

September 2016

THE LIAISON

Building The Church

Historically Rooted in One Mighty Stone



The Tatev Fortress in Armenia; inside are three churches, each one a stalwart tribute to the spread of the Gospel through the centuries despite waves of persecution. (Used with permission)

One of the great joys of my heart is to see the Church grow in places where it has been planted in the soil of great difficulty and challenge. I am reminded of what our Lord Jesus said, a declaration of immense divine determination and purpose. "I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail."

So many thoughts come to mind with that phrase, "I WILL build my Church." There is Divine intent and purpose to fulfill a plan that will not cease with time. The Psalmist said in the

100th Psalm, "For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through **all generations.**"

I have just completed a personal study of the history of the Church over the last 2,000 years. What we witness today with the massive growth of the Church globally is not the result of a steady growth increasing from the early Church to today. Instead, like the ebb and flow of ocean tides and waves, there have been dozens of periods of time where the Gospel was shared and millions of hearts turned and were transformed by the Good News of redemption, only to be followed by hellish persecution and extermination.

The significant spread of the Church across what is today Iran, China, Japan and the Philippines from the second century on was also followed by horrifying edicts by panicked rulers who ruthlessly pushed to snuff out the Church. *Cont'd on page 2*

Last fall, a Christian friend of mine who lives in Iran showed me this photo he took of a church building in northern Iran. Built by Maltese Christian missionaries, it is now abandoned in a field of wind-blown grass. My heart caught as I thought of those who had been faithful over 100 years ago to the call and claims of Christ in that region. This building still stands as a witness to the ebb and flow of evangelism of that time period and the lives Christ changed.



Church building in Iran built by Maltese Christian missionaries

2016 Indigenous Ministries Fall Schedule:

September, October & November:

9/11 10:45 am, Nortonville Gospel Chapel, Spring Lake, MI

9/11 5:30 pm, Jenison Bible Church, Hudsonville, MI

9/13 6:00 pm, Byron Center Bible Church, Byron Center, MI, IM dinner for children and student sponsors and friends of IM; everyone is welcome! Please call IM office to RSVP

9/15 6:00 pm, IM Dinner in Grandville, MI for area pastors & wives; all are welcome. Please call IM office to RSVP

9/18 11:00 am, Alton Bible Church, Lowell, MI

9/18 6:00 pm, Ottawa Center Chapel, Coopersville, MI

9/24 5:15 pm, Sun Sept 25 9:00 & 10:45 am, Compass Church, Goodyear, AZ

10/09 9:00 am & 11:00 am, Grace Community Church, Madera, CA

10/14-16, Grace Bible Church Missions Conference, Colorado Springs, CO

October - National Pastors' Conference, Women's Conference, Egypt

November - National Pastors' Conference, Women's Conference, India

Building the Church (Part 2 of 2)

Iraqi Pastor Responds to His New Support

“This is a miracle!” was how our Brother, an Iraqi pastor, responded last month to the news of your standing with Indigenous Ministries’ Global Church Planting Initiative to support him. How thankful I am for each of you who have taken the challenge.

Indigenous Ministries seeks to assist in the establishment of the Church today in limited-access countries. We shared in July that we are asking the Lord to allow us to fund the support of our Iraqi Pastors. Pastors ministering to refugees with no jobs cannot rely on tithes of the nationals to support their personal salaries.

Because of your gifts in the past two months, half of the support of another Iraqi pastor has been committed to monthly!

We have asked you to prayerfully consider engaging with financial support at the \$100 per month level to support pastors who are serving their local congregations in the Middle East. We need seven more who will pray and help at this level.

Praise the Lord for all He is doing through you and this ministry! Donate safely online on the website, and select Global Church Planting Initiative in the dropdown menu. Thank you.

Never before have Christians had the abilities and opportunities to multiply resources and talents as we do today to reach “*to the uttermost parts of the earth*” with the Gospel and fulfill the Church’s purpose in these last days. - Dr. John Cook, CEO

One Refugee Family’s Story of Transformation in Christ

Abu-Abdullah, an Iraqi Muslim, watched as his beloved country continued to be torn apart by the sects of his religion. He was an engineer in the oil fields of Samawah and because of the turmoil in his country and infighting of religious and political arenas after the war he set his sights on immigrating to the Netherlands.

He sent his family to Syria thinking they would be safer there as they awaited permission for immigration. Things went from bad to worse as the situation in Syria deteriorated and his family’s safety became unstable. Their nightmare continued as immigration officers told Abu-Abdullah that his request was denied. Not wanting to return to the unsettled and disputed areas of Iraq, he once again uprooted his exhausted family, this time to quieter northern Iraq.

There, in a refugee camp, they met Pastor S., and in their discouraged state he prayed for them. They developed a relationship with our pastor and his wife, and soon responded to the love of Jesus Christ. What a transformation that took place in his life and that of his family! They are now serving in the church and assisting where ever needed, especially with refugees. Often refugees state, “*only the Christians care and help us - why do they do this?*”

Think with me a moment, **what if**... what if the Lord had not placed Pastor S. in northern Iraq? What if this pastor had decided to emigrate out of Iraq along with so many others? IM’s Global Church Planting Initiative is *directly impacting* many thousands each month for Christ in the Middle East by keeping pastors in-country and caring for their needs.

Cont’d from page 1

In another historic wave of persecution in the fourth century, over half a million committed Christians fled Syria to find refuge in southwestern India from Islamic invaders.

Today’s “wave” we are witnessing with our front row advantage of technology and instant communications is no different from what historically has been happening over the last 2,000 years. But this time there is a global attention on the Church that is unique.

Once again, we see the persecution of Christians in lands that we as Believers have traditionally and historically belonged to! Remember what the Lord Jesus said, “I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will NOT prevail.”

Our place in history is unique as is our ability to *respond* to the crisis our Brothers and Sisters face globally. Although there is tragic news on many days, what most do not see is that Muslims, Hindus, and many other seekers are coming to Christ in droves. Christ is the Chief cornerstone of the Church to whom millions through the centuries have turned to in faith (Acts 4:11).



As this plant thrives in crevices, so too the Church is on the grow and thriving in difficult areas globally. The fields truly are white with the Harvest, which are waiting for workers.

12 Orphans in Need of Sponsors

We're so excited that this year we've welcomed 18 new children into our Children's Home in response to requests for help especially for 12 of these kids who are orphans. Our staff both in the US team and India agreed to open our hearts and facilities to these children in faith that the Lord would provide the needed resources to care for them.

This sponsorship is an investment into the life of a precious child who needs loving care, a good education, and exposure to the love of Christ. These children come from Hindu or Buddhist families and have heard little or nothing of the Good News of Salvation. Each day in our Children's Home our qualified staff give consistent loving direction and care along with daily devotions, prayer time, and Scripture memory training. The children are also enrolled in a nearby school where they receive quality education.

Editor's Note: Just as our children need sponsorship, Sarah Rieger's support is getting very close to being met! She only needs 17 prayer and financial supporters @ \$75/month to reach 100%. Please pray with us that this need will be met very soon. Thank you!

Please consider meeting the needs of two or three orphans. Sponsorships are only \$35/month and provide for all their needs.

To engage in sponsorship and help meet this immediate need, visit www.IndigenousMinistries.org, click the donate button on the right and choose "Children Sponsorships." You may also call our office at 719.302.3028. I can't wait to introduce you to these precious kiddos!

- Sarah Rieger, Executive Assistant for Sponsorships



Aman, one of the orphans we're caring for, is in 3rd grade; he is playful but shy. His father abandoned the family when Aman was little and his mother is unable to care for him, so he is now in our Children's Home. His mother is Buddhist, and Aman had never heard the Gospel before coming to the home. Now Aman hears Bible lessons everyday, is involved in Sunday school on a regular basis, and memorizes Scripture passages. He is playing well with the other children and is responding happily to our staff's love.



Volunteers Needed for Short Term Ministry Trip to CA - Jan 2017

While many people (like us) love the idea of going overseas to **India** for ministry Kingdom work...others (like you?) have the same desire but may not want to ACTUALLY GO to India. Because making a difference for eternity appeals to you too...would you consider a trip to California for the good of young people training for ministry in India instead?

We need 50+ volunteers to prepare 10,000+ books for shipment to IM's Grace Bible College, India, library. Already we have 13 who have signed up. While we are not afraid to take on unusual and seemingly "crazy" projects like this, our purpose is clear: to send the books to India completely ready for use at GBC. We need your help!

We're honored that librarian Beverly Monroe, PHD, and her assistant, Ginger Kirk, who have catalogued 31 international Christian libraries, are guiding us with the book cataloguing process. We are also very grateful to Pastor Paul Wright, the Community Baptist Church Family, and Bill and Vicki Greer who have been storing the books.

Each one of these books you help prepare for India will be used by young men and women at Grace Bible College in central India training for full time ministry to reach their own people with the Gospel. Many will be church planters multiplying your efforts many times over for years! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to engage in a project and invest into the future of India - all on USA soil.

For more information and to register, go to our website, www.IndigenousMinistries.org on the right hand panel.

When: January 16-28, 2017; if you can make it for a few days, we can use your help, but if you are able to volunteer for one or two full weeks, that is even better.

Where: Red Bluff, CA at Community Baptist Church

Project: Move 100's of boxes of books, sort the books, enter book data, attach spine labels, scan labels, re-pack books into boxes and load them onto a shipping container. You will be placed on a team depending on what job you would like to do.

Other info: Volunteers are responsible for their own transportation, lodging and breakfast.

Fundraising Help Needed: There is a \$15,000 need to prepare and ship the books to India.



15455 Gleneagle Drive, Suite 130
 Colorado Springs, CO 80921
www.IndigenousMinistries.org
 719.302.3028

Indigenous Ministries is a 501(c)(3), all gifts are tax deductible as allowed under IRS regulations. You may donate online at our website or mail a check to the address above.

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Charity Advised Fund

For many, giving financially to Indigenous Ministries is defined by cash-only gifts, yet research shows that more than 90% of wealth is held in non-cash assets. While most donors are aware of innovative ways of giving, only 13% are actually using these ways to give. Indigenous Ministries has established a Charity Advised Fund which is a giving vehicle to serve those of our Indigenous Ministries family wishing to make gifts of complex assets to support this ministry.

Please contact our office for more information and links to our new Charity Advised Fund with Waterstone in Colorado Springs.

Ladies - Beautiful International fall and winter women's conferences are coming up in the Middle East and India in October and November. Our theme is "**The Truth in Tea.**"



Please be in prayer for these vital meetings and our national leadership teams. To help prepare crafts for our women overseas, contact our office. Your donations to Beautiful are vital and continue to help women globally. Please join me in these exciting days of Harvest! Blessings, Dee

Israel May 1-12, 2017 - Your Bible will come alive as you tour Israel with Indigenous Ministries for 12 days in 2017! The cost is \$4,395. Register at www.IndigenousMinistries.org on the righthand side. Please visit our website for a complete itinerary as well as videos with testimonials from some of our guests last year.

Response Card

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Donate online at www.IndigenousMinistries.org, mail your check to 15455 Gleneagle Dr., Ste. 130, Colorado Springs, CO 80921 or call 719.302.3028 with your credit card information.

Please check the area below you want your support to go to:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
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