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# *Transform*

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### After Three Decades of Humanitarian Efforts in Iran, '222 Ministries' Re-Brands as 'Transform Iran' Iranian-Focused Ministry Changes Name to Reflect a New Season of Heightened Focus

GLENDALE, CA., November 21, 2022 — To better represent the full breadth and scope of its work, especially during this critical time in Iran, 222 Ministries International is now formally Transform Iran.

“Externally, the new name clearly shows who we are and what we hope to do. We see a new dawn and a new day for the people of Iran,” said Lazarus Yeghnazar, Founder and President of Transform Iran (formerly 222 Ministries). “Internally, the new name heightens focus and clarifies our vision to better serve the people of Iran.”

Through addressing societal issues of inequality, injustice, oppression, abuse and control, Transform Iran’s focus remains fully on transforming Iran into a nation where every person lives freely with the ability to express themselves fully, while also maintaining ongoing access to unbiased news, education, arts and other aspects of society that are currently controlled and filtered by the Iranian government.

“As we witness the current protests, riots and arrests in response to the recent death of Mahsa Amini who was detained and fatally beaten for failing to fully cover her hair with her hijab, there is an evident need for drastic cultural transformation,” said Yeghnazar. “We are ready and equipped to help Iranians as they fight for change.”

Prior to starting Transform Iran as 222 Ministries in 1991, Yeghnazar served in the Iranian military, acted as a liaison for government officials and developed himself as an accredited businessman in Iran, all of which provided him with invaluable knowledge regarding the inner workings of the country, thus motivating him to initiate efforts to aid his fellow Iranians.

While the organization is remaining largely the same regarding outreach and goals, the new name better reflects the nonprofit’s ongoing call to reach the whole nation of Iran with the transformative love and power of Jesus.

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“Our aim extends beyond church-planting and disciple-making, but also, leadership development, business, project management, and strategic thinking to cultivate nation-transforming leaders,” said Lana Silk, Chief Executive Officer USA of Transform Iran. “We’ve been serving for more than 30 years in this country, but now there is a real sense of urgency—particularly in light of recent events.”

Ultimately, Transform Iran hopes to see restored health and wellbeing within the anguished Iranian people who currently experience outrageous proportions of depression, anxiety, addiction, trauma and suicide.

Aligning with thematic historical transformations throughout the Bible, Transform Iran believes that God has plans to radically transform the people of Iran, too. In reflecting upon the recent protests and outward cries for freedom from the Iranian people, the nonprofit is confident that God has already begun to work in many hearts across the nation of Iran, even within individuals who don’t know Jesus yet.

Transform Iran’s network of ministries work powerfully together to this end: evangelism, church planting, leadership development, discipleship, trauma counseling, Bible translation, ethnic worship, supporting the persecuted church, Bible college and apologetics ministry. Altogether, the nonprofit is unified with one common objective: to bring the love and power of Christ to Iran. To learn more about Transform Iran’s mission, vision and action, visit [transformiran.com](http://transformiran.com).

### About Transform Iran

For more than 30 years, 222 Ministries—now Transform Iran—has served on the front lines of the Iranian Diaspora, sharing the love of Christ, training leaders and providing aid to the persecuted. God has given Transform Iran a unique position in the Middle East to meet the spiritual needs of many Iranians. In addition to spiritual support, Transform Iran provides humanitarian relief, including emergency food and shelter, medical care and legal help for asylum, among other forms of practical aid to Iranians who have been forced to leave their country. For information, visit [transformiran.com](http://transformiran.com).

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“The Iranian revolution of 1979 established an oppressive Islamic regime, creating an atmosphere of oppression for the people of Iran for over 40 years. The nation of Iran and its people are in desperate need of the light and salvation that Jesus brings. The hopelessness and despair in this nation is opening the door for many Iranians to explore the Word of God and pursue a better understanding of Christianity.

While many people in Iran are receptive to the hope-filled messages of the Gospel, once they accept Christ, they face a constant threat of imprisonment and persecution. The Iranian government is among the most oppressive regimes in the world. It’s illegal to leave Islam, own Bibles or even talk about Christ. Many of the Iranian Christians, especially underground church leaders, suffer persecution of an inhumane nature and are forced to flee.

In the late 1980s, Lazarus and Maggie Yeghnazar left their home country of Iran with a call to establish churches and train leaders throughout the Iranian Diaspora.

In 1991, at a conference in Denmark, scattered Iranian Christians gathered for a time of fellowship, discipleship and to hear from God. Lazarus and Maggie saw the need to establish a common name and vision to unite the various ministries with which they were involved. As they prayed, they felt God impress ‘2, 2, 2’ on their hearts. They searched the Bible and found that 2 Timothy 2:2 clearly stated the vision of the ministry they had been given: “...and the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others” – and so the work was named 222 Ministries.

Since the organization’s founding, churches have been planted in 18 countries and more than 50 Iranian cities. More than 3,000 leaders have been trained and more than 300,000 people have accepted Christ as a result of 222’s forward-thinking initiatives.

God has given 222 Ministries a unique position to meet the needs of many Iranians, yet also opened the doors for the organization to address the suffering of the wider region. In 2021, God directed 222 Ministries to become involved in responding to the needs of displaced people from Afghanistan in advance of the collapse of Kabul. In obedience to His clear calling, the ministry was proactive in providing humanitarian aid to hundreds of Afghan people, helping them to either leave the country or find safe housing within it. These efforts are now being duplicated in Iran, as 222 Ministries believes the embrace of the Church family should begin with responding to the needs of persecuted and suffering people.

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With more than 30 years of ministry behind them and a steadfast commitment to press on with God's blessing, in November 2022, the nonprofit rebranded with a new name that succinctly describes their mission: Transform Iran.

While the organization's outreach and goals remain largely the same, the new name better reflects an ongoing call to reach the whole nation of Iran with the transformative, life-changing, landscape-shifting power of the Gospel.

The organization dreams of the day when every Iranian man, woman and child will know the love of Christ and the transformative power of the gospel will penetrate, redeem and renew all aspects of society across the nation of Iran.

### Lazarus Yeghnazar, Founder of Transform Iran



Lazarus Yeghnazar was born in Iran and surrendered his life to Jesus following a vision of him at the age of 6. At 21 he was ordained as elder at the central church in Tehran, and a member of the General Leadership of Iran's churches. By 25, he had been imprisoned twice for preaching the gospel.

Lazarus has worked in business and government in Iran. At 23, he became the head of the translation department of the Ministry of War. His engineering firm was one of Iran's most prominent. He had an official audience with the King and Queen of Iran (at 27) and years later met and prayed with the exiled crowned prince Reza Pahlavi. Lazarus was invited to minister to the US hostages in Tehran in 1979.

In 1988, Lazarus and Maggie followed God's call out of Iran and established '222 Ministries' – now known as 'Transform Iran'. Under their leadership, Transform Iran has pioneered numerous strategic initiatives including Farsi Christian TV, Farsi digital Church, Farsi apologetics and Farsi Christian news. Lazarus continues to develop Iranian Christian leaders all over the world. More than 100,000 have been saved, thousands of leaders developed, and 100's of churches planted as a result.

### Lana Silk, Chief Executive Officer, Transform Iran - USA



Lana Silk, daughter of Lazarus and Maggie, serves as Transform Iran's Chief Executive Officer - USA. In this role, Lana actively seeks to bring freedom to the people of Iran, transforming the nation into one which bears the image of Christ. Through ministry and humanitarian aid, Lana hopes that Transform Iran will create divine change in the lives of the Iranian people.

Lana was born and raised in Iran before emigrating to the UK where she completed her education at Imperial College, London, gaining an honors degree in Computer Engineering. Her postgraduate studies in Marketing Communication Strategy led her to a career in services marketing, before specializing in branding and fundraising, where she consulted for several years particularly for the nonprofit sector.

With over 20 years marketing experience across all media, Lana has a passion to see small businesses and startups gain their voice in a competitive environment.

Lana has also worked as a church minister, worship leader and most recently a college chaplain, where she took further post graduate studies in working with youth, with a focus on mental health and safeguarding. She is tri-lingual and considers it her life calling to represent and advocate for the people of Iran in the West.

Lana currently lives with her husband and three children in Ohio, USA, actively operating Transform Iran's mission.

- Transform Iran was founded in 1991 by Lazarus Yehgnazar and his wife Maggie.
- Preceding the organization's rebranding in 2022, its original name, 222 Ministries, was inspired by 2 Timothy 2:2.
- 222 Ministries rebranded as Transform Iran in November 2022.
- Transform Iran is actively focused on:
  - Evangelism
  - Discipleship
  - Church Planting
  - Providing Humanitarian aid for displaced Iranians
  - Legal assistance for those seeking asylum
- Transform Iran has planted churches in 18 countries, including across more than 50 cities in Iran.
- Transform Iran has trained more than 3,000 ministry leaders.
- Transform Iran has witnessed more than 300,000 people accept Christ as a result of God's hand upon their initiatives.

### Website and Social Hyperlinks:

- Website: [www.transformiran.com](http://www.transformiran.com)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Lazarus Yeghnazar on Twitter](#)

- What is the mission of Transform Iran?
- How have you seen God move in Iran over the last 30 years?
- What do you see as the catalysts leading up to the unrest in Iran following the death of Mahsa Amini?
- How is Transform Iran reaching Iran with the Gospel?
- What is Transform Iran doing to help Iranian women, specifically?
- What is Transform Iran doing to help children and youth, specifically?
- How is Transform Iran helping Iranians from a humanitarian aid perspective?
- Why should Americans pay attention to and care about what is happening in Iran?
- How should Christians pray for the nation of Iran?
- How can people learn more about Transform Iran?
- How can people partner with your organization?