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MERF News

May 2020



Middle East Reformed Fellowship—“Declaring the Whole Counsel of God”

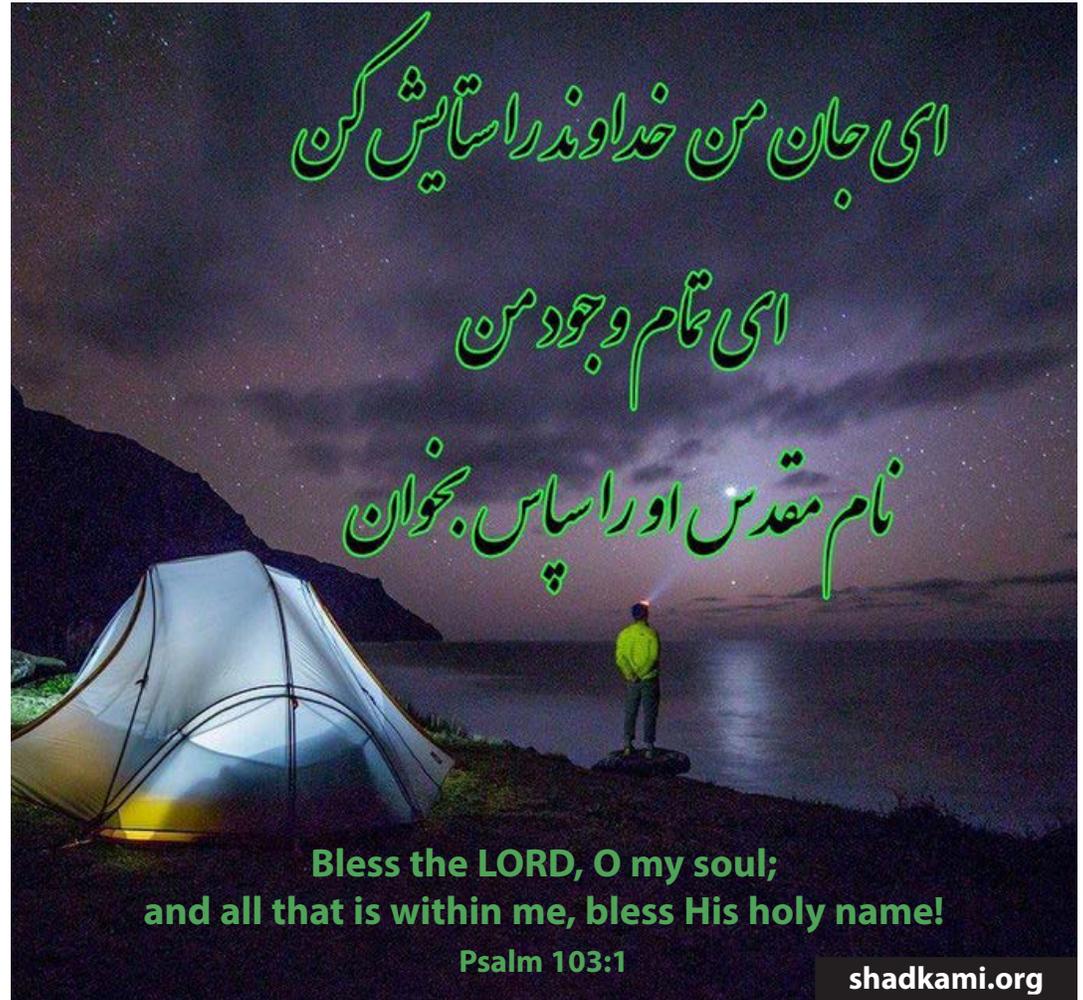
Persia & God's Plan

Farsi or Persian is the language of the country of Iran. It is also widely spoken in many surrounding countries, such as the Gulf States, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan. These countries and beyond were part of the vast Persian empire in ancient times. Persian culture goes back thousands of years.

Part of God's Plan for All Peoples

The Bible tells how after the destruction of idolatrous Israel, Judah, the remaining Hebrew nation, also fell away from God into idolatry. About 600 years before Christ, it was exiled from the Promised Land to Babylon. As they went into exile, Isaiah 44 & 45 prophesied specifically, by name, the Persian whom God was raising up to return them seventy years later.

As foretold, Persian King Cyrus generously sponsored the return of those waiting for the promised Messiah. He even restored from his treasury the same



ای جان من خداوند را ستایش کن

ای تمام وجود من

نام مقدس اورا ستایس. بخوان

**Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

Psalm 103:1

shadkami.org

golden implements for temple worship that had been plundered when the temple was destroyed. In captivity, Daniel and others of the faithful remnant had shared the Scriptures promising the Savior of David's line "to bless all families of the earth" (Genesis 12 & 2 Samuel 7). Persian scholars and wise men were inspired by this hope for the entire world.

Needing the Gospel

Today, the Bible and its wonderful promises of God's love and forgiveness, fulfilled in Christ's death and resurrection are still largely unknown

to the Persian descendants in Iran and Farsi-speaking lands. It is not easy to find a copy of the Scriptures or a church as the religion of Islam dominates. Instead, there is much teaching from the Muslim Koran and Hadith (sayings attributed to Mohamed) as well as from the revered imams who followed. These encourage attempts to appease the wrath of the distant, all-powerful, all-knowing Allah by works. None offers any assurance of pardon for sin.

Not Forgotten

Yet, as in the past, today the

Lord provides the message of sure hope to the spiritually hungry. His saving grace in Christ is proclaimed to Farsi-speaking peoples through the witness of faithful native believers despite the situation. In Habakkuk 2 there is a great promise. It affirms that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will cover the earth "as the waters cover the sea." Today the internet serves that fulfillment to Iran and other parts of the former Persian Empire. On the internet, the gospel is shared in the Farsi language 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by the creative use of multi-media resources.

MERF-Canada

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Direct and Indirect

Radio Roshdino
www.roshdino.org

رادیو روشدینو

رادیوی آنلاین 24 ساعته مسیحی
برای فارسی زبانان در سراسر جهان

Email: roshdino@ymail.com

Platforms: Farsi, Facebook, SoundCloud, YouTube, Instagram, Telegram, Twitter, radio.co

Using a strategy similar to that of the Arabic media ministry, the Farsi team shares God’s Word via two very different online radio websites. **Shadkami.org** (*Rejoice*) uses an indirect approach. It gently introduces the average Farsi-speaker to the Bible and hope in Christ via topical discussions mixed with various literary and historical quotations.

Those who respond with serious interest are eventually directed to the other website: **Roshdino.org** (*Growth*). This is a direct gospel site. All books of the Bible in Farsi are downloadable from its homepage. The site is a

wellspring of solid Christian audio, visual and printed materials for free download.

Both direct and indirect sites have related pages on Facebook and other social media as well as YouTube channels. Visitors’ questions and comments are welcome. Those who are serious seekers or new believers are invited for one-to-one Bible studies over the internet.

Much Fruit

The Farsi ministry team keeps very busy preparing new materials, sharing site links on social media and follow-

ing-up contacts. Every month thousands visit each of the websites. Also, the YouTube channels have hundreds of regular subscribers and thousands of views each month. Likewise, on Facebook and other social media *Shadkami* and *Roshdino* have thousands of likes and followers. Since Covid-19 has kept people home, comments, questions and prayer requests have greatly increased.

S from Iran said, “Thank you for your great programs. I always play them and enjoy them a lot.”

M, an Iranian living in Turkey, asked prayer for her depres-

sion.

M and F asked prayer for their marriage.

M M was upset with the teaching contrary to Islam that Jesus is more than a prophet. “Why do you make people go astray? ... Woe to non-thinkers and may Allah guide you.”

AN “I follow your radio and programs. Hearing the teaching from the Word of God gives me peace.”

Please pray for the Farsi media ministry team as they seek to faithfully share God’s Word and follow-up spiritual-hungry contacts.

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Watch later Share

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26:39 / 29:20

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“All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.”
— Psalm 22:27