

March 2016

# THE LIAISON



The symbol of Resurrection Sunday is the empty cross. When the cross is raised, it causes people to take sides. It's a picture of the completed work of redemption that Jesus Christ accomplished on Calvary's Mountain.

Paul the Apostle made the statement in II Cor. 9:15, "Now thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift." Have you stepped back to think through what that means to you? The Cross, the place where the redemption story was completed for the world, but also for each one of us personally.

It is an amazing thing to watch a Hindu or Muslim trust Jesus Christ as Savior as he or she stands under the shadow of the Cross. I've often thought of many Hindus I've known trust Christ as Savior who are overjoyed and overwhelmed with knowing that it is the "Jesus God," or, Jesus Christ only who they have the privilege of knowing, trusting, and following the rest of their lives.

I think of several Muslims I've had the privilege of talking with who've been overwhelmed to think that their redemption before Almighty God has been completed in Jesus Christ. The hymn writer, Isaac Watts expressed his own awe of the Cross in 1707 as he penned these words, *"When I survey the wondrous Cross, on which the Prince of glory died. My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride."*

Here at Indigenous Ministries, we work under the shadow of the Cross. It is the Cross for which we preach, it is the Cross by which we convince men and women of a personal relationship with the matchless name of Jesus Christ. How thankful I am to the Lord Jesus for giving us the commission of serving Him and taking forward the story of redemption.

Whether it's on back roads in India, where the Gospel message is just beginning to be preached, or in the war-torn Middle East, the message is the same. Our hearts can find a resting place in Jesus Christ who died for us.... forgiveness of sin, a right relationship with Almighty God, assurance of answered prayer, a restoration and redemption.

This message crosses international borders, tribal barriers, and bridges intellectual understanding of the most profound verse of Scripture, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

This is the message of the Word of God, and this is the mandate to share through Indigenous Ministries. This Easter, Dee and I will have the privilege of celebrating with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ in northern Iraq. We will keep you updated as to how the Lord is using our time in ministering together with our nationals on the ground and in lifting up the Cross of Christ.

- Dr. John Cook, CEO

## Keeping the Lights On!



Training nationals in India Feb 2016

Many of you assisted us with our 2015 year-end giving. I want to say a very special thank you to each and everyone who partnered and helped us get closer to the goal of the \$40,000 we needed to have retired.

I am always amazed to see how the Lord provides for us through your gracious assistance. By the end of the 2015 year-end giving challenge, we saw over \$21,000 come in. Although we did not quite reach our full goal, we got over 50% underway.

It is our goal to stay in the black in every possible way, and I would like to share with you an ongoing need we have with the General fund which is the foundation platform for the entire ministry. It keeps **“the lights on,”** as it were, and is a critical component of this ministry. We work hard to be very careful with the resources the Lord has given to us. If I could do ministry for free, I would, but as you know, there’s a cost to doing the business of ministry. We are most definitely in the business of reaching a world for Christ in ministry.

What I'm asking of you, if you're not already engaged in some area of Indigenous Ministries, is to prayerfully consider becoming a “Global Business Partner.” As a Global Business Partner, either in your own business or working in business of some type, I’m asking that you join us in supporting the General Fund at \$100 a month. We need your help.

What I'm asking the Lord for is 50 partners at this level. We are so thankful for the five who are already supporting as “GBPs,” but for us to meet the needs of supporting our national pastors and overseas workers, along with the facilities in our office and equipment for communicating with each of you, our supporters....we need 45 more partners.

If you would consider being part, we have a handsome Global Business Partners plaque (right) we have prepared for you to hang in your business or office. It declares our commitment together with you to fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20.



It is our commitment to end 2016 in the black, and the only way that this can be done is to look to the Lord for 45 new partners supporting our General Fund. You would make such a difference in strengthening our foundation to reach a world for Christ. Thank you for praying with me, thank you for your support of this ministry of reaching nationals through nationals. We cannot do this without your partnership. You can donate on our website and select “Global Business Partner.” - Dr. John Cook, CEO

## Egypt: Children’s Sponsorship Program a Success

As our ministry began the brand new sponsorship program in Egypt last October, I’ve been touched once again with the obvious benefits of this amazing partnership as we work with our enthusiastic national teams and children. I’d like to share with you how things are going there.

In the picture to the right, our Egyptian ministry team held a Spiritual Emphasis Day for the children as they played games, sang praise songs, and shared from the Word of God. The children loved it all!



This is Youssef in the picture, left, who is in our Sponsorship Program. He’s nine years old, has two siblings and comes from a very poor household. His mother, a widow, works sporadically and has no regular income making life very tough for this family. They live in a small stone home in a rural Egyptian village. Youssef has been struggling with health problems and in school he’s an average student. The good news is that as a result of being in our sponsorship program, he is provided with daily necessities of nutritious food which his family also benefits from as well, and as a result, he’s is able to focus much better on learning in class! We have 10 children in this program and all are sponsored; we will have 10 more ready for sponsorship soon.

For more information, feel free to contact me at [sponsorship@IndigenousMinistries.org](mailto:sponsorship@IndigenousMinistries.org). - Sarah Rieger, Executive Assistant for Sponsorships

## Investing in a Library to Reach Lives

**India** - The new Grace Bible College Library/Classroom construction began this month with the footers for the foundation being laid. This next phase of the campus will make space for the 15,000+ library books which have already been donated, provide vital study hall areas and much needed classrooms. We will also be able to adapt one of the long classrooms into the girls' dormitory until their dorms are built.



As Dr. Cook, Principal Dr. Tantarapale, and others on the GBC board and faculty in India met last month to discuss this two story building, the decision was made to expand the size of the building from 30' x 60' to 40' x 60'. One of the main concerns was that the stairwell would take up needed classroom and library space. The benefit is the extra 1200 square feet which will bring a substantial long term return on invested monies with usefulness. The obvious downside is the additional expense, but we believe it will be well worth it.

### Capital Funding Update:

40' x 60' Two Story Library/Classroom Building Projected Expense: \$98,000

Note: furnishings are not included in this amount. Artist rendering pictured below.

Monies given for this building to date: \$18,636

Amount needed \$79,364



This is Sandesh and Pushpa. They met at GBC as students, fell in love and celebrated their wedding on January of 2016. They are committed to completing their ministry training at Grace Bible College. With a heart for church planting and discipleship, they are excited for what the Lord has in store for them in the future. We're praying about working together after graduation, and with other GBC graduates under *Indigenous Ministries India* to reach many in India with the Gospel.

This GBC campus is opening up opportunities for more dedicated young Indian nationals like Sandesh and Pushpa to prepare well for ministry and business representing the Lord Jesus; and this is really what this building and all the other GBC buildings are all about, isn't it?

Would you pray with us that the Lord of the Harvest would fully supply all needed to build and furnish this library/classroom building? Thank you.



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

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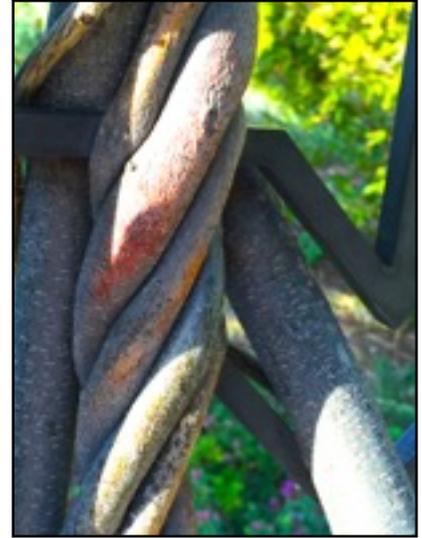
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**Middle East**

Please be in prayer for upcoming ministry by our team in the Middle East this month in the following areas:

- Church plants; encouraging and uplifting our church planters and teams involved in the front lines
- Meeting with girls our ministry has rescued from ISIS; helping more
- Refugee camp ministry
- Two day Beautiful International Women's Conference in N. Iraq
- Discipleship mentoring
- Counseling/encouragement of team members



Thank you for engaging and partnering with us as we minister to our teams on the front lines in the Middle East this month.

**Church Missions Teams** - Please contact our office if you would like more brochures and newsletters for your missions table or small group.

**November Ministry Opportunity** - Join us in India this November or in January 2017 to sort and catalog the library for GBC. The cost is \$3850.

**Israel Tour in 2017** - We will lead a tour group to Israel in May of 2017. Please contact our office if you are interested.

**Response Card**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please check the area below you want your support to go to:

_____ General Fund	_____ Southeast Asia
_____ GBC Building Fund	_____ Child Sponsorships
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_____ Global Church Planting	_____ Beautiful Int'l Women's Min
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