



LORD'S HARVEST INTERNATIONAL

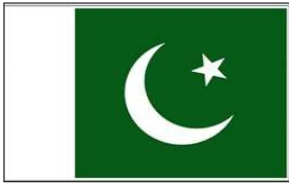
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LHI Newsletter

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Pakistan Mission Trip Report



In late May, a representative of the mission board, and his family made a visit to Pakistan to meet with Pastor Vaster Saajan, the leader of our Pakistan work, and pastors and churches who have affiliated with the General Conference.



Our representative, Dawood Gill, traveled under an assumed name to protect his identity and those of his family who still live in Pakistan. Because the country is 98% Muslim, Christians are at considerable risk.

Dawood met individually with all of the seven pastors to hear about their ministry. He was also able to visit services at three of the seven churches. Following these services he was able to visit with some of the members of the churches to discuss their church involvement.

Pastor Vaster Saajan
Director of the Pakistan Work

All of the pastors have jobs that provide support for their families. The funds that LHI provides--\$33 to \$37 per month per church--are used for the pastors to travel to visit their congregations. They apparently try to go to the homes of many members each week. Some of the churches have Sunday school classes for children, a weekly Bible study, and a daily prayer session in addition to the Sunday service.

It is very dangerous to try to evangelize Muslims, but Muslims are glad to have Christians pray for them and this opens the door to talk about Christ and Christianity. Muslims believe that all Christians believe in the trinity which they totally reject. It is hard to convince them that there are Christians who do not believe in the trinity.

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It seems that the murder of Pastor Rashid and his brother is no longer an issue to most of the people in Faisalabad and the family of Pastor Rashid will be moving back to their home soon. They have been living in a distant city for the past three years.

All of the pastors affiliated with the Church of God General Conference have received pastoral and Bible training in facilities operated by the Christadelphians in Karachi and Muree. Pastor Rashid and this group of pastors have never been a part of the Christadelphian movement but they believe and teach the doctrinal distinctives of the Church of God.

At its fall meeting, the LHI Board will discuss the work in Pakistan and will determine how to proceed with the work.



Worship room for congregation of Pastor Yaqoob Sardar



Service of congregation pastored by Pastor Nadeem Yaqoob at Railway Colony



Pastor Nadeem Yaqoob



Pastor Yousaf Azad



Pastor Asif Qamar



Pastor Aslam Pedrvaiz



Pastor Yaqoob Sardar

Africa Trip Report—Jack Kmiecik

¹⁹ Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰ When they heard this, they praised God.

-Acts 21:19-20-

Paul went on three major missionary journeys. He traveled all over the known world preaching the gospel; and at the end of each trip he would return to either Antioch or Jerusalem and give a detailed report of the work that God had done among the people he met. As the disciples heard of God's handiwork in these distant countries they were amazed and simply praised God.

The people Paul preached to were blessed and encouraged by the message of the gospel. Paul was blessed and encouraged by the relationships he built and by seeing God at work, and the disciples back in Antioch and Jerusalem were blessed and encouraged by hearing how the gospel was being spread all over the world.

Paul's missionary journeys had a substantial impact on all three groups of people: Paul and those traveling with him, the people Paul ministered to, and the people who sent and sponsored Paul. My favorite part of going to Africa this summer was the opportunity to see God at work. I saw God working in my life, in the lives of the people in Africa, and even in the people I have told about Africa because of the encouraging report.

Throughout my travels in Africa there was one prominent theme that continued to dominate my thinking; God is at work. Before I actually made the trip to Africa I had no idea what to expect because I had never even traveled outside of the United States! However, I did as much preparation as possible. I read the folder full of material that Rebekah gave me, I asked a ton of questions on what to expect, and I prayed for every aspect of the trip. Even though I thought I was prepared, I could never have prepared myself enough to see God's grace and power at work in the hearts and minds of people half way around the world.

Whenever Dr. Joe would talk about Africa in class he would always say that we should "join God" in wherever God was working, and he would say that it really appears that God is working in Africa. It excited me to hear such things especially since I was planning on traveling there with them, but I would never have expected to see God so clearly working.

Kenya was the first country that we traveled to. Out of the three countries that we traveled to it was the most developed economically but was also where the movement of spreading the gospel was the newest. Although Kenya is our newest field wanting to join the Church of God I felt God moving there the most. The leadership in Kenya has
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Africa Report (Continued)

a very firm foundation. Specifically James and Amos. These two guys were so passionate about spreading the gospel, about teaching others, and about the truth. I could tell that they were men after God's own heart after the first couple of days. Both of them have been through many trials, but the one thing they kept speaking of and wanted the most was to share the gospel with other people. The sincerity that bled through their every word gave me chills. Many other people while we were in Africa asked for material possessions and for money, but James and Amos asked for printed tracts in Swahili so they could have more teaching materials to reach more people.

James and Amos are the top two leaders and coordinators in Kenya and they are organized and have a vision for the Church of God in Kenya. It is through them that I see God working. They organized two days where all we did was teach pastors at a retreat center. For two days straight we taught 18 pastors about God, Jesus, the kingdom on earth, and the resurrection. The joy these pastors had in learning was unbelievable. They wanted nothing more than to sit there with us all day and learn about the Bible, to ask questions, and to learn how to spread the gospel. At the end of the two days the pastors shared with us their thoughts and it was one of the most inspiring things I have ever heard. They stood up one by one and spoke to us but also to their brothers and each of them offered an encouraging word. They all mentioned how thankful they were for us to be able to teach them and how excited they were that they were able to study in depth with us over the last two days. The thing that surprised me the most was how almost all of them addressed their fellow pastors as they stood up to speak and said that we have been blessed with these messages and we must now take what we have learned and spread it to as many people as possible.

It was amazing because of how the pastors we taught rallied together, rallied around the teachings, and were motivated not only by each other but by the teachings to go out and share them with other people. It was in the moments like these that I saw God working. God was working in all of those pastors and especially in the two key leaders James and Amos, because I could see that their positive attitude and devotion to learning had really set the tone for the other pastors and for the two days we spent there. The sincere desire I saw in the people to learn and know more was something that you rarely see here in the states and it was through all of that I could see God's hand clearly at work. I could see God working so clearly because even though there is no official church in Kenya the leadership is strong and the people are excited to hear the gospel and I know God will raise up many churches soon.

The evidence tells a similar story for Malawi and Mozambique. The numbers and statistics of growth, to me, are enough to show that God is at work in the hearts and minds of the people. The gospel of the Kingdom is spreading, people are getting baptized, and

Africa Trip (continued)

churches are being planted. The fact that there are about 300 churches in Malawi and 250 churches in Mozambique show that God's word does not return void. I can also say that in both Malawi and Mozambique the people received the teachings with great eagerness and joy. I was very impressed with how much the people knew about the Bible! You could tell that the leaders in these countries had actually opened their Bible and read it!

One of the board members in Mozambique, Aneva, had really been studying his Bible! We used his Bible, as an example of what one should look like when talking to the other pastors. His Bible just looked beat up. There were highlights all over the pages, markings in the margins, and the pages were ruffled from being turned so many times. The people wanted to learn. Our translator Linda was even excited that she could translate all of our sermons because she believed it helped her learn the material better because of how she had to repeat everything we said! I could just clearly see God at work in the hearts and minds of the people by the sincere desire they had to want to know the Bible and God more.

The work in Africa is extensive. There are so many places to visit and so many people that would benefit from the teachings the team provides. I think sending a mission team to Africa as often as we can is a must. Even if we could not provide any financial assistance one year I believe the people there benefit so much from the teaching, the friendship, and the encouragement that the trip would be worth it. Joe and Rebekah have all aspects of the trip down to a science and did an amazing job of planning and organizing everything. It is because of them that the trip runs so smoothly and because of the relationships they have built as to why I believe even if America had no money to give the Africa work for a church, for bikes, or anything, that the people would still greatly benefit just from a team showing up to teach and interact with the people.

I mentioned earlier how the overarching theme that dominated my thinking while I was there was just how I could clearly see God at work. I firmly believe that to the point where I think if someone who went on the trip, not even looking for where God's hand is at work would easily see it through the people there. I know there are many other countries and places around the world that need help and are poorer than the couple places we work in Africa, but I believe we should join God where he is working and right now I believe He is working in and with these people in Africa. As someone who felt called into the ministry and has seen God work in so many ways there are only a couple instances in my life where God's hand at work was as obvious as it was with these people. I could tell that the people were blessed by our teachings, I was blessed by the people, and I know the encouraging report of God working halfway around the world has blessed people who have not had the opportunity to go there.

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Other LHI News

Warren Sorenson's Service

Pastor Warren Sorenson recently completed 52 years of outstanding service on behalf of mission work of the Church of God General Conference.

Warren was first elected as President of the National Department of Evangelism and Missions at the summer General Conference in August 1961. He served for 4 years as President and another seven years as a Board member. In 1979, Warren was employed by the General Conference to serve as Director of Outreach and Church Development. In this position, he was heavily involved in mission work overseeing the work of Steve Grant and Judy Myers who were mission coordinators. In 1993 when the Lord's Harvest International Board was established by delegate action, Warren was elected by the Ministerial Association to be its representative on the Board. He has served in this position continuously for 20 years until this summer's Conference.

We can't begin to express our thanks to him for advancing the work of missions for the past 52 years. Church of God mission work has increased dramatically during the years that Warren has been involved. We praise God for the doors he has opened to us and for the hundreds of churches that are now affiliated with us overseas.

New Board Member

Tracy Savage Zhykhovich of the Pine Grove Church in Minnesota was recently selected by the Mission Board for a two year term on the LHI Board. Tracy served for a number of years in Russia. She will bring valuable experience to the mission board.

Peru Trip

A trip has been scheduled to Peru November 1-6. Team members will be Rachel Carr, Rick McClain, Amber McClain, and David Krogh. It has been two years since a representative of the LHI Board has been to Lima. The team will visit the church in Lima and the Bible study group that meets in a village north of Lima. It will also contact two other individuals who have come to believe the Scriptures as we teach them over the past two years. One individual is interested in starting a church in Chombote, which is about 10 hours by bus from Lima. The other individual is a pastor who lives on the outskirts of Lima. Both individuals have met with our church leaders in Lima. Financial support will be appreciated for this trip along with prayer support.

Prayer Requests

1. Pray for the elderly woman in Russia that Maksim is studying with who recently suffered a heart attack.
2. Pray for life changing decisions that Maksim must make in the next two weeks in regard to his future.