



Refresh Newsletter

A foretaste of transformation



↪ Some information here is potentially sensitive. We ask you to be careful in how you share it.

Report on Pakistan & India Trip

November 2011

Dear Friends,

I wrote to you in September, shortly before departing on a 24-day trip to Pakistan and India. I have now fully recovered from the physical rigours of the journey and caught up with a work backlog, so that I now can sit down and share with you to let you rejoice with me in the wonderful things the Lord did.

“Beyond what we can hope for or imagine ..”

It would take hours to recount to tell all the God-stories or give a fair account of some of the natural challenges, which included a deadly Dengue Fever epidemic across the country, unpredictable power supplies or violent riots on the streets of Lahore. But I could also tell you about the amazing humour of the Pakistani Christians or the breakthrough in Jaranwal as the city’s Muslim politicians literally lined up to support our ‘Crusade’.

I truly experienced the privilege of walking in works prepared by the Lord, as per my favourite verse in Ephesians 2, 10 and hundreds responded message of salvation in the evangelistic meetings. There were also many verified miracles of healing and deliverance. Finally the Holy Spirit came upon many of the Christians during the camp and the team training times in a new way and many experienced activation or a breakthrough.

Thanks for your prayers and support.
Please enjoy the report that follows.

Yours in Christ

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Teaching on the purpose of miracles

The main message the Lord placed on my heart to share was about the purpose of miracles. Evidently the miracle working power of Jesus is becoming widely recognised even among Muslims in Pakistan but the family and religious ties that keep people in darkness are still very dominant. So using Bible stories and testimonies, I preached on the three-fold purpose of miracles: Relationship, Restoration and Revolution.

Jesus wants to draw us into a relationship with the Father in Heaven so he reveals the Father’s love through miracle healings. Miracles of healing or deliverance are also meant to lead to restoration of our spiritual status as we understand that we are made in the likeness of God, with his in-dwelling spirit. That is why praying for the sick is not meant to be for the elite - but something for all those who believe. Finally, an encounter with the power of Christ should bring about a revolution in our way of thinking and in the structures of our society and faith communities: grace, love and humility become our hallmarks instead of legalistic formulas or rituals.

Preaching confirmed with miracle healings

Of course to be credible such a message needs to be delivered by a movement that is actively impacting their community – like GKCM with their various social and relief programmes. It would also be rather hollow if the Lord would not confirm it with miracles: but we were not disappointed. Countless people were healed from long term ailments and pains. Several people reported healing from deafness and one 35 year-old lady who was dumb since birth shouted ‘Hallelujah’ and began to speak for the first time in her life.

The local GKCM team now have the joy of follow-up, establishing home cells and hearing testimonies from the hundreds who responded to the various altar calls.





The Member of Parliament, David & Ghaffar welcomed in Jaranwal

Overcoming religious hatred and murder

Pakistan as a nation is the product of religious hatred. One million Muslims and Hindus died in religious rioting after the British left India in the 1940s. Pakistani Christians intercessors have since addressed these roots in prayer but for a change to manifest in the natural, the gospel of Jesus has to be proclaimed so that individuals at all levels of society can respond.

When you first begin to preach Jesus as the Lamb of God, you will face opposition. The Spirit of Cain – the Religious Spirit first seen on the first pages of the Bible will rise up and try to kill the revelation. To turn the other cheek in such situations means to keep coming back with the opposite spirit. As you persistently proclaim the love of Christ, heal the sick and cast out demons, you may take the odd beating but finally you will overcome and the atmosphere will begin to change.

An unprecedented breakthrough

This happened in the City of Jaranwal: in Spring 2011, a large contingent of armed police or guards was necessary to protect the evangelists there. Later gunmen attempted to kill Ghaffar and his wife and the Bhattis had to move house to new secret location.

Undeterred by the Spring attack Ghaffar planned to return to Jaranwal. The posters were again bold "Bring the sick and demon-possessed – Jesus heals and delivers". But this time, because the healing power and love of Jesus had been demonstrated Muslim politicians wanted to support the event. Besides photos of the Christian team, the Muslim Member of Parliament wanted his photo on the posters! In total, two Muslim politicians attended the "crusade" and we were welcomed as honored guests (see photo above). We were also invited to minister privately to two other Muslim city leaders and we could share in deeply moving moments, our belief that Jesus is the hope for reconciliation and peace in Pakistan.

This was a totally unheard of breakthrough, for which we thank the Lord. We also want to honour the local team whose hard work networking and fearless witness in the city paved the way for this breakthrough.

Meetings and homes

Besides the evening public meetings which were attended by a total about 5'000 people over the week, we had a constant stream of visitors to our room during the daytime and we also visited other homes by invitation. One of the key things I do is to involve the local team as much as possible when we pray for the sick. Because all God's promises are for all those who believe. As an outsider, you can't pick the ones who are especially faithful in attending meetings or the mature long-term believers. You just tell someone to lay hands on the sick person then together you pray. One time when the patient got healed there was a stir: "Wow! God used so and so and he is a bad man!" Well you know what? Naturally speaking, I am a bad man too and God still uses me. But by his grace I am being transformed into the likeness of Christ. As I learn to get out the way he can do more through me.

During the first night, when two hundred people were crowding and almost fighting to be prayed for, I got a bit nervous. I did not know how to handle it. I wanted to take my time and "see what the Father was doing". But the Lord reprimanded me in the night "Relax, David you don't have to see anything – just pray the prayer of faith and move on to the next person." So in this way I am learning to operate in accordance with my current giftings and level of faith and trust him to use me.

A new city – an automatic rifle

After we left Jaranwal we arrived in a city where we were holding our first public outreach meetings. Ghaffar and the local team had visited many of the villages and gone house to house and now was the time for a big 'crusade'. The region was considered very dangerous and a bodyguard with an automatic rifle joined the team. Tariq, grew up in a slave family working in brickfields to pay off inherited debts. A social justice campaign by Ghaffar led to his release and he now supports GKCM when needed.

We held two meetings and reached 1'000 people in total. After a turbulent start with a lot of local opposition and confusion on the second day we broke through to experience a strong presence of the Holy Spirit during the preparation and the meeting. The large majority of the crowd responded as we invited them to start a relationship with Jesus and become catalysts for restoration and reformation in their community.



Our worship team returning from village meeting



Prayer tunnel

This boy, devil boy

Afterwards a young man was brought to me "This boy devil boy" they said. He had killed his brother but escaped prison on the grounds of insanity He was heavy and unresponsive to all attempts to minister to him until we remembered to lead him in the prayer of salvation. Then he suddenly came to life "Wow - it left me! All the pain and heaviness just lifted out of my stomach," he explained.

Unstoppable and the PIA

As we were leaving one of the four policemen watching the meeting leant over and said to Ghaffar "I was on duty at your meetings when they tried to attack you and I knew you are unstoppable! - Keep up the good work." Without knowing what was said I felt deeply moved in my Spirit at that moment. Later it was translated and I made the link back to a conversation with Bob Hazlett when we were seeking God's will after the attack on Ghaffar's family. Bob said "I feel the Lord says - he is unstoppable ... he needs to keep going".

The PIA (Pakistani Intelligence Agency) were always watching our movements and I had the privilege of praying a word of knowledge over one PIA agent in Jaranwal. Now, as we were preparing to drive by night through a very dangerous region, the PIA organised extra police patrols along our route to ensure I would reach the airport safely and on time.

Deliverance for children

In Jaranwal, a roughly 12 year old girl was delivered from evil spirits. (see left) It was a calm process, where she simply seemed to fall unconscious as Ghaffar prayed for her. But the next day she was able to sing and dance with other girls for the first time in her life.

In Lahore, 3 children complained of recurrent horrible nightmares. As I commanded freedom they too seemed to fall asleep and were delivered. One mother became very agitated at that moment. "Lord Jesus come and deliver this mother too," I said calmly laying my hand on her and she immediately fell down and lay on the ground for 20 minutes beside her daughter. When they awoke they recounted similar visions: the girls saw Jesus coming to deal with the snakes that usually trouble her dreams and the mother saw a huge divine hand come and carry her out of a place of trouble.

My favourite trip quotes

God used him and he is a bad man

Comment when a local Christian was encouraged to lay hands on the sick and the person's pain left.

Thanks for changing my life!

A young businessman who attended the Khanaspur camp.

Wow something just left my stomach

Certified mad teenage murderer after prayer of salvation.

What should I do?

Muslim senior judge after he received healing prayer to the Father in the name of Jesus.

Yes it feels good

Twelve year old girl after she was delivered from spirits



Calm and effective deliverance ministry



Posters all over Jaranwala





Torch of Truth Church, Kerala, Sunday Service Ministry Time

Tired but delighted in Kerala

My last week was spent in South India at the Torch of Truth church led by Suresh Babu. Since my last visit the church has grown from 30 to 50 home cells and the main Sunday meetings have swollen by 30% to almost 1'000 people. It was a privilege to see familiar faces, preach six times and lead 2 midday workshops. Again I emphasised the Spirit of Freedom that overcomes religion and activation of the gifts of the local team and we experienced great things.

It was a demanding week, as I had to begin some client writing while I was still there, which meant I had no time to rest and recover. Nonetheless, it was a powerful time and my friendship with the cell church leader Philip George deepened (see photo left). Suresh was very busy organising for his sister's wedding but we still had a good time of mutual encouragement.

Freed from a death wish

A young lady, who I recognised as a passionate worshipper from previous years there, explained that she had made a death wish during a time of depression more than 10 years ago. Then she became pregnant. So she said to God, "Let me live 10 years to raise my son and then die". Now the tenth year was approaching and she was beginning to see visions of a black dog trying to kill her. Worship had not set her free all those years. She needed to renounce the death wish and be supported in commanding the Spirit of death to depart. As I asked the Holy Spirit to purify her and fill her again, she fell to the ground in a trance and the Lord ministered to her.

An alcoholic husband repents

In the same workshop meeting, a lady described her problem of an alcoholic husband. I spoke about the need for tough love and intervention in the case of addictions and then we joined to pray for her and three other wives with similar situations. "He never comes to church" she said, but the next day he came to the meeting, gave his heart afresh to the Lord and was powerfully touched by the power of God as we ministered to him. He showed up again on Sunday and I prayed for a damaged shoulder which was then healed.

Follow-up

- The local Christians are working hard to visit people and make disciples of Jesus. We in turn want to do all we can to increase the support and training of the young church planters in Pakistan.
- Gahfar has invited me to return to Pakistan for a similar 2 week programme in July 2012.
- Once again, we will begin by training leaders in the camp and then move out as a team to reach particular towns.
- Isa and I have a standing invitation from Torch of Truth in India to return and minister at any time and we feel strong bonds with the leadership and many families there. So we are seeking the Lord's timing for our next trip.
- If you want to support the 2012 follow-up trips or partner with us in any way we would be very grateful.

Personal news

2011 was a challenging year for Isa and I, but we particularly enjoyed having great men of God from different nations staying in our home. We thank the Lord for many precious times of fellowship and wise counsel. We know that some changes are imminent and are confident that the Lord will continue to guide our steps according to his plan for our lives.



With Philip George who oversees 50 cell churches



Isabelle ministered to Irene in a home cell in 2009. She complained that she had no friends at school.

Isa prophesied that as the Lord ministered to her, she will be changed and her radiant face will attract many girls to her.

She had an obviously crooked back as well and we laid hands on her feet and back and released healing. The next morning she realised that overnight her back had been straightened.

I was delighted to see her here in 2011, strong in the Lord and praying powerfully for others when we invited her to join the ministry after the service.



Ministering Below the Surface

A practical guide to inner healing and deliverance aimed at counselors, pastors and anyone else with a heart to heal the broken hearted and set the captives free. It is also recommended for those seeking help who don't know where to turn.

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www.soundswrite.ch/cct

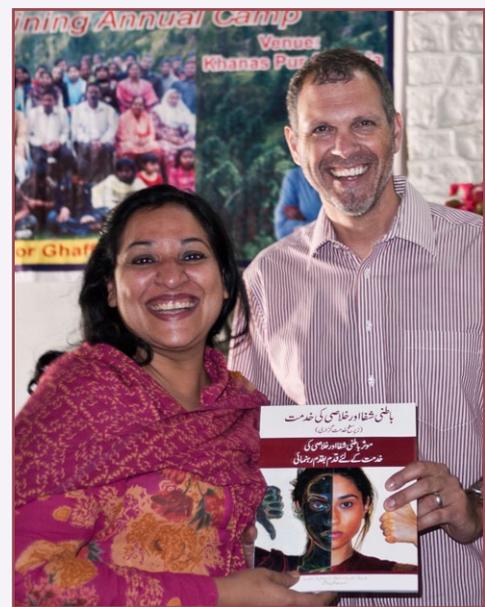
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Attempted assasination trauma healed

Farhat Ghaffar wife of Ghaffar Bhatti experienced a big trauma in March 2011 when gunmen forced their way into her home and demanded to know the whereabouts of her husband. Gripping her violently they threatened her on account of her husbands evangelistic activities.

"We will kill you both". Then they began to search the home stealing what they could. At some point a child began to scream and everyone panicked. One gunman pulled the trigger but his weapon did not fire. Neighbours began to react and the gunmen fled.

"All I wanted to do was leave Pakistan and that Ghaffar to stop ministering" she said. "I was really suffering. But then I had the job to proof read this book. When I read about inner healing I received that ministry from the Lord" she said smiling. "Now I am okay. Life in Pakistan is hard but we can be okay."

This was just the first of many testimonies we have received from people using the Urdu translation of "Ministering Below the Surface" which CCT published in partnership with GKCM in September 2011.

Forgiveness a miracle working power

Ministering Below the Surface includes teaching on forgiveness and offers a simple exercise whereby people think of someone they need to forgive and hold a clenched fist. Then they consciously choose to forgive and unclench their fist – releasing the person to Jesus.

I did this exercise with a crowd of about 200 in one town in Pakistan and suddenly someone shouted for joy "I was deaf in one ear –since I forgave I got healed! now I can hear."

Exactly the same thing happened to an old man in a home cell in India as we applied this simple exercise. His ear kind of popped open.



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