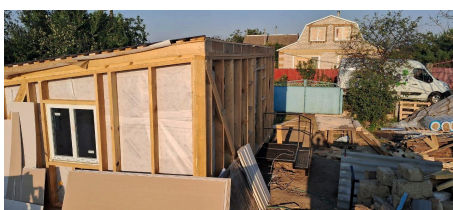
Through our projects, we also see that Jesus is moving, and his name is being glorified and people are asking questions. While a team of local Moroccan Christians built these structures, they had many conversations about Jesus, God, faith, life, Gaza and politics. In one particular story, the local imam engaged our team, asking questions about faith and Jesus. Their conversation together became so enthralling and engaging that hours passed, and he missed two of the five calls to prayer. Spreading the gospel to unreached people groups, such as the Berber people in Morocco, takes consistency, patience and God's providence. As we sow seeds of faith, we continue to pray that some of them take root and grow into a new, thriving church.

## Ukraine

Our work in Ukraine has been primarily in two sectors. Aid distribution, and emotional first aid/trauma care. As GAiN Canada, we have been blessed with an abundance of dried vegetables and soup mixes from different Gleaners across Canada. Most recently, we sent a container from Niagara Christian Gleaners in Smithville Ontario, to our Dutch office in the Netherlands, where it was then broken down into smaller portions and delivered to Ukraine, and surrounding nations to support internally and externally displaced people from the war.

We have participated in two initiatives for emotional first aid and trauma care. Each agency has made multiple trips into Ukraine, teaching local leaders how to aid in assessing and alleviating trauma incurred during the war. Looking forward, I could see this situation going one of two ways; either the war will get worse and we will need to bring in more aid to the people, or the war will end, and we can enter the long rebuilding process. Either way, I foresee that our role as Global Aid Network will grow.

There will come a time when we are able to do a more comprehensive rebuilding project after stability is returned to the area. When we reach that point, I look forward to being able to engage in the project more proactively rather than reacting to the needs as they come.



### **Rebuild Ukraine**

There have been many people who have lost their homes during this war in Ukraine. GAiN Canada helped rebuild two houses in the summer of 2023, and look to increase our capacity this summer, ultimately aiming to rebuild five homes in 2024.

## Prayers



In my last update, I requested prayer for the many pregnancies that were in my life. Sadly, I had a pair of friends lose their child, giving birth to a stillborn. Please pray for these young parents, after losing their son.

I'm thankful to God for the many skilled doctors and first responders we have in this community. My uncle Eric was in a work accident, and him being alive today, is thankfully due to a merciful God, and people that he has put in place to care for our bodies.

Pray for those who are working on the front lines in Ministry, whether it is our local partners in Ukraine, Syria, Turkey, or Morocco. Our local partners are sharing the gospel by being present in disasters, giving unconditional aid to those affected by disasters.

I would love to hear from you and pray for you too. :)

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Couperus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light, textured background.

