



## Tammy Swailes

Missionary to Ukraine



### Ensure a Great Harvest

Behind each INSTE project are many untold stories – stories of successes, of carefully devised plans gone awry, of faith challenged, deadlines passed, budgets met, and the such. But the really interesting stories are the stories behind the story of how God brings people to INSTE and accomplishes His work around the world.

I usually only work within Europe, however sometimes a project comes along outside Europe where circumstances are such that I get to help. The South Asia INSTE project is one of those. I am just a member of an INSTE team that has joined with South Asian nationals to help translate materials and initiate INSTE in a Muslim-majority country in South Asia. I want to tell you the on-going story of how God is working to equip, encourage and train the Church through INSTE in South Asia.

This is an article I wrote that was published online in the Message Magazine in September of 2020.

In the following article names of countries, languages, and names have been redacted to protect the people involved.

████████ was born and raised in ██████████, a Muslim-majority country in South Asia. His ID card identifies him as a Christian, and he is from a country where Christ-followers are some of the most persecuted on the planet. ██████████ and his brothers in Christ know what it is to be denied medical treatment, be held hostage by rebels, have difficulty getting a lease on a house or even get their children into a school – all because they are Christian.

Along his journey ██████████ was introduced to an Open Bible missionary who told him about INSTE, a discipleship and leadership training program used throughout the world. ██████████ was interested in the program, and the missionary formed a team that included ██████████, me, and two others. The team soon began to translate INSTE materials for use in his country. Over the past several years ██████████ and the INSTE team have developed a close relationship, partnered with a translation team on the ground, raised funds, and trained a handful of leaders from this country. Translation of the fourth INSTE book is currently being completed.

In 2019, six nationals were brought out of their country to a neutral location where our team trained them to start the first INSTE groups in their country. They told us their experiences of hardship and persecution because of their Christian faith. They shared with us testimonies of how God had spared their lives in dangerous situations and of their resolve to continue to go and evangelize despite the danger. Although they were there to be trained to lead INSTE groups, their stories taught us about bold faith and courageous Christian living.



Those six nationals went back to their homeland and immediately started INSTE groups of people eager to be discipled. We have planned another training in a neutral country for this year where our team will train one last group of leaders before the nationals begin to manage the process themselves. These leaders will provide the local team a qualified base from which to work to continue to disciple believers and train Christian leaders in a place where nearly 400 unreached people groups remain.

Instead of simply being concerned about their own country, [REDACTED] and his team came back to our INSTE team almost immediately and asked if we would consider translation of INSTE materials into [REDACTED], yet another language for another South Asian nation of people who are even more persecuted, more restricted, and in greater need of discipleship materials. We prayed and asked God to guide and help us.

About six months later, one of our team members got an email from a former INSTE leader who had traveled in some of these difficult Muslim-majority countries. He asked if INSTE had been translated specifically into the “[REDACTED]” language — the very language [REDACTED]’s team had asked for! Having seen the great need, the Holy Spirit put a desire in this INSTE leader’s heart to see the Church more fully equipped through INSTE. He backed up this desire with some seed money, and with that money we have started translation of the first book of INSTE into the [REDACTED] language!

Our budget for translation and training is modest. Some money has already been pledged, but we still need \$15,000 to cover translation costs and provide the initial training as we did for the other South Asians. Perhaps the Holy Spirit will speak to you and you will partner with us by investing in this project. As with anything, we ask you to cover this project and our brothers and sisters with whom we partner in prayer. Their risk is great. Their sacrifice is great. May we help ensure that their harvest is also great.

Thanks for your part in this story and for enabling me to be a part, too.

Open Bible missionary working with INSTE.

Reprinted with permission from the Message Magazine online.



Online:

[www.bit.ly/MVPsouthasia2](http://www.bit.ly/MVPsouthasia2)

By Mail:

Open Bible Churches

2020 Bell Ave, Des Moines, IA 50315

**Designated: South Asia 2 INSTE**

Donate Today!

