

December 2016

WALKING THROUGH ISIS RUBBLE

Iraq - Dr. John and Dee ministered in Iraq last month. This is part one of two articles about John's visit into two cities very recently liberated from ISIS; Qaraqosh and Karamles.

Walking through the village city of Qaraqosh wasn't easy. The streets are littered with rubble from explosions and looted possessions that were dragged out into the streets. Random vehicles dot the roads, stripped of parts and burned. I saw a lorry truck that had been hit by an air strike of some kind, reducing it to pieces of shredded metal.

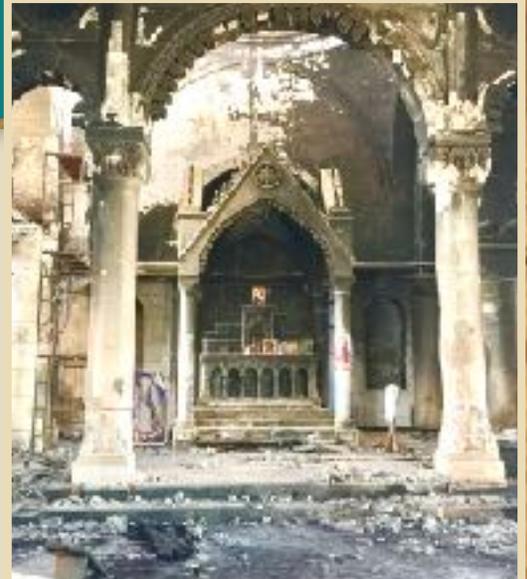
My purpose in visiting Qaraqosh and Karamles was to join the pastor and show support to several refugee families as they visited what is left of their homes in areas very recently liberated from ISIS. It was somewhat odd to see workers already back at work cleaning up the city. They were sweeping and bulldozing the streets of obstacles so residents could enter their neighborhoods for the first time since ISIS drove them out of Qaraqosh, Iraq's largest Christian city, in August, 2014.

We walked into our friends' houses, quietly stepping through what was left of their possessions mixed with mattresses and clothing left by ISIS in their hurry to exit.

We also walked through four churches that had been greatly damaged by fire and explosions...the furniture was thrown into piles, pews that at one time held Christian worshippers. These were some of the most beautiful churches I have seen in my life, with marble floors supporting pillars that rise 100 feet above. Canopied altars and domes tower 200 feet above. I could only imagine what they once looked like 28 months ago.

A somber feeling came over me as I walked over thousands of bullet casings and shattered stained glass window shards. I was struck with the sense of violent desecration of what I consider sacred and spiritually meaningful. The cross had been struck with hundreds of bullets as ISIS fighters came in to destroy any symbol of the Christian faith. Bibles written in Aramaic had been cut, shredded and burned, yet a few pages remained that had been taken from the floor and lovingly placed on the broken pulpit for a congregation in exile.

As we stood in the sanctuary, my ears echoed with explosions from mortars and other artillery mixed with the chatter of machine gun fire from the exchange between the Iraqi Army and ISIS in Mosul just six kilometers away. The steeple was toppled and lay at an upside-down 45-degree angle. Look for Part Two in January's edition. - Dr. John Cook



Pictures: Above, a bombed church; Below from left, street in Qaraqosh, ISIS tunnel, home of our friends that ISIS confiscated for 2 1/2 years, a bombed vehicle. Many residents receive phone calls from ISIS fighters remarking about their beautiful homes and businesses, encouraging them to return, become Muslims and have it all back. The answer is always, "No, I'd rather be free with nothing and keep my Christian faith."

THE LIAISON



All Bibles ISIS fighters could find were burned in this quiet church courtyard. What now remains is just a pile of ash.



10,000 Books Being Prepped for Shipment to India!



The first floor is almost complete and ready for use in January. The second floor library is unfinished (see page 4).

With the classrooms almost ready for occupancy, the Grace Bible College library and classroom building is already impacting the school. Over Thanksgiving weekend, our Dean of Students, Sanjay, and his wife, Amruta, and their daughter, moved into their small apartment on the ground floor. After Christmas break, the female students will move into the girls' dorm and the other two classrooms will be ready for use.

The library upstairs will be ready for the 10,000 books which will arrive in March from San Francisco. Final plans are in place for the un-

precedented project we're undertaking to sort and catalogue these books in Red Bluff, California by the end of January. Please pray for the IM staff and volunteers who will be participating.

We have a fantastic group who have signed up and we're **almost** full, BUT if you're thinking of coming, **yes, we need you!** There are six spaces open for volunteers entering in data (book titles and authors' names).

We would love to have you join us for a few days or both weeks! Go online to register or email our office: info@IndigenousMinistries.org.

If you happen to live in the Redding/Red Bluff area, we need help on Sunday, January 15th, to move the books that afternoon.

When: January 16-28, 2017 - one or both weeks

Where: Red Bluff, CA at the Community Baptist Church

Project: Move 100s of boxes of books, sort, enter book data, attach spine labels, scan labels, re-pack books into boxes and load them into 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, breakfasts and dinners. Lunches will be provided onsite for our volunteers.

Capital Funding Update:
Library/Classroom building

Projected Expense: \$ 98,000
(Furnishings not included)
Funds received: - 71,981
Amount needed: \$ 26,019

GBC Students Celebrate Christmas



India - The faculty, staff and students of Grace Bible College enjoyed their annual Christmas celebration this month before they traveled to their homes for the holiday. Worship songs, dancing and a nativity skit were shared by our talented students. GBC board member Pranay Nitnawarey shared a devotional, and as the students each lit candles, they sang a closing hymn. Thank you so much for sponsoring this ministry.

Do you still have that one person on your Christmas list who is impossible to buy for? Give the gift of sponsoring a GBC student in their name. You will also be giving a young man or woman a quality education. GBC educates young men and women who have hearts for the Lord and are eager to serve Him. Below are photos of a few of our unsponsored students. Why not choose one for Christmas? Sponsorships are \$100/month and provide for the student's room, board, tuition, books and medical care. Visit our website, www.IndigenousMinistries.org, (go to the donate button) to easily initiate your sponsorship. Thank you!



Amit Khemchandani:
Amit is 23 years old and wants to serve the Lord as a pastor. His favorite verse is "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psa 119:105



Sunita Palavi:
Sunita is 25 years old and wants to serve the Lord as a teacher. Her favorite class is evangelism.



Savita Shelukar:
Savita is 17 years old and wants to serve the Lord in children's ministry. Systematic theology is Savita's favorite class.

Hunger Endangers a Child's Future

The Philippines - Just outside Manila is a dumpsite called Payatas. This three (3) square mile area is the collection ground for all waste in and around Manila. This year the government estimated more than 130,000 people live on or around the dumpsite. It is the only source of income for what are called "scavenger parents," who rely on reselling found items to earn a very meager income of \$1.50/day or less.

According to the Philippine government, twenty-five percent of Filipinos live in poverty, with more than one tenth of the population considered extremely poor. In 2015 it was estimated one in six children did not attend school. Without a proper education, the cycle of poverty will continue, further jeopardizing the health of the nation.

Poor nutrition and resulting poor health keep children unable to focus or even attend school. Understanding the importance of education, Resty and Mel Enguerra established a partnership with Promise Land Christian Church to support children of scavenger parents through nutritious food and school uniforms. Since 2011, more than 50 children have been sponsored, with many more needing support. The results have been significant with marked improvement in learning and grades.

Your generous gifts make this project possible. Donate online at www.IndigenousMinistries.org, select "Southeast Asia" in the Donate button. Next month...more stories of God's grace and provision from this project and exciting next steps.



An aerial shot of the Payatas Dumpsite. Resty and Mel work in the red circled area



helping children and their parents. Right: closeup of part of the circle; a make-shift home of a scavenger family. The mountain in the background is actually made of piled-up garbage.

Join us on our Israel Tour!

Sign up to join John and Dee Cook in Israel May 1-12, 2017. This is a great opportunity to walk in Jesus' footsteps and experience the culture and beauty of Israel for yourself. As interesting as historical sites are, what about the Believers in Israel today? You will have the chance to share a meal and worship with the Living Stones, or the Believers. The cost is \$4395, which includes travel, hotels and daily breakfast and dinner.

Register and find the itinerary at www.IndigenousMinistries.org in the righthand column.

Beautiful International Ministry Events



BI Women's Conference, Egypt
November 2016

Significant Beautiful International Women's Ministry events in November:

- Dee led a Beautiful conference with 45 pastors' wives in Egypt.
- Dee spoke to women in Erbil, Iraq following up with the women's conference held there in April.
- John and Dee met with a member of the Kurdish government who pleadingly asked for IM to further engage in working with refugees; specifically with women and children. In 2017, we will be ministering to Yazidi women and children.

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial gifts to Beautiful International. Please visit our new website, www.BeautifulInternational.org for more information. We would be honored

if you would join us and become a Beautiful Partner; your prayers and gifts are vital. Let's make 2017 the year we bless more of the very ones who have the most impact on the family and communities - **WOMEN!**



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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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YEAR END GIVING

We have two goals in our Year End campaign:

1. \$29,000 for the general fund. We praise God that \$20,000 has come in for this need. Please help us meet the remaining \$9,000.
2. \$26,019 to complete the Grace Bible College library building in India. With the students on Christmas break, we are asking the Lord for the entire amount to come in before the end of the year so we can complete the entire building in January. Lord willing, the dedication will take place in February when we hold the Winter Teaching Module and graduation ceremony at GBC. We are very grateful to our donors who have been so generous to get us to this point; we thank the Lord for you.

If you are led to be part of reaching our goals, please donate online and select Year End 2016 or the GBC Building Fund. Thank you!



While the two classrooms on the ground floor are almost complete (see page 2), the upstairs library, exterior and roof are not. Light fixtures, fans and windows also need installation.

Response Card

Name _____
 Email _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

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

Please check the area below you would like to support:

_____ General Fund	Iraq Relief Project for Refugees _____
_____ Year End Giving 2016	_____ Southeast Asia _____
_____ GBC Building Fund	_____ Child Sponsorships _____
_____ GBC Student Sponsorship	_____ Beautiful Int'l Women's Min _____
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