

take  heart

Quarterly Update

***Easter 2020***



Dear siblings in Christ,

He is risen! Hallelujah. Thank you for your prayers and financial support during these uncertain times. We know that our anchor of hope is Christ, and we will continue to stand by that truth with our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world.



Fueled by the resurrection power of Jesus, we “press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). We are honored to be able to run this race with you and hope this special update will bring a smile to your face as you witness God’s unstoppable love in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and now, Nigeria.

God bless you all,

Aida Samir  
Executive Director & Co-Founder

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Take Heart has served

**4,032** Christian families since January 1, 2020

and

**24,000** people since Take Heart’s inception in 2015

in

**3 countries**

with

**8 local partners**

and

**762 supporters**



# Nigeria



We are pleased to announce that Take Heart is now working in Nigeria. The encouraging support from our donors is what has made this possible! It has been our prayer for a couple of months to extend our services to Nigeria and God finally granted us our wish to be able to serve our brothers and sisters in this highly persecuted area.

Nigeria's Christians are targets of severe persecution. According to the 2020 World Watch list, Nigeria is ranked 12th in the top 50 countries deemed dangerous to follow Jesus. More than 3 million Christian internally displaced people (IDPs) are living in camps because of the persecution. Many have been killed. Others have been kidnapped and still haven't returned.

Our goal is to spiritually encourage 4,500 Christians in the Yola and Abjua camps, technically equip 15 leaders to be able to serve the internally displaced people in the two camps, and financially support local churches to be able to assist with small business start-ups.



We expect to start fully training leaders in Nigeria by June, but our team has already started sending essential medical and cleaning supplies to 4,500 families as part of our effort to provide some relief as COVID-19 hits the most vulnerable.

# We need you!

Launching ministry in a new country during a pandemic is quite a challenge! The financial hurdle is significant, but far from insurmountable. We know our God has unlimited resources at His disposal, and we know that God will call some of you to be a part of our ministry launch in Nigeria, in prayer and/or financial support.

We need to raise **\$30,000** to start technically equipping, spiritually encouraging, and financially supporting our partners in Nigeria. Would you consider giving \$20, \$50, or \$100 monthly?

[Go to missiontakeheart.org/nigeria to give any amount today.](https://missiontakeheart.org/nigeria)



# An Easter Message

On April 15, Take Heart Board Member Mark Girguis shared a reflection on Holy Week in the midst of COVID-19. Though many Christians celebrated Easter April 12, our Orthodox siblings celebrate the following week! We can all benefit from meditating on and praying through these God-honoring truths.

He said, "Whenever you did it to the least of those my brethren, you did it unto Me."



Scan the QR code or go to [bit.ly/TakeHeartEaster2020](https://bit.ly/TakeHeartEaster2020) to watch!



**We had a great start to the year mobilizing our partners in Egypt, Iraq, Syria and now in Nigeria! Here are some of the key highlights from some of our projects implemented since January 2020.**

# Egypt

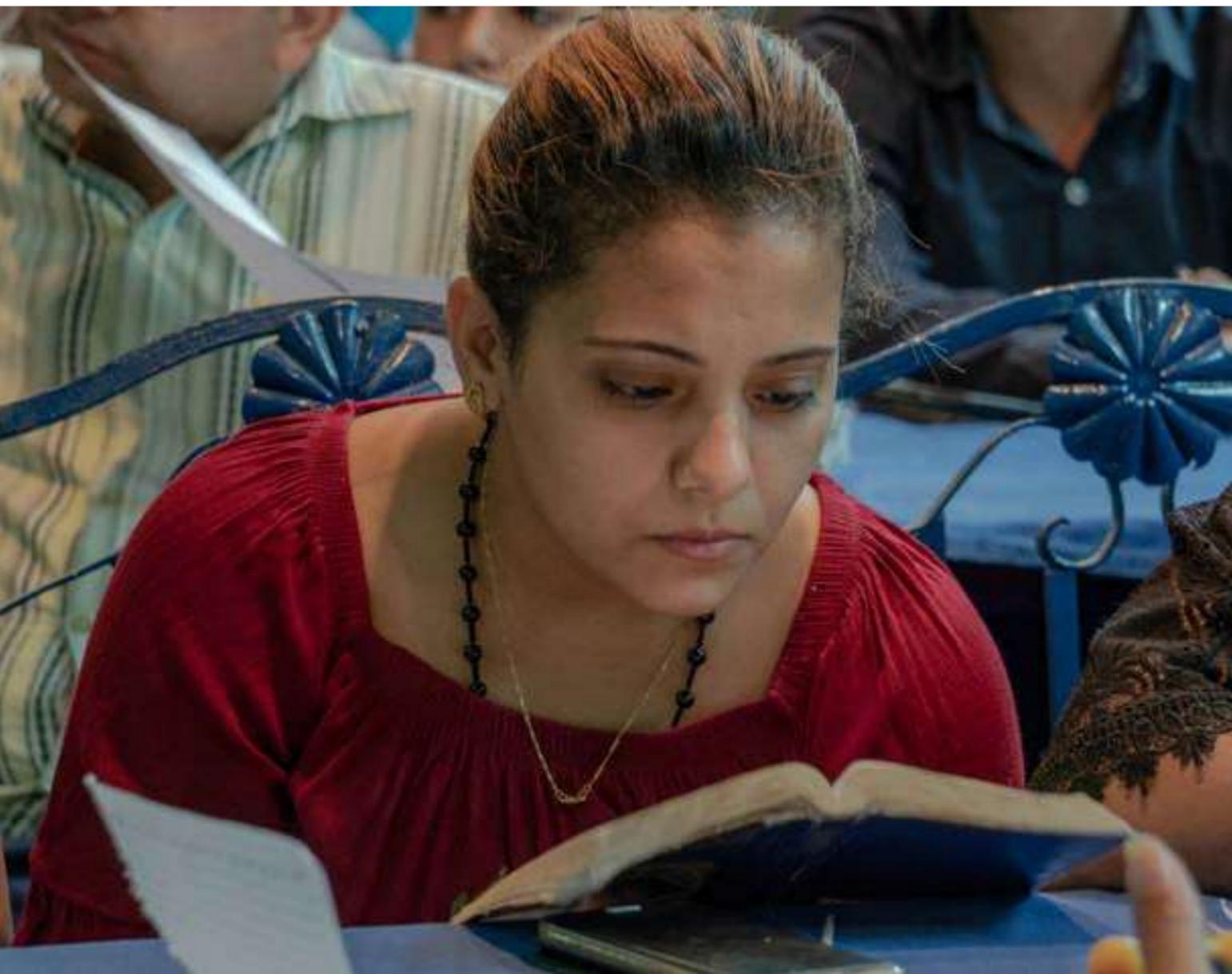


In El Mataa'na, we prepared a series of trainings for servants that can help them spiritually and technically.



Topics included:

- ♥ Identifying the appropriate target and godly motive for serving.
- ♥ How God uses our simple capabilities to make a huge impact.
- ♥ A personal assessment opportunity for servants to discover their personalities and their potential and identify how they react towards their strength and weakness points. Included in the training was how to work as a team, not just as individuals.
- ♥ Created a professional training needs assessment (TNA) for the team to set up a detailed plan to work on community needs in the coming months.

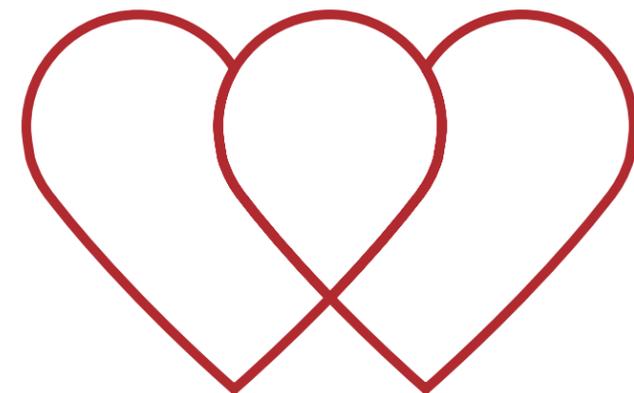


# Iraq

Take Heart provided funds for Ramy Salim to start his business repairing cars. This is one of many ongoing projects in Karemlash, Iraq. The purpose of these projects is to help those who were displaced by ISIS and who lost their sources of income. Take Heart steps in and through local churches provides loans to help people start working again to support their families.



This is Hurmiz. He repairs bicycles and is now able to provide for himself and his family too!



# Syria



One project from Syria serves 49 women and their families. Take Heart technically equipped them with the training necessary to have their own production line of knit materials. We are in process of opening markets for them. Spiritual support is also encouraged. The women support each other by sharing prayers and reading Scripture together.





# Ways you can help

## Pray

Without prayer, our work is ineffective. We need you to pray for the people in all four countries we serve. To join the prayer team, go to [missiontakeheart.org/prayer](https://missiontakeheart.org/prayer)

## Serve

We need volunteers to help realize Take Heart's vision to see the body of Christ, standing firm and with great hope. To see what opportunities are available, go to [missiontakeheart.org/volunteer](https://missiontakeheart.org/volunteer)

## Give

We need to raise \$30,000 to launch our service in Nigeria! Give today at [missiontakeheart.org/nigeria](https://missiontakeheart.org/nigeria)

Thank you for your support during the first quarter of 2020. As economic uncertainties rise globally, we are more thankful than ever for your astounding generosity towards loving your persecuted siblings in Christ. By God's grace and in His strength, we will not stop working. We believe that Christ will transform all our sufferings and make all things new. May we always remember the power of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection - not just on Easter, but every day - for as the old hymn declares, "Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

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