

# Changed leaders for a Changed Iran



PARS THEOLOGICAL CENTRE  
TRAINING LEADERS | TRANSFORMING IRAN

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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\*\* Please note that some photos in this report are purchased online and are used for solely illustrative purposes. Most names and locations have also been changed for security.\*\*



A LETTER FROM  
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Rev. Dr. Mehrdad Fatehi**

Dear friends,

What an eventful year 2022 was for many! According to the UN, 100 million people were displaced as they fled conflict, violence, human rights violations, and persecution. Moreover, the World Health Organisation reports that there was a 25% increase in depression and anxiety among people. August 2022 saw the beginning of widespread protests in Iran, the greatest display of dissent in the country since the Revolution of 1979. And in response, the world watched as the regime responded with increased fear tactics – arrests, beatings, executions, heightened surveillance, internet restrictions, and military operations.

How do we encourage those, including many of our own students who were joining protests and at times taking care of protestors, who are living in the midst of extraordinary challenges, uncertainty, and countless personal tragedies?

“Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.”  
(Psalm 37:1-3, ESV)

In these words of Holy Scripture, we see that the Psalmist acknowledges the reality of evildoers and wrongdoing. But he goes on to declare that there will surely be a glorious end to such wickedness and the calamities it brings. Crucially, the Psalmist encourages the reader to “Trust in the Lord,” “do good,” “dwell in the land” and “befriend faithfulness.” The exhortation to “befriend faithfulness” can also be translated to “feed” on God’s faithfulness. Feeding on God is the source of our friendship with Him. As Jesus tells us, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me” (John 15:4). We are reminded of this when we partake of the Lord’s supper, that we are eating of Him. We cannot dwell in the land without dwelling in Christ and Christ dwelling in us.

Through all that we do at Pars, our desire is to direct Iran’s emerging leaders towards feeding on God and growing in faithfulness, as they trust him and do good while dwelling in the Land of Iran. Your prayers and generous support have made it possible for us to equip and mobilize a new generation of maturing servant-leaders who dwell in Christ and feed on His faithfulness. Through your support, you have stood in solidarity with these emerging leaders as they shepherd the young and beautiful church of Iran, Afghanistan, and the Persian-speaking diaspora. For this I thank you. In spite of all the hardships of 2022, the Lord’s faithfulness sustains us all, and I hope this report will be an encouragement to you.

Your brother in Christ,



## Stories from our Students

# Sharing Jesus' Love for Women among Protestors

In October 2022, a young woman protesting in Iran was severely beaten by security forces and collapsed on the ground. Her friends managed to drag her away from the eyes of the security officials and took her to an open apartment that was nearby. At the same time, another group of portestors who were fleeing from the violence of the security forces also took refuge in the same apartment (it had become a custom that the doors of homes were being purposely left open to take in those who were fleeing or injured during the demonstrations). The group who had taken refuge there were warmly received by the owners of the apartment. The woman who was beaten had a badly bruised leg and she was crying out in pain. The owners, a husband and wife, gave her pain-killers and treated her leg. However, the pain did not subside, indicating that the leg was possibly broken. (If injured protesters were taken to hospital they would risk being arrested as the hospitals were under the control of the Police and Revolutionary Guards).

Two of the women present in the apartment were Christian students who upon seeing how much pain this woman was in, asked if she would like for them to pray for her healing in the name of Jesus Christ. This girl responded: "Whatever calamity we face comes from religion and God, and you want to ask God to help me?"



They replied: "The God whom we are speaking about is very different from the God that you know". Her response was: "What difference does it make? All religions are the same". The rest of the young people present in the house were of the same opinion. In response, the Christian students spoke about the God of love in contrast to the God the woman had known before. They explained that the God of the gospel is one who searches for people, he is the God who wants to have a relationship with his children; he the God who became incarnate and who came to us in order that we might know him. When they said that the God of the Gospel is also the God who suffers for our sake - who shares in our pains and sympathises with us in our weaknesses - the group became curious and wondered who this strange God is that is unknown to them. That night, after the injured girl had been introduced to the true God, she accepted the offer of the Christian girls to pray for healing in the name of Christ. After the prayer, this young woman realised that her leg had been touched and warmed by the presence of God, and with much excitement she exclaimed that God had healed her. The two students then told her that he is not only a God of healing but that he desires to be the personal God of this woman and all those who were in this home.

That night the conversation continued until midnight and it was agreed that the following night after the protests, this group would again gather again and have further discussion about the message of the Gospel.

On the second night, conversation continues and the group was increasingly drawn towards the person and character of Christ, in contrast to other prophets and religious leaders they had believed in. Some asked to have a copy of the Gospel, so the Christian students promised to bring them copies of the New Testament. Then the woman who was healed asked if they could bring her a cross to put around her neck.

One of the Christian women gave the girl her own cross, and as she put it around her neck the girl started crying with joy. There were further nights of discussion concerning the meaning of freedom in the Christian faith and Jesus' love and respect for women.

These discussions have been continuing since then and these students have asked us to pray that those involved would come to faith in Christ.



# School of Theology & Leadership

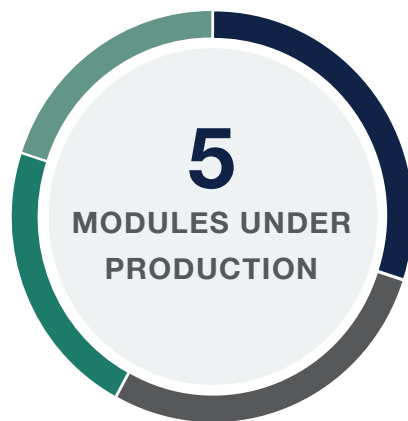
## 1. Module Development

By God's grace, in 2022 we were able to develop 1 new online modules, bringing the total of complete modules to 37, equivalent to 151 credits of our Bachelor in Theology and Leadership. This 1 module included:

- The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit (5 credits)

We also continued working on the production of the following 5 other modules:

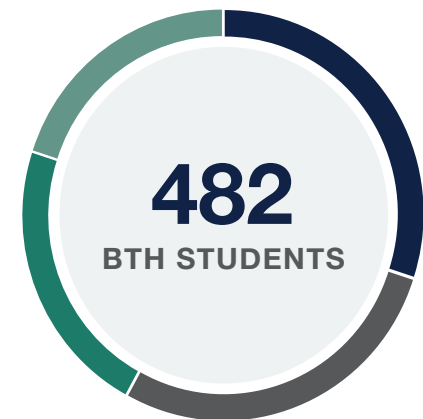
- Introduction to Pars (1 credit)
- Psalms and Wisdom Literature (4 credits)
- Preaching for Christian Ministry in Iran (4 credits)
- Ministry among Youth in an Iranian Context (4 credits)
- Christology for Christian Life and Ministry (5 credits)



## 2. Online Classes & Tutoring

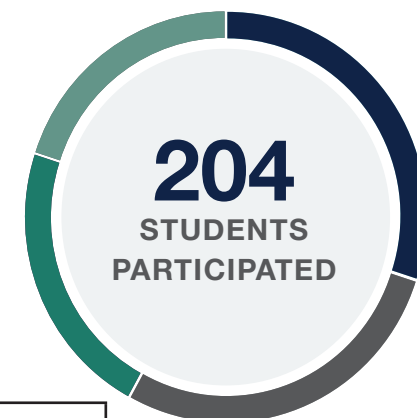
482 incredible students were offered 18 online modules of study, along with high quality tutoring throughout the year. 227 of our student body trained with us from Iran and the rest from Turkey and across 15 other countries to which the Iranian diaspora has spread. Modules we offered students in 2022 included the following:

- Practices of Holistic Formation: The Christian Disciplines
- A Survey of the Christian Doctrines
- Church History I
- The Grand Story of Salvation
- Servant Leadership I
- Domestic Violence, Abuse, and Addiction
- The Torah
- The Church
- Inner Healing and Deliverance Ministry
- Introduction to Mission
- History of the Church in Iran
- Essentials of Holistic Formation: Healthy Christian Living
- A Survey of the New Testament
- How to Understand and Apply the Bible
- Church History II
- The Ministry and Teachings of Jesus
- The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit
- History of Iran



### 3. Leadership Formation Conferences

We planned to host a total of 12 Formation Conferences in 2022; however, the widespread protests and demonstrations in Iran made travel difficult for some of our students. As a result, we had to cancel two conferences in September and October. In total, we hosted 10 Formation Conferences that gathered 204 students altogether. See below for more information:



	Date	Online/ Residential	Topics	No. Students	No. Staff
1	27/05-02/06	Residential	The Book of Proverbs: Timeless wisdom for Iranian Christian Life and Ministry Discipleship According to the Gospel of Mark	20	4
2	22/06-28/06	Residential	Sex and Sexuality in Christian Life and Ministry The Person and Work of Christ in the Letter to the Hebrews	20	4
3	11/07-17/07	Residential	The Book of Proverbs: Timeless wisdom for Iranian Christian Life and Ministry Minor Prophets: Lessons for Iranian Christian Life and Ministry	16	3
4	20/7-26/07	Residential	Women in Christ The Person and Work of Christ in the Letter to the Hebrews	24	4
5	07/09-13/09	Residential	Women in Christ The Letter of James	13	4
6	07/11-13/11	Residential	Minor Prophets: Lessons for Christian Life and Ministry Lament in Christian Life and Ministry Women in Christ	26	4
7	23/11-29/11	Residential	The Book of Proverbs: Timeless wisdom for Iranian Christian Life and Ministry Discipleship According to the Gospel of Mark	20	4



8	01/12-07/12	Residential	Minor Prophets: Lessons for Christian Life and Ministry Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation	24	4
9	02/12-08/12	Residential	The Letter of James Discipleship According to the Gospel of Mark	22	3
10	10/12-16/12	Residential	Women in Christ An Exploration of Spiritual Decline and Growth	29	5

## 4. Mentored Growth & Development

In 2022, 283 students were covered by our mentoring program. Of the 283 students matched with a mentor, 30 are new mentees. Moreover, we recruited and trained 4 new mentors to join our team of mentors.



## 5. Ministerial Practice and Reflection

In 2022, 210 students have taken part in our Ministerial Practice and Reflection Program. This is the fourth component of our School of Theology Program, through which students are required to have at least 2-3 hours of ministry every week which can be in a variety of ministries. The aim is to help students to apply what they have learned in real life and develop their ministerial skills. Another objective is to help students to make their ministerial practice a learning experience and theologically reflect on what God is doing in their lives and the lives of others. Ministries that our students are currently involved in are as follows:





# Student Spotlight

## Kia and Negin



As missionaries with Cru, Kia and Negin run a ministry among Iranians called *Family Life Farsi*, out of Birmingham, UK. This is a ministry focused on providing training and resources for Iranian Christian families on marriage, parenting, family life, discipleship in the home and more. In October 2022, they celebrated the publication of their new Farsi resource on Marriage called “Baaham” (“Together” in Farsi). They also ran their first conference on Marriage for Iranian Christian couples in Belgium!

*“We could not be more grateful to Pars for the amazing training we continually receive from them. Everything we learn from the online modules, conference participation and mentoring with Pars, we immediately pass on to the couples and families we serve through our ministry. We have found the quality of training and resources that Pars provides to be unmatched and the ministry to be invaluable. We could not be doing what we are doing today without Pars’ support and investment in us as leaders.”*



# Student Spotlight

## Shadi



Shadi was a young underground house church leader in Iran before she was arrested in 2015. Upon her release from prison, Shadi was told she must leave Iran, so she moved to Turkey as a refugee in 2016. Today, as a refugee still in Turkey, Shadi leads a vibrant children's TV show broadcasted into Iran and many other countries through Mohabat TV. Through this show, Shadi disciples many young Iranian children, teaching them about all areas of their faith and thus contributing to their spiritual formation.

*"I have learned so many things at Pars, but more than anything else, I have been profoundly blessed by the counselling I have received. My whole life imploded when I went to prison and then left my home country. My counsellor's gentle and caring approach to listening, teaching and modeling has led me to experience deep healing and take important steps towards inner freedom. Walking through life with this counsellor has been a transformative experience."*





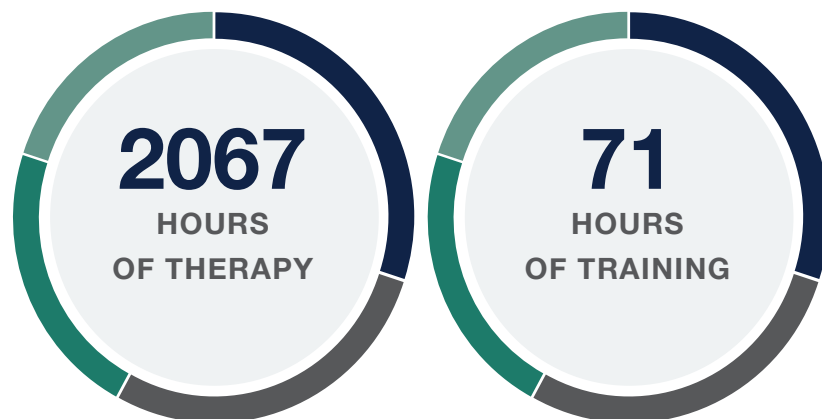
# Pars Counselling Centre

## 1. Therapy

In 2022, Pars counsellors provided 2,067 hours of therapy to Iranian Christian individuals living in Iran, Türkiye, and the Persian-speaking diaspora. 310 people received counselling, and 100 clients were from inside the country. Approximately 62% of our clients are women and 38% are men. Counselling was primarily provided through online sessions or on the telephone.

## 2. Training

Between January and December 2022, our counsellors were able to give 71 hours of training in counselling-related topics to the Iranian Christian community worldwide. Training includes running online seminars on topics such as trauma, depression, anxiety, and abuse. The online seminars were for underground house churches in the homeland, Iranian churches in Türkiye, and across Europe. Other opportunities have included: speaking in online women's gatherings, as well as running workshops for house churches inside Iran with the necessary security precautions in place.



**“I am a 38 year-old woman with many anxiety issues. I was quite nervous at the start of our sessions but I am glad I did. Talking in my language makes it much easier. I feel lighter and happier. A huge change has started, and I am looking forward to better days.”**



**“After receiving 7 hours of counselling with my counsellor, I am ready to take responsibility for the actions of my life. I have become more willing to make changes in my life, and to give up unhealthy habits in order to be more patient and loving of my family. I am grateful for the grace shown to me through my counsellor, and his guidance to help me see myself and understand myself better.”**



# Wider Ministries

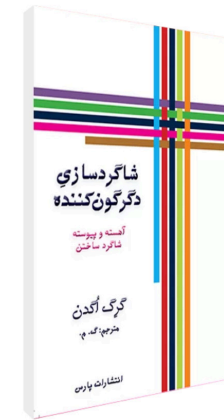
## Pars Publications

In 2022, our team of translators completed the translation of the following 6 new books:

1. Greg Ogden, Discipleship Essentials (IVP Connect: Downers Grove), 2019.
2. Greg Ogden, Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time (IVP Books: Downers Grove), 2016.
3. J. Gordon McConville, Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Prophets (IVP Academic: Downers Grove), 2002.
4. Skip Bell, Servants and Friends: A Biblical Theology of Leadership (Andrews University Press: Berrien Spring), 2014.
5. Christopher J. H. Wright, Knowing the Holy Spirit through the Old Testament (IVP Academic: Downers Grove), 2022.
6. Daniel Brown, A New Introduction to Islam (2nd Ed., Wiley Blackwell Publishing: Oxford), 2017.

The translation of 2 other books is still in process of completion and will be completed in mid-2023:

7. Thomas R. Yoder Neufeld, Recovering Jesus: The Witness of the New Testament (Brazos Press: Grand Rapids), 2007. (50% complete)
8. Philip E. Satterthwaite & J. Gordon McConville, Exploring the Old Testament: A Guide to the Historical Books (IVP Academic: Downers Grove), 2016. (50%)



## TV Broadcasting

In 2022, we broadcasted 618 hours of our video lectures (including repeats) to the Persian-speaking world; this is a combination of 292 hours through our partnership with SAT7 and 326 hours via MOHABAT TV.



## Shagerd Website



Our main public Farsi online platform Shagerd has been meeting our objectives to make our content accessible to more Iranians and Persian speakers. Comments received from the general public are encouraging and exciting. They are happy with the content, and those who registered for the Pars Academy courses were grateful for the opportunity to have easier access to theological teaching. We released 13 articles in 2022. In May, we had the highest number of visits to Shagerd with 5,420 people visiting our website.

## Pars Academy

In 2022, we have had 94 new participants register with Pars Academy bringing the total of PA participants to 376. We also launched 3 new modules on the academy platform, including:

- A Survey of the Old Testament Servant Leadership I
- The Gospel of John
- The Ministry and Teachings of Jesus: A Historical and Theological Exploration



در شاگرد جستجو کنید



وارد آکادمی شوید

### تازه‌ها

- خدمت موافق دل خدا  
۲۴ بهمن ۱۴۰۱
- راه‌های فروبسته  
۵ مهر ۱۴۰۱
- معلمان دروغین و انکار الوهیت مسیح  
۲۵ مرداد ۱۴۰۱
- معلمان دروغین و انکار



شروع یادگیری	وضعیت درس	وضعیت کنونی
برای ثبت‌نام وارد سایت شوید	رایگان	ثبت‌نام نشده‌اید

# 2023 Expenditure Report

	Course Development	Online Programme	Conferences	Mentoring	Leadership	Counselling	Shagerd	Academy	Total
<b>Equipment</b>	\$943	\$3,773	\$792	\$792	\$783	\$783	\$783	\$783	\$9,433
<b>Film and Ediiting</b>	\$15,716	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$415	\$0	\$3,514	\$0	\$19,645
<b>Travel</b>	\$2,665	\$0	\$72,438	\$6,246	\$4,352	\$1,333	\$0	\$0	\$87,034
<b>Lecture</b>	\$39,660	\$0	\$38,247	\$0	\$3,534	\$0	\$10,030	\$0	\$91,471
<b>Accomodation</b>	\$2,996	\$4,494	\$159,705	\$1,532	\$2,548	\$1,498	\$0	\$0	\$172,772
<b>Resources</b>	\$134,681	\$4,430	\$0	\$0	\$1,523	\$0	\$20,138	\$18,900	\$179,672
<b>Tutoring</b>	\$0	\$252,456	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$252,456
<b>IT</b>	\$3,819	\$103,214	\$5,435	\$6,937	\$4,173	\$354	\$15,889	\$19,067	\$158,888
<b>Education</b>	\$47,520	\$142,087	\$17,064	\$20,276	\$10,675	\$3,209	\$1,655	\$6,233	\$248,720
<b>Mentoring</b>	\$0	\$0	\$8,662	\$76,041	\$562	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$85,265
<b>Counselling</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$91,871	\$0	\$0	\$91,871
<b>Ministry</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$27,540	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$27,540
<b>Mnagement &amp;Admin</b>	\$26,111	\$53,387	\$38,461	\$17,419	\$3,438	\$11,325	\$5,754	\$5,793	\$161,688
<b>Development</b>	\$31,479	\$52,432	\$32,738	\$17,531	\$3,455	\$11,535	\$6,472	\$5,666	\$161,308
<b>Total</b>	\$305,591	\$616,273	\$373,542	\$174,315	\$35,457	\$121,908	\$64,235	\$56,442	<b>\$1,747,762</b>



# Prayer Requests

- **Please praise** God for his amazing faithfulness to us throughout the years, enabling us to continue with the ministry he has called us to at Pars. Thank him for each one of our 482 students, our faculty and staff, and for the important role that they all have in our learning community.
- **Please pray** for all those effected by the earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria on February 6th, leaving over 50,000 dead. Thankfully, none of our students were harmed.
- **Please pray** for our staff as they plan for the third Iranian Leaders Forum that Pars will host in October 2023. We hope that over 120 Iranian leaders from many different ministries and organisations will be represented as together we reflect on the following theme: “One Body in Christ: How to Prepare in Unity for God’s Kingdom Dreams in Iran?”
- **Please pray** for our staff as we prepare for our second Certificate Award Ceremony - this is for students who have completed the first and second year of the BTh program - in the second half of 2023.
- **Please pray** for all 15 Formation Conferences that we have planned for 2023; that all participants will experience days of deep refreshment and encouragement together in God’s presence.
- **Please pray** for Pars’ on-going IT needs. We are looking to recruit a new Head of IT, and we are currently in the process of conducting a major upgrade to our online learning management system.





PARS THEOLOGICAL CENTRE  
TRAINING LEADERS | TRANSFORMING IRAN

[parstheology.org](http://parstheology.org) • [info@parstheology.com](mailto:info@parstheology.com)

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