

# Transforming Iran through Servant-Leadership.



PARS THEOLOGICAL CENTRE  
TRAINING LEADERS | TRANSFORMING IRAN

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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\*\* Please note that most photos in this report are purchased online and are used for solely illustrative purposes. All names and locations have also been changed for security.\*\*



A LETTER FROM  
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Rev. Dr. Mehrdad Fatehi**

# Standing Strong with the Weak.

Dear Friends,

“For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10). These words of Paul have taken on profound meaning through our work this past year at Pars. We’ve witnessed an extraordinary partnership unfold – one where the global Church comes together, each bringing their unique gifts and challenges to strengthen the whole Body of Christ.

In 2024, we’ve seen this dynamic powerfully demonstrated through one of our Afghan students. Despite facing relentless persecution from the Taliban, he has chosen to remain in his homeland to serve his people. His unwavering courage in the face of grave danger exemplifies the paradox of finding strength in weakness. Through Christ’s power, he continues to be a light in his community.

The culmination of our year was marked by a significant gathering in Turkey, where a few of our partners from churches in North America joined us to meet with students face-to-face. These encounters were more than just meetings – they were testimonies to the beautiful reciprocity of Christian fellowship. Our partners came offering support and encouragement, yet many left profoundly impacted by the deep faith and resilience they witnessed in our students.

This partnership between the Western Church and believers in persecuted nations reveals God’s wisdom in knitting His body together. While we in the West can offer support that helps our brothers and sisters persevere

in their faith and ministries, they, in turn, help us remember the cost of discipleship and the reality of God’s sustaining grace.

Looking ahead, we at Pars remain committed to fostering these life-giving partnerships. We believe that as we stand with those who are weak – and acknowledge our own weaknesses – we create space for Christ’s power to be perfected in us all. Your partnership enables us to continue building bridges between different parts of Christ’s body, creating spaces where mutual encouragement and support can flourish.

Thank you for standing with us in this critical work. Please enjoy our 2024 report as you read about how God is using your partnership to strengthen His Church globally.

In Christ’s service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mehrdad Fatehi" followed by a stylized flourish.

# School of Theology & Leadership

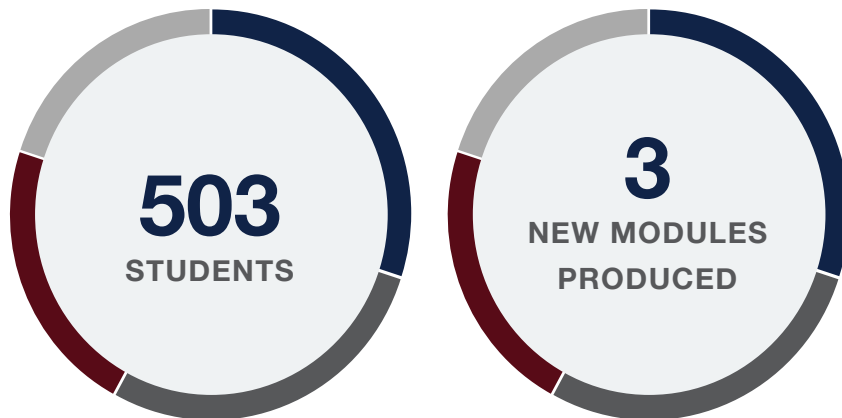
## Module Development

In 2024, we completed the production of 3 new courses, bringing the total of completed online courses to 43, equivalent to 171 credits:

- Induction to Pars (1 credit)
- Homiletics - Principles of Preaching (4 credits)
- Evangelism (4 credits)

We also have 1 course under production:

- Introduction to Academic Writing (3 credits)



## Online Program & Tutoring

In 2024, we offered 503 students 17 online courses at a B.Th. level during two terms of study. These courses included:

- Practices of Holistic Formation: The Christian Disciplines
- A Survey of the Old Testament
- A Survey of the Christian Doctrines

- The Church
- The Person and Work of Christ
- Introduction to Christian Counseling
- Servant Leadership I
- Homiletics - Principles of Preaching
- Evangelism
- Induction to Pars
- Essentials of Holistic Formation: Healthy Christian Living
- A Survey of the New Testament
- Hermeneutics
- The Corinthian Letters
- Apologetics in an Islamic Context
- Counseling for Abuse and Addiction
- The History of Iran

## Nazanin's Reflection

*Pars has fulfilled my search for high-quality education that serves both my learning needs and my desire to support my community. The teaching style, particularly in its sermon-like delivery, has deeply enhanced my ministry work, especially in areas of healing, liberation, and youth outreach. I have found my true purpose in this program, and it brings me great joy to see how these teachings directly contribute to expanding God's kingdom. Pars stands alone in earning my complete trust for this mission.*

# Formation Conferences

In 2024, we hosted 7 in-person conferences and 2 online conferences. Our students met over a week-long period. We offered two seminar topics for each conference. A total of 239 students participated in the Formation Conferences.



	Date	Online/ Residential	Topics	No. Students	No. Staff
1	23.02.2024 - 29.02.2024	Residential	Confronting Cultural Trends: Living Christianly in an Upside-Down World  Life and Freedom According to the Letter to the Galatians	15	3
2	27.06.2024 - 03.07.2024	Residential	The Lord's Prayer: Conformed to His Image through His Prayer  Life and Freedom According to the Letter to the Galatians	21	2
3	11.07.2024 - 17.07.2024	Residential	Reflections on the Concept of Identity from Theological, Psychological, and Sociological  Way of Discipleship: The Beatitudes	15	2
4	26.08.2024 - 30.08.2024	Online	Life and Freedom According to the Letter to the Galatians	50	1
5	03.09.2024 - 09.09.2024	Residential	Examination of the Prophecy and Message of Malachi  Reflections on the Concept of Identity from Theological, Psychological, and Sociological	27	4
6	13.09.2024 - 19.09.2024	Residential	Reflections on the Concept of Identity from Theological, Psychological, and Sociological  Boundaries	22	3
7	30.09.2024 - 04.10.2024	Online	Way of Discipleship: The Beatitudes	51	1

7	30.09.2024 - 04.10.2024	Online	Way of Discipleship: The Beatitudes	51	1
8	31.10.2024 - 06.11.2024	Residential	Political Responsibility of the Saints  Reflections on the Concept of Identity from Theological, Psychological, and Sociological	24	4
9	17.11.2024 - 23.11.2024	Residential	Life Skills  Way of Discipleship: The Beatitudes	14	2



## Mentoring

In 2024, 234 students were covered by our mentoring program. We also recruited 4 new mentors to join our team. The ongoing mentoring relationship is another means by which we foster our students' spiritual and character formation and provide them with pastoral care. The aim is to provide a relationship where they gain spiritual encouragement and guidance, are prayed for and listened to, and have spiritual direction through their years of studying with us. Another responsibility of a mentor is to provide our students with guidance as they engage in ministerial practice and reflection.

## Ministerial Practice

In 2024, 203 students took part in our Ministerial Practice and Reflection Program. This is the fourth component of our School of Theology Program, through which students are required to have at least 2-3 hours of ministry every week, which can be in a variety of ministries. The aim is to help students to apply what they have learned in real life and develop their ministerial skills. Another objective is to help students to make their ministerial practice a learning experience and theologically reflect on what God is doing in their lives and the lives of others.

PLEASE NOTE: The MP program launch in Iran remains pending due to security considerations. In the previous term, we collected 44 reports from students who attended our formation conference in Turkey. However, due to budgetary constraints, we discontinued these in-person conferences in the last quarter of the year, so we have yet to receive reports from students. For this new year, 2024-2025, we are implementing a new reporting strategy. Given security limitations that prevent written or online submissions, we will conduct individual verbal interviews with students within the country. Our team will subsequently evaluate these interviews for course credit allocation. We anticipate this revised approach will positively impact our reporting numbers.

Our students are involved in all kinds of ministries, including: pastoral ministry, teaching ministry, preaching ministry, evangelism, worship, house church leadership, church leadership, youth ministry, women's ministries, children, social media, media ministry, discipleship, literature translation, refugee ministry, addiction recovery and more.



# Pars Centre for Christian Counselling

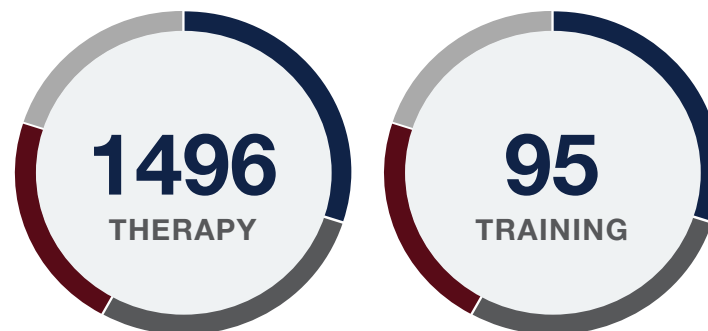
## Therapy

in 2024, Pars counsellors provided 1,496 hours of therapy to Iranian Christian individuals living in Iran, Turkey, and the Persian-speaking diaspora. 217 people received counselling, and 48 clients were from inside the country. Approximately 66% of our clients are women, and 34% are men. Counselling was primarily provided through online sessions or on the telephone.

Client assessments reveal a complex interplay of psychological, social, and faith-based challenges, often rooted in experiences of persecution and oppression. Trauma manifests prominently across our client population, presenting through anxiety, depression, and, in severe cases, suicidal ideation requiring immediate intervention. Clients frequently report relationship difficulties spanning multiple dimensions: managing interfaith family dynamics, navigating marital discord, and addressing parenting challenges, including cases of children with ADHD. The intersection of religious identity with family life creates unique pressures, particularly in maintaining relationships with non-Christian family members while preserving personal faith commitments. Mental health concerns are often exacerbated by migration uncertainties and employment insecurity, with many clients expressing fear of workplace discrimination due to their faith. Personality disorders, including narcissistic and dependent tendencies, further complicate interpersonal dynamics and boundary-setting. Clients consistently report that their ongoing uncertainty regarding residency status, coupled with experiences of isolation and cultural adjustment, intensifies their psychological vulnerabilities. These challenges demand a culturally informed, trauma-sensitive therapeutic approach that acknowledges both the spiritual and psychological dimensions of client experiences.

## Training

The counseling center saw significant growth in 2024, responding to increased demands from both Iranian Christian clients and underground house churches seeking mental health support and training. Our counselors delivered approximately 95 hours of specialized training to the global Iranian Christian community across multiple platforms. Training initiatives included targeted leadership development programs, with particular emphasis on equipping Afghan leaders with lay counseling capabilities. The center's outreach expanded through various formats: family-focused workshops addressing church-community dynamics, essential life skills training through both online and in-person conferences, and digital engagement programs. A notable achievement was our collaboration with the Bible Society for an Instagram live session on "Loneliness and Migration," which reached 815 viewers. This diversified approach to service delivery has proven effective in adapting to security constraints while meeting the growing needs of both domestic and diaspora communities. The program's success in reaching underground house churches and diaspora congregations demonstrates the vital role of flexible, security-conscious training methods in supporting global Iranian Christian communities.



# Client Testimonies.

## Leader in Iran

*Speaking with a counsellor has been an invaluable experience, offering me a safe space to connect and share my burdens without fear of judgment. It's a novel feeling to trust someone and be myself truly. Talking about the trauma of the rape and confronting those painful memories has been difficult, but Rima's unwavering support and non-judgmental approach have made it possible. I understand that healing is a journey, but I am optimistic that with Rima's guidance, I will eventually find peace and overcome this.*

## Leader in Iran

*Growing up in a troubled family, my relationship with my dad has always been fraught with difficulties, leaving me with numerous reasons to harbor resentment. However, through my sessions with my counsellor, I have made significant progress on my journey toward healing and forgiveness.*

## Leader in Iran

*My relationship with my family, particularly my mum, has always been a rollercoaster of emotions. I never had the courage to establish healthy boundaries or even address the underlying issues. However, through these sessions, I've found the strength to openly communicate my feelings with my mum. This has been a transformative experience, leading to positive changes in our relationship. Remarkably, my mum has even apologized, something I never thought possible. It's a slow process, but I'm definitely making*

*progress towards a healthier, more fulfilling relationship with my family. Thank you Pars Counselling Centre!*



## Leader in Afghanistan

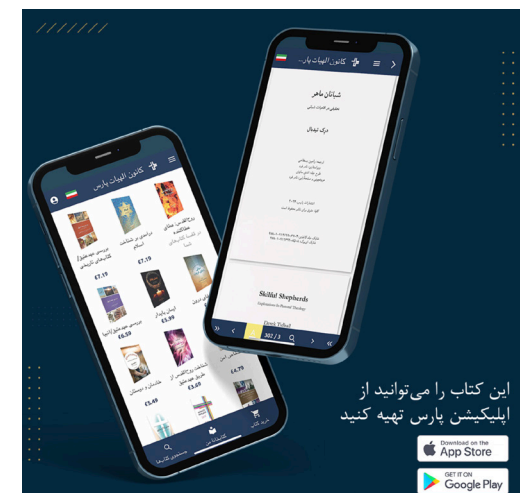
*I reached a breaking point in my marriage where divorce seemed like the only path forward. My husband was unwilling to seek help, and I felt completely lost, watching my life spiral downward. Finding Pars' counseling service marked a turning point - it opened my eyes to new possibilities in my marriage that I hadn't seen before. While our journey hasn't been quick or easy, and we still have work ahead of us, both my husband and I now share a renewed sense of hope. Through these counseling sessions, we've discovered new ways to understand and relate to each other. I'm deeply grateful for Pars and their counseling service - they helped me find light in what felt like a hopeless situation. Praise God for the work they're doing in restoring marriages like mine.*

# Wider Ministries

## Pars Publications

Developing a comprehensive theological library remains a critical priority in advancing our students' education. Students have demonstrated exceptional engagement with existing translated materials and express consistent interest in accessing additional theological and Christian literature. In response to this academic need, our translation team has completed the translation of 8 theological works, expanding our institution's available resources.

1. *Andreas J. Köstenberger. Encountering John: The Gospel in Historical, Literary, and Theological Perspective. (Baker Academic: Grand Rapids), 2013.*
2. *Derek J. Tidball. Skillful Shepherds (Zondervan: Grand Rapids) 1986.*
3. *William A. Elwell and Robert Y. Yarbrough, Encountering the New Testament: A Historical and Theological Survey. (Baker Academic: Grand Rapids), 2022.*
4. *Thomas R. Yoder Neufeld, Recovering Jesus: The Witness of the New Testament (Brazos Press: Grand Rapids), 2007.*
5. *Gerald O'Collins SJ. Christology: A Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Study of Jesus. (Oxford: Oxford UP), 2009.*
6. *Thomas G. Long, The Witness of Preaching (Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville) 2016.*
7. *Doug Fields, Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: A Personal and Practical Guide to Starting Right (Zondervan: Grand Rapids) 2009.*
8. *David Gustafson, Gospel Witness: Evangelism in Word and Deed (Eerdmans: Grand Rapids) 2019.*



## TV Broadcasting

We broadcasted 548 hours of our video lectures (including repeats) to the Persian-speaking world; this is a combination of 258 hours through our partnership with SAT7 and 290 hours via MOHABAT TV.



## Shagerd Media

We are delighted to have released so much rich and theologically deep content over social media! Please see below some of what we have worked on:

### Live Programs on Instagram and YouTube

- 6 live programs broadcasted via Instagram using Ecamm
- 6 video promos for Instagram/Facebook
- 6 text promos for Instagram/Facebook
- 9 long edited videos for YouTube
- 6 short reels for Instagram
- 3 Videos on Critique of Cosmic Christ for YouTube
- 3 video promos for Instagram/Facebook

### Additional Social Media Content

- 8 book challenge posts on Instagram and Facebook
- 5 article posts Instagram and Facebook (linked to Shagerd)
- 2 school registration posts
- 1 Promotional video for Publication App

### New Video Productions

- Filming of 8 podcasts on Christian Worldview (to be broadcasted on YouTube starting March 2025)
  - Filming and editing of 4 podcasts (1hr each) on The Historical Authenticity of the Four Gospels (broadcasting began on December 23 on our YouTube channel)
1. Each Episode Includes:
  2. 1 long program for YouTube
  3. 2 short reels for social media
  4. 2 stories for social media

## Shagerd Website

Our main public Farsi online platform Shagerd has been meeting our objectives to make our content accessible to more Iranians and Persian speakers. Comments received from the general public are encouraging and exciting. They are happy with the content, and those who registered for the Pars Academy courses were grateful for the opportunity to have easier access to theological teaching. We launched 8 articles in 2024 and released 8 videos. In 2024, we had 61,437 people visiting our website.

## Shagerd Academy

So far, we have had 665 participants registered with the Academy. In 2024, there were 93 actively participating in courses. We uploaded two new courses, “Trauma and Crisis Counseling” and “Inner Healing and Deliverance Ministries,” and plan to upload two new courses within the new year.



# A Lived Theology: *Theological Training In the Midst of Persecution*

As a mentor at Pars Theological Centre, I am deeply moved by the story of one of my Afghan students whose faith journey exemplifies extraordinary courage and grace. Despite relentless persecution from the Taliban, he has chosen to remain in Afghanistan, committed to serving his people and living out his faith. His decision, made in the face of constant threats to his life, reflects a profound conviction that God has called him to be a light in his community, even in the darkest of circumstances.

The challenges he faces extend far beyond physical persecution. As a survivor of war and violence, he carries the weight of his nation's suffering on his shoulders. Yet through his connection with Pars Theological Centre, he has found strength and support that transcends borders. Our mentoring relationship is particularly meaningful because as an Iranian pastor who has also faced persecution for my faith, I deeply understand his journey. This shared experience of suffering has created a sacred bond between us that goes beyond our different nationalities.

What makes our relationship especially powerful is how it bridges historical divides. Despite the complex history between our nations, we have found unity in Christ. Together, we pray not only for his safety and ministry but also for both our countries—for peace in Afghanistan, justice in Iran, and the healing of wounds that have divided our people for so long. Through this relationship, I've witnessed firsthand how God can use even the most challenging circumstances to bring about reconciliation and hope.

Even in the face of grave danger, his dedication to his studies

and our mentoring sessions has led to remarkable growth in his understanding of God's Word and commitment to prayer. He has learned to blend faith with action and theological knowledge with practical service. Each day, he strives to live out his calling, not just surviving but actively seeking to make a difference in his community.

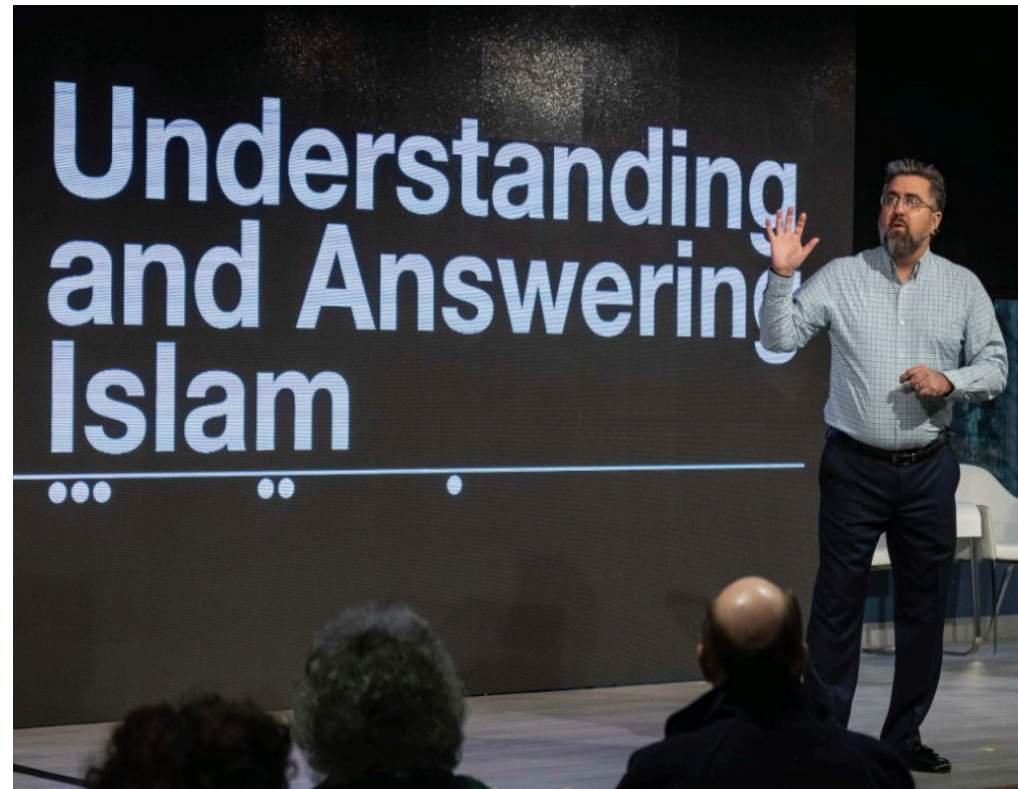
His journey with Pars has become far more than an educational experience - it has been a testament to the power of faithful perseverance. Through our program, he has grown even stronger in his resolve to remain steadfast on the path of the Lord and serve others with faith, love, and humility, even in the face of persecution. His courage continues to inspire not only his ministry but everyone who hears his story.

His testimony is one of many, but it powerfully demonstrates God's faithfulness in the midst of persecution and His power to unite believers across national and cultural boundaries. Through Pars Theological Centre, he has found not just education, but a community that understands, supports, and prays for the persecuted church in Afghanistan. His story stands as a testament to how God can work through His people to bring hope, healing, and transformation in even the most challenging circumstances.



# Prayer Requests

- **Please pray** for one of our students and his sister. They were arrested by the Taliban two months ago in Afghanistan. Pray for protection and guidance as they navigate this situation. Pray that the Taliban will show mercy. Pray for the members of their house church and the leaders they train, for their protection, and for God's wisdom and comfort to be with them.
- **Please pray** for healing among our community who are facing challenges with their health. Particularly those who are in the midst of fighting cancer and seeking asylum at the same time. Pray for God's peace that surpasses understanding and His strength. Pray they will receive placement in a new home country and that their daily provisions will be met.
- **Please pray** for Iranian Christians inside Iran suffering from anxiety, depression, and isolation due to persecution. Many have ceased their counseling sessions out of fear of arrest.
- **Please pray** for our students who have become leaders in diaspora churches but feel unprepared. They struggle with conflicts in their congregations and shepherd in unfamiliar cultures. Pray that God will give them pastoral wisdom and equip them to serve with Christ's heart.
- **Please pray** for refugee students awaiting resettlement, especially those in Turkey and Cyprus who cannot secure stable work due to their refugee status yet need income to survive.
- **Please pray** for our faculty, mentors, counselors, tutors, and staff as they guide and support our students in very challenging situations. Pray that God will give them the words to speak and show them how to best help. Also pray that they can receive God's peace as they help to carry these burdens with our students and have to sometimes deal with overwhelming situations that they have no control over.



# Partner with us in providing whole-person formation for Iran's underground leaders.

## STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

**\$2,500**

For 1 year of training 1 student through our BTh Theology and Leadership (this excludes the cost of their attending a Formation Conference).

## PUBLICATIONS

**\$15,000**

For the translation, editing and print of 1 new book for our BTh Program.

## MODULE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

**\$48,000**

For 1 4 credit online course and the translation of the textbook

## CENTRE FOR CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING

**\$30,000**

For the development of this initiative and the employment of another counsellor.

## LEADERSHIP FORMATION CONFERENCES

**\$25,000**

For the running of 1 conference for 15-20 students from inside the country.

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## GIVE ONLINE

To give securely online via bank transfer or credit card, enter the URL below into your browser's address bar:

**<https://parstheology.org/region-selector/>**



## GIVE VIA CHECK

Please make out your check to Pars Theological Center.

Employer Identification Number:  
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## MAIL TO:

Pars Theological Center  
12 Crabapple Ct  
Greenville, SC 29605



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