## **Mojdeh's Story**

Hello to everyone. I am Mojdeh<sup>1</sup> from Panjshir Province of Afghanistan. I am 33 years old. I married a 50year-old man when I was 15 years old. I have five children. Two girls and three boys in 2021. My husband was kidnapped by the Taliban and was murdered. I was bearing a lot of suffering alone. I was a single mother and had to fight for my five children. I tried to protect and take care of my children but was weak against the Taliban. The cousin of my murdered husband worked with the Taliban and was forcing me to marry him. I refused him saying that "I was not looking for another husband." He threatened me and said that he would get my children from me, and I would never see them again. He wanted to give my daughters, who are 13 and 8 year old girls as wives to old men from the Taliban. After two days, he kidnapped my son, and I went to get him back by paying a ransom. They took me into a room where my son was. They raped me and my son in front of his eyes.

It was a great shame to us especially to my son R. After that horrible incident my son R. began to stutter and most of the time was silent. I was very weak and couldn't resist them. We fled to the refugee town in Vahdat, Tajikistan. Life for refugees was and is unbearable in Tajikistan. No money, no food, no place to stay. We lost hope and thought we were abandoned. My son R. after that incident felt shame and cut his veins and wanted to commit suicide. I wished death to myself also. My son R. many times closed himself in the toilet and tried to kill himself. Most of the time I found him in the toilet lying on the ground crying. I decided to poison myself, then all my children so that we all die. But one day, I met Ruslan and Ali; they helped me and my starving family with food and clothing, showing love and care. They gave us manna packs from <u>Feed the Hungry</u>. They said that they have "Good News" for me. They told us that Jesus loves us and gives us new life, Eternal Life. These brothers always came to us, helped us with food and a place to stay. They prayed for us and demonstrated the love of God; invited us to meetings where we met other believers. I started believing in Jesus by seeing his love through these simple God-loving Christians.

Ali and Ruslan came to my house, and they invited us to Bible Classes. I went to Bible School with my children. I really enjoyed Bible classes and my children felt safe in the Bible school. One day Ruslan and Pastor Shane came to our house. They prayed for me and my five children. We started visiting the school, and during the schooltime, my son R. said that he gave his life to Jesus and doesn't want to go back to his horrible old life. My son R. started changing and I saw smiles in my son R. He stopped his suicide attempts.



Jim visiting with Mojdeh and her children.

It is a blessing to me as a mother to see how happy my children are and how they rejoice when we have Sunday meetings or Bible classes. Our faith is growing and getting stronger from day to day. In the future, after I finish Bible School, I want to travel and share about Jesus to other people who lost hope giving them hope which could be found only in Jesus our Savior. I want to serve my Afghan people by sharing with them about salvation in Jesus Christ.

Our friend Ruslan sent Mojdeh's story to Jim, who in turn shared it with the people at Feed the Hungry. Feed the Hungry has committed to sending another container of food to Tajikistan to care for the Afghan refugees that are being ministered to by the local Church. Mojdeh has been encouraged that her sufferings and story have been used to help meet the needs of her people.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Mojdeh is not her real name and has been changed to protect her identity and her family. Mojdeh is an Afghan name that means "one who brings good news."