

“The Billy Graham of Iran”

The incredible journey of Dr. Hormoz Shariat

TRANSCRIPT

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NOTE: This transcript was AI-generated and has not been fully edited.

[00:00:00] **Dr. Mark Turman:** This is the Denison Forum podcast. I'm Mark Turman, executive director of Denison Forum. Glad to have you with us, either for the first time or coming back to our conversations where we seek to equip the followers of Christ to think biblically, to live holy, beautiful lives, and to serve redemptively and actively to make the world a better place until Jesus comes again. We hope that these conversations are clarifying and encouraging to you. That they help you to understand what God is doing in the world today. What God would want you to be involved in as one of his coworkers. And today I think you're going to find our conversation to be particularly compelling as we talk with a new friend of mine. Most of us in this part of the world, when we hear the word Iran, we are immediately captured with a great deal of concern, anxiety, and maybe even outright fear. These days we worry about great power conflict with Iran, possibly becoming a collaborator with China and with Russia and with what that could mean for the world, what that might mean for our lives, for our children, even our grandchildren.

And there's a lot to think about there on the world stage and a lot for us to understand. And someone that we've invited to be with us today is Hormoz Shariat. Hormoz is an Iranian born Christian who has an absolutely amazing story that we want to share with you today.

As I said, a new friend of mine through just a providential intersection of connections to Denison forum and to other friends. And we want to just welcome him onto the Denison forum podcast and get to know him a little bit. Say hello...

[00:01:54] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** Well, hello, everybody. And thank you, Mark, for allowing me to share. I hope what I share will not just inform people, but inspire and encourage.

[00:02:06] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Absolutely. And, and the more I've gotten to know Hormoz over the last number of weeks and to know more of his story and look forward to collaborations with him just been astounded to understand how God has worked in his life and how God is

continuing to extend that out to a ministry that we're going to talk about in a moment that he founded called.

Iran Alive and some of the work that's done there. But before we get to the ministry that he is leading, that is impacting people in Iran and around the world, I want you to know the story of this incredibly joyful believer. Take us back to the beginning you were born in Iran and you were not born into a christian family Give us a little bit of the story of where your life began what it was like growing up in Iran And how you ended up in the United States.

[00:03:02] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** Thank you. Well, I was born in a Muslim family and I was pretty devout in my early years. But when I got into my teenage years, I started thinking. Which is not allowed for a Muslim, you know, to really consider your faith critically. I'm serious Thinking or questioning Islam is a blasphemy for in many nations and you could be flogged or you could be Jailed just by questioning Islam and Mohammed.

So but as a teenager I said, come on I pray I pray Memorize these prayers and I repeat them every day. What does it do? What does it add to my life? So, I just be a good person and I would follow my dreams of becoming a scientist. I wanted to come to the United States, get a PhD and be a, research scientists.

So I focused on studies at the time of the Iranian Revolution. I was a young student. I was on the streets of Tehran and shouting death to America and death to Shah. But I want to assure you, I've, I've repented of the death to America part. America is a blessed nation and I bless it. And I say, God bless America.

And I mean that. So, I was at the time I had a admission from University of Southern California at the time of revolutions. I came there for graduate studies and I was studying. I said, Hey, Hormoz you're getting to accomplish your dreams. You're, you're in a great country. You're getting a PhD and you're going to find job, but life seems to be empty.

Maybe I should go back to Islam. Maybe I should know Islam and serve it.

[00:04:42] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Yeah, let me pause you right there. Cause I already have like six questions for you. So for those of us who may not remember our history, well, the revolution in Iran is late seventies. Right. Okay. So at that point, you're a teenager. And I think many people listening to this will resonate with your story of becoming a teenager and questioning your faith. That is obviously something that happens, not just in Islam and not just in Iran, but has happened and does happen to many people in the United States and within the context of a Christian family that same kind of, why am I doing this? What is this all about? Do I really believe this? What are these? Practices of going to church and going through the various prayers. That story could, could easily be applied to many people in the United States within the Christian context as well.

But I just wanted to kind of frame that out that these we're going back 40 years now to the late seventies and two we, we sometimes think when we look on the news that the way Iran is today is the way it's always

[00:05:53] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** Now it has gone through a, through a journey. And I'm, I'm glad you mentioned that the thinking part, because we need to think, but we need to be unbiased. I was sincere. I, I wanted sincerely to find God. And if you're sincere, God says, if you seek me, you will find me. Unfortunately, many people are rejecting, even those who are raised by Christians in church, they are rejecting Christ and their faith without really studying it.

It just They just want something else, the liberal theology, and they say, Oh, we don't want organized religion. We hate organized religion. They don't know they're leaving one organized religion to enter another organized religion, which is called liberalism. So, And they're more organized than churches are.

[00:06:45] **Dr. Mark Turman:** right. It's, it's, it's not a question of if you're going to worship, it's a question of who and what you're going to worship.

[00:06:51] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** as a student in Southern California, I compared the Bible and Quran. I said, I'm sincere. God, I'm, my heart is searching and I don't want to be biased against or for Islam against or for Christianity. So by comparing the Bible and Quran I come to conclusion that both cannot be true.

You know, before that you have that intellectual idea. Oh, all religions are the same. Why do they fight? I'm intellectual. If I study, I can prove they're basically the same. That's what I was thinking before. But when I studied and compared them. Both could not be true. They're not talking about the same God.

So after a few weeks and months of struggle, I went to church at the open door in downtown Los Angeles and I heard the simple message of the gospel and I believed. I thought, Oh, this is silly. I mean, this is simple. Even a child can understand it. You don't need to have a PhD to understand the gospel.

This is simple. But what excited me, Mark, was this simple childish message. By childish, I mean it's so simple that a child can understand. That simple message transformed my life and healed my marriage. We were at the verge of divorce. So I got excited. Of course, I hope everybody gets excited because this simple message has power in it.

It changed my life. I was, I got excited. See, this is the answer to personal problems. Jesus can heal your heart. If you, if you don't have peace, if you don't have joy, if you're in bondage to

different sins, and you, he, he can set you free. He can heal your relationships and this simple message has power to change nations.

I got excited. I shared the gospel. Even I was like, I was like an introvert, like a Nerd, I was like too comfortable with books and not people But I felt and I hope everybody feels that way. I felt i'm selfish if I keep this to myself You have the solution. It's just like you have a cure for cancer, and then you keep it and you, you take it and you're healed and you take it, keep it to yourself.

So I felt selfish if I don't share that powerful, simple message with others. And in Southern California, I started sharing the gospel. Gradually, people came to Christ. I planted churches. And right after September 11, we used satellite television to go over the heads of the molas. Into people's homes and to share the gospel.

And from day one, Mark, we saw hundreds and then thousands and thousands come to Christ.

[00:09:38] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Wow. Now I have to stop right here and say that nobody that's listened to us for the last five minutes believes that you could be an introvert, nobody, nobody. And, and I was convinced of that after meeting you for about 10 minutes. I, nobody could be convinced that you were actually an introvert at any other time.

But, but talk about, go back and talk about for a moment, Hormoz, just the intersection of your decision to. Ask the serious questions the influence of scripture compared to the Koran and even the influence of being in a marital crisis, how did God kind of catalyze all three of those things and maybe some other things, but particularly those things of, I'm going to be willing to be intellectually honest and I'm going to do serious study because.

As you said, you came here to become a scientist, to get a PhD and to do serious study. But what's operating also in this story in the background is the personal crisis of your marriage is struggling. So talk about how those things, how God

[00:10:47] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** bigger struggle and crisis was myself, but sincerity, I think that's the key. Be honest to yourself. So I was honest. I said, okay, some of my problems are about my marriage, but be honest. You had these problems before you get married. I mean the emptiness. I was thinking, okay, you're getting a PhD, probably will find a good job.

Then you buy a house, you buy a car, and you get a bigger house, and they get it, you get a new car, and then you die. Okay. Is this all it's all about? And so the meaning of life I was honest with myself saying, okay, yeah, divorce is good. It will solve some of my problems, but not all. Most of my problem is with me, within me, no matter who you marry to. Problem is you number one is you then it's a marriage. So, so I was sincere I said something I need something not just to heal my marriage, but something to bring meaning to my life and and I don't want to I don't want to

just deceive myself just find something that makes me feel good that I hate that still I hate that I don't want to go for feeling, you know, I you want to go for truth And if it's true and it works, then even better.

And the truth should work, of course. So I was honestly looking for truth. But as an engineer type, I wanted truth that works, not just nice words. That's why I have this memory. I was studying, you know, I wanted to read the whole Bible in three days. Okay, because I thought it's just like Quran. It's the same stories and I was spending like 16 hours a day Searching for god.

I said in three days. Yeah, I can read this and I I read genesis jumped to Matthew and I wanted to read the whole thing in three days three months later. I'm in Matthew 5. Who is this Jesus? Who is this Jesus? And Searching for truth and the conflict that you have in your heart. But this Jesus did not match as a prophet or even as a philosopher.

And what I remember, I remember one night I was reading Sermon on the Mount. said, this is beautiful. It is beautiful. And then you know what, Mark? I got mad. I got so mad. I threw the Bible under the bed. You know, I got mad. I said, I am looking for something that's practical. Nice words, nice poetry. Yeah.

Iran, Iranian have a great poetry. You know, you have Molana, the Molavi and, and you have people who Beautiful, deep poetry, but that doesn't do anything for me. So I thought this Jesus saying something so impractical. If you sin in your mind, if you're angry, you've sinned. If you look at the woman with lust, you have committed adultery in your heart.

I thought as a student, I'm committing adultery every day on campus. So I, how can I, God accept me? I got so mad at the Bible, I throw it under my bed as I'm done. This is beautiful words, but nobody can do it. I am looking for something practical. And of course, later when I heard the gospel, that was the message.

Yes, you cannot do it. God has such a high standard. You cannot do it. That's why you need a savior. If you could do it, you didn't need a savior.

[00:14:25] **Dr. Mark Turman:** it's so great. And, and such a wonderful intersection of so many things, but particularly just your pursuit of truth and, and your and your abilities as a scientist tell everybody, I want them to understand this part of the story as well. You came. To get an engineering degree, but you ended up going down the path of artificial intelligence.

Which means that in some ways you were studying artificial intelligence before it really even became very much of a hot topic, like it is today. Talk about that from the standpoint of the intersection of faith and science. We've done a number of conversations on the Denison Forum

podcast about faith and science from different angles with different scientists, Was that part of your struggle?

Was it hard for you to reconcile the things that you understood as a scientist, as an engineer, with the claims of Christ and

[00:15:16] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** Yes, of course. I got my PhD in AI and I researched that for 11 years. Of course that was a new field and that's what attracted me. It was just a new thing that just was growing in the starting days of it. And I knew. I could sense it. This can really, if it works, it can change the world. So, but as a scientist, first of all, when I was reading the New Testament, I just passed through all those miracles.

I said, that's not scientific. You know, okay they probably the disciples made it up to bring credit and credibility to Jesus But the thing is the truth is beyond those miracles are just signs Sign is confirmation if you don't even believe in miracles and science still there's such Deep truth there that can transform your lives your life So, but over the years to answer you briefly.

I came to know I've come to see and believe that science and faith are not opposite for each other. They don't even contradict each other. They complement each other. Why? Because science is about the seeing world, the The material world, the things that you see, and faith is about another world, the spiritual world.

And both of them have their own set of rules and laws, which if you follow, like science, if you follow those laws, you can use it to improve your life. If you ignore it, you're going to get sick and you're going to get killed. If you ignore the scientific material laws. The same is with the spiritual laws.

So they complement each other in the spiritual world. If you really understand what's happening, the laws of the spirit It will benefit you not just for this world for eternity, but especially in this world It can benefit you internally you will have joy. You have peace you have power Power inside and you have a beautiful relationship with people around you And and if you ignore those spiritual laws just the physical laws if you ignore the spiritual laws No matter how well to do you are how successful you are on this world with education with finances with power You Doesn't matter.

You're going to be miserable.

[00:17:41] **Dr. Mark Turman:** And just a great of how all truth is God's truth, right? Both scientific truth, material truth, as well as spiritual truth. All truth is God's truth. And they run in tandem together and they compliment, as you said, they compliment each other. They don't compete with each other in the, in the best understanding of it.

I'm curious for most when, when you experienced, when you wander into this church in Los Angeles and. You hear this simple message and you come to Christ. What is the response of your wife at that point? What is the response of your extended family when they find out that you have made this decision

[00:18:17] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** Praise the Lord. The Lord was working on my wife at the same time. As I was at home reading the Bible and Qur'an 16 hours a day, and we were getting a divorce, so my wife would stay at work late. Didn't want to come home early so we'd fight. So he would, she would stay at work late and she would get double time, you know, paid more.

So, but there was a janitor at her work and every time, every night at 10 PM, he would come and collect the garbage and we'd see this sad lady sitting there and he had compassion on her. He was from Guatemala. He couldn't speak English. And he would bring some tea, sometimes food, trying to be kind to my wife.

And one night he went and learned one sentence in English. He came to and told my wife, Jesus loves you. So here,

[00:19:09] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Wow.

[00:19:10] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** witness to my wife. So God was working on my my wife. And when we were invited to go to church, we both heard the gospel. And about the same time, we both responded to the gospel. My family, my brothers, sisters, my especially my mom, my mom, my parents were educators. My mom When they heard, they started making fun of me for the first few years. Oh, may I use that word because they used it. Are you stupid? Just getting you know, released, getting free from religion and you hang on to another religion?

I thought you're smart. I thought you were a PhD. You're a doctor. Why are you doing this? Why are you making such a simplistic and stupid decision for your life? That was the initial reaction. But as they saw my life change and I was patient with them, I loved them, prayed for them. Then one by one, they came to Christ.

My mom, who Was really kind of anti christ She was the worst of them and she came to christ and she became an evangelist in my book iran's great awakening I've written a book iran's great awakening. The first part is my spiritual journey the second part is a study of prophecies in the bible about iran and the last part is a Strategy to change iran.

So in the first part talking about my journey, I have one chapter You about my mom. It, I call it pastor mom, because she, she was transformed to be my pastor and an evangelist from being so bitter. And she, she, understandable. They executed. The government of Iran executed her son,

my, my younger brother, and she was bitter towards Islam, any religion and God, but God changed her and she became, she became an evangelist.

Tens of people came to Christ through her.

[00:21:17] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Wow. What a great, great story. And yeah, just thank you for that. And I, I want to, I want to move in a moment to talking about how God had, God just turned you into a church planter and on into the ministry that you're doing now, but I know some on, on our audience are going to go, well, you have to ask him something about AI because AI has become one of the big issues of the moment.

So, maybe we'll have you back for a whole other conversation about ai, but right now, what do Christians need to know so that they can hear the term AI and not tremble? What are they, what would you want us to know as Christians? When it comes to ai? The first and most important thing,

[00:22:01] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** No fear. No fear. Don't be afraid. Be alert. Yes. It's dangerous. Even those people who have invented or are at the forefront of AI, they themselves are giving us warnings. Sometimes people give warnings about technology that they don't understand. Oh, that thing, like internet came. Oh, internet will do this.

Or unfortunately, even in the media ministry, television ministry, the early years, many Christians says, Oh, that's a prince of the air. I mean, those signals are demonic. We don't, not going to go on, on television. So, AI is just a tool. It's a powerful tool. It's going to transform the world in the next five to 10 years in an amazing way.

And so as a Christian, we should not react to it. We should see it as a tool that we should use it for the kingdom. And that's what, what we are doing. Um, instead of being fearful, look at it as a tool that can improve your life and can improve your ministry and can improve your communication.

Unfortunately, like other tools, the evil ones will use it more than the good people. So yes the world will be worse than what it is right now through AI, but it will be at the same time better. than what it is through AI.

[00:23:26] **Dr. Mark Turman:** So be, so be faithful, be prayerful, be cautious and be wise. Right. Yeah. So let's, let's, let's, yeah, thank you for that. Let's let's move forward. It, I just love how you describe your enthusiasm coming right through your salvation experience. And, and very soon, very quickly after that, the Lord said to you, you have to share this.

And it sounds like you immediately began sharing it with your wife and with your family and with others, but tell us how that eventually ended up becoming a ministry to muslims that were

in California near you. How did that result in the planting of a church and then move forward? You've been at this for a while in terms of sharing the gospel, but tell us where that ministry you God put you in.

How did that start and how did

[00:24:20] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** Yeah. So I was in Southern California, graduated, worked there. I was there for seven years in Orange County. I started sharing the gospel. It was after the Iranian revolution. Iranians were not open to the gospel. I got so attacked by Iranians. I would work hard for months for one salvation, for one salvation.

I started working on planting house churches in Orange County among Iranian Muslims and Christians. I worked for seven years. I don't know how many times I failed. I put the house church together, worked hard, bring five, six, seven people, one person got saved and it disintegrated. Then I got a job in Silicon Valley for AI research.

And I prayed there, God, I want to do something in the city. I don't know anybody. Would you bring Muslims who are open to on my path? And he answered my prayer. One by one, Muslims who were open to the Gospel came on my path. They came to Christ, they came to Christ. We planted the church in Silicon Valley, in Santa Clara.

And then it multiplied, it grew. And I was doing research, and I was evangelizing, teaching. And at one point I felt God is saying, Hey, you know, I want you to be a part of what I'm doing in Iran. I, I honestly, I didn't want that. I, I said, God, I have a great job. I love AI. I love, this is like a game for me.

This is, and they're paying me for this. And then I'm, I'm giving my tithes and I'm evangelizing, I'm teaching, I church planning. Why should I switch? Nothing wrong. And, but one day. I hope this blesses the audience to reconsider their lives. I don't say everybody has to do what I did, but the principles are the same.

And one day I walked into my office, corner office, amazing computers there doing research. I was so happy. I said, Oh my gosh, over a hundred have come to Christ at that time. And church is going so well. And I said, God, you're good. You're good. I'm getting paid big money to come here every day. I can come on my own time and leave on my own time and do games.

I, you know, I had, I had program my computer. So if I did a theory and it worked, it would do whistles and, and fire, you know, fireworks on my, on my monitor. And if it didn't work like the old game, you know, You know, like, so I said, this is a game for me. You I'm being paid big money to play games. And I heard the Holy spirit in my heart.

Do you want to be paid big money the rest of your life to play games? That state is stay with me for a year and a half, just struggle. And I said, God, you know, I'm an introvert. I'm not a good pastor. I, this is hard for me, you know? And I heard this over. a year and a half this voice inside of me, but it was repeat repetitive. God told me, I'm not calling you to be a pastor for a long time, just for a period, but I'm going to do something great and historical in Iran, and I'm giving you an honor To have a small part in it. Yes or no? So I said yes to that because God clearly showed me He will save Iran and he wants to honor me to have a part in it.

So that's how I switched to church planting. I planted several churches in northern california Right after 9 11, I said, this is getting late. We got to do something. We got to use media to go into close countries. If we don't go after Muslims to share the love of Jehovah with them, just like 9 11, they will come here with the hatred of Allah.

So we searched and we bought one hour of airtime. Broadcasting to Middle East and that one, one hour per week of our time. It turned to be 24, seven, 12 years ago, we came to Dallas. We started 24, seven satellite broadcast.

[00:28:34] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Wow. So tell us a little bit what that looks like today. What kind of broadcast are you sending into Iran from

[00:28:42] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** Well, I'm glad you asked because when I say we do a Christian broadcasting they think Not many people think positive they think of all the images. They've had to tell evangelists asking for money Maybe some questionable teachings and all that. No, it's it's a church channel It's a love we love people muslims or christians and we share the truth with love And many are coming to christ, but it's a tool like you said ai You media is a tool.

We use that to connect with people in the privacy of their homes. The great thing about satellite is Internet is, it's dangerous because the government is controlling it and they know what you, which site you visited last night. But with satellite television, the signal comes from the sky. They cannot stop it.

And even if the government comes and checks on you, you, they, you don't, they don't know what you watched 10 minutes ago. So it's a powerful tool still. So we use satellite television, media. Evangelism, yes, but that's just the start. We use that to train people, to disciple people, and now with online secure chats, we are training leaders, church planters.

We have planted many churches in over 100 cities in Iran, underground churches. So, and we're training. We have an online school with over 3, 600 students, and they're so hungry. They're after us, and we can't respond to them. We don't have enough resources to really even respond to the demand of our students.

So their demand is there. People are coming to Christ easy. We have the names of over 100, 000 Iranians who have contacted us and prayed with us to receive Christ. Probably 10 times that many made the same decision. So they're knocking on our doors. Please share the gospel with me. I want to become a christian and once they become a christian They want to they want to be trained now.

Let me give this to you and our audience we cannot do it alone. We have a 24 7 I have if i'm in town I do two days of live broadcast we have And some of our partners are mission organizations and churches who want to reach out to the Middle East. And according to an independent survey, We have 7 million viewers per day.

So we have church partners who we translate and dub their teachings, their messages. We broadcast on our channel and it's a win win situation. What they gain, they gain 7 million hungry souls of our viewers and they enter into Middle East. What our viewers get is a great teaching and they're so hungry.

And what we get is a little bit of, financial support so we can manage our our channel. So that's one way to really partner together to disciple that nation. Hunger is there. Salvation is easy. Don't, don't worry about salvation. I, I share the simplest message of the gospel. People respond and they come to Christ.

Let's worry. How are we going to help these Christians grow? How the church can be healthy? Let's focus on that and our brothers and sisters in the west English speaking you can help with that.

[00:32:03] **Dr. Mark Turman:** yeah, thank, thank you for that good word. And yes, and when we get to our closing time here in a little while, I want you to tell us where we can connect to your ministry at Iran alive and how people can know more, how they can contribute if they feel led to do that. But take us back almost a little bit to.

What is, what has Iran experienced in terms of, of cultural and political convulsion over the last 50 years from that time when you were in the streets shouting death to America and to that, from that kind of thing to now, what we see 50 years later, like I said, we, we see, we read about all the time in the news.

Concerns about how Iran is building itself up for war, for war, seeking the opportunity of nuclear weapons how they seem to be aligning themselves with China and with Russia. Tell us a little bit about what is, what is it like in Iran today? What is it? Where did that all start and how would you want Christians to pray for just the country of Iran?

It has a rich history, you know, i've talked a little bit in the past about Understanding that this was Persia. This was the Persian empire frame it a little bit from the standpoint of the bible, but more what is it? Like what it is what has it been like for the average citizen in Iran the last

[00:33:30] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** There has been a spiritual journey. Let me bring The bible verses in Ezekiel 38. We see that Iran Persia and Russia and other nations are going to attack Israel and at the same time in Jeremiah 49 You We see that Iran will be a Christian nation. That's Jeremiah 49, 38. That says, the Lord says, I will set my throne there in Elam, which is completely the land of Iran.

So there are two sets of looks like opposite prophecies. Iran is going to attack Israel, or it's going to be a Christian nation. Now, amazing thing. Both are true and both are happening the same time. When you talk about Iran, let's make sure we understand the government of Iran. The people of Iran, totally, there is a big.

Gap between them. There is a great disconnect between them. The government of Iran is moving towards Fulfilling Ezekiel 38 at the same time the people of Iran are moving towards Fulfilling Jeremiah 49 38 he the lord will rule Iran He says I will set my throne in Iran. So the journey did not happen overnight.

It took 40 years over 40 years of Iranian experiencing islam In every aspect of their life. So after 40 years of experiencing Islam, people of Iran have come to a conclusion, Islam is not the way. Actually, it's our problem and we need to get rid of it. So that's why I, one outrageous statement, I, Make is this Iran is no longer an islamic nation and people say are you crazy?

Just google it's 98 i said no i know and they say how i i didn't have an answer until two years ago There was an independent survey. They asked 50 000 Iranians what you believe And it's available on internet that there's a result 50 000. That's pretty solid, research Can you believe it less than one third?

Said we believe in islam another one third said god or religion is not important to us Some of them said even there is no god another one third the last one third We're looking all over the place eastern religion new age. And of course christianity So that's the picture a nation that has rejected You Islam open to everything including Christianity And if you and I work together to bring the gospel, that would be the most desired Message they want.

If you ask an Iranian, what do you think about God? Without knowing Christ, without reading the Bible, You hear this. We don't believe in a god of islam. Okay. What do you believe? I believe if there is god He would be a god who loves us and asks us to love one another if there is god He would forgive us and ask us to forgive one another so without even reading the bible god has put His word on their hearts.

They describe the God of the Bible. And that's one reason we are so successful. When we share the gospel, we get the result because it already resonates with the things God has put in their heart.

[00:36:48] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Wow. Yeah. And it just makes me think of what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 16, when Paul said, there's a wide open door for ministry. And that's what it sounds like. And using the technology that is available to us, satellite, television, and secure channels on the internet for conversations of being able to talk with somebody at depth and answer their questions and help to not only share the gospel, bring them to a place of decision about Christ, but also a place of discipleship and a place of equipping so that they can go out and serve and minister in their area.

As we, as we think about that, how much, how would you want us to pray specifically both for Iran and for your ministry? What would be two or three things that you would say, please pray for us in this way as we think about because what much of what you've been talking about, much of what you've been describing, we don't hear or see those things in our regular media channels.

Obviously we. We, we always know that God is up to more than what we see in our regular news feeds and we're grateful for that. And that's why having this conversation is so helpful and so encouraging is to know that God is about much, much more than what we can see in the wranglings of men. But how would you want us to pray?

How would you want us to come alongside you and what God

[00:38:17] **Dr. Hormoz Shariat:** prayer is so important. And because we know we are, we know the enemy. It actually, it's named in Daniel chapter 10. It's a Prince of Persia. We know that even the, the, the name of that high ranking, king. demon over Iran. So we are in a spiritual warfare and are in every way. We, we have to be, be fast and pray all the time.

Our group, because we know we are in that domain of warfare. So we ask your prayers, of course, pray specifically against the spirit of Islam, which is fear and bondage. The Prince of Persia, pray for us to be protected our bodies, pray for God's spirit to work through us. Give us creativity. Also pray because as the ministry grows, you just get so stretched like every good ministry.

Always stretching, God, we need more people. We need we need more supporters, more people to help us, more people to join us, actually, not just support us financially join us. And that's that's a prayer. Our ministries are growing. They always demand, we need this. Like, just this morning, they said, we're producing so much material, we need two more editors.

I'm sorry, we can't do that right now. And so, Things like that but step one, my first request, get to know, would you go on our website? That's Iranalive.org, Iranalive.org look around, read

some testimonies. It's going to encourage you and sign up for our newsletter. The least of it would be you will be encouraged.

Y

ou get so many bad news these days around the world. You need some good news. So get some good news and get encouraged. The easier way to connect with us is to text a word to a number, but you know, when you take somebody, you put a number, put this as a, instead of the phone number, put eight, five, seven, eight, nine, 85. And then you text the word Iran, I R A N. What you get when you text Iran to 85789, you get a list of links. You get a link to our website, link to some great testimonies you can watch, and of course get, you get a link to donate if the Lord is leading you to join us.

[00:40:46] **Dr. Mark Turman:** Oh, well, we would certainly encourage people to do that because like I said, there is so much good that is happening through this ministry. So much good that God is doing about the good news and with the good news. In this part of the world, and you'll be encouraged. I hope even just by this conversation and getting to know foremost that you are encouraged that God really is in control.

He's not alarmed. He's not panicked. He's not surprised. And he does have a plan. He's even spoken that plan through the great voices of Jeremiah and others. And he is speaking that through Iran alive. So Iran alive. org and the text message you can send to get those links. You can also find dr. Hummus's book Iran's great awakening.

How God is using a Muslim convert to spark revival. Dr. Shariat has been described as the Billy Graham of Iran, which he humbly grins when you say that to him. But God is using him and using this ministry in a great way. And we want to see what God is going to do. And we want to see that happen soon.

We want to see it expand and grow. And just change that part of the world and also be inspiring to us about how we can share our own faith, how we need to take our faith seriously and deeply, and how we need to have. Uh the the courage and the boldness and the joy To share with christ the way we've been talking today That needs to happen in our part of the world Just like it needs to happen in the middle east and in countries like Iran my friend Hormoz. Thank you for sharing this time with us and we look forward to further collaboration with you And if you have questions about this Our ministry here at Denison forum.

Please contact us, send us an email at info at Denison forum.org. You'll find other links in from our conversation in the show notes today. We want to thank you for being a part of our conversation. If this has been helpful to you, please rate, review us on your podcast platform,

share this with family and friends, and we'll look forward to seeing you next time on the Denison forum podcast.