

July 2016

## GBC Library Building Project Update



Scholars prepping for ministry will soon walk through this door to new GBC library

INDIA - Although the Monsoons have arrived in Central India, on drier days, construction workers have managed to push ahead and erect the second floor brick walls, as you can see in the pictures. We're very excited at the progress and soon the windows and doors will be going in. Thank you for your prayers and generous gifts which the Lord is using strategically in these students' lives.



Students and faculty are back and the 2016-2017 school year is in full swing at Grace Bible College. Chances are, though, that professors will have a tough time getting full concentration from the students the day the roof is poured as dozens of workers handle tons of cement in a marathon 12 hour day.

With \$46,281 to go to complete this project, if you haven't already please consider making an investment into the lives of young Biblical scholars in India. To donate please go to our website, [www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org) and select the GBC Building Fund in the drop down menu, or mail your check with the response card on page 4.

### Capital Funding Update:

40' x 60' Two Story Library/Classroom Building

Projected Expense: \$ 98,000 (Furnishings not included)

Funds received: -51,719

Amount needed: \$ 46,281 (as of July 8)

THE LIAISON

May 1-12, 2017

## Walk Where Jesus Walked! 12 Day Tour of Israel

Your Bible will come alive as you tour Israel with Indigenous Ministries for 12 days in 2017. Your hosts are John and Dee Cook. Cost is \$4395, and \$300 reserves your place. Register at [www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org) on the righthand side. The complete itinerary is also right there on our website including website links to many of the sites. Join us!



## The Missional Church (Part 1 of 2)

### John Cook, CEO

Recently I had the privilege of sharing a meal with Stan Rieb, National Facilitator for CB America. We were discussing concerns over a municipality in Colorado which has denied church applications for building and expansion. I was struck with the fact that as I work overseas in Egypt, Iraq and Turkey, the very places where the Church originated, we find a very similar resistance in these areas today. This resistance is certainly not new. In fact over the past 2000 years of extended Church history, the plight of Christians through the centuries and our modern day partnering to plant and build churches in the Middle East, this is the norm.



Dr. Cook in Israel

For those who have a sense that we are owed some kind of privileged position due to being American Christians, it may be that we need to rethink our position. Rather than being surprised, shocked, or frustrated over such attitudes, let us be encouraged to look at our churches in a different light.

We are as U.S. Christians, really owed nothing, rather, the world asks us to give a reason for our validity. We can no longer grow the Church from the inside out, but we must assist people as they grasp the realities of a personal relationship with the Lord. He told us to be “salt and light,” and we are to continue to be a mainstream influence in our society, all in a culture that is growing more and more hostile to the truths taught in the Word of God.

We are seeing a culture shifting away from long held common beliefs, and have turned from a post-Christian nation to a pre-Christian nation. In fact, churches must adopt a missional outlook and perspective if we are to influence our communities. Before one becomes discouraged and feels confronted yet again with another “program” to be implemented, or how some other church reached “mega” status, let’s look at a few things that might help in assessing current direction, vision and actions.

I love Church history; not the one we were taught in Bible college and seminary that was primarily Western in its focus, but the dynamic growth and later decline of the Church in the Middle East from the first to the seventeenth century. The Church in the Middle East holds lessons for the U.S. Church today. How do we continue to influence in the midst of growing opposition as a Church engaged within the purposes that Scripture mandates?

Imagine for a moment that your church was in a foreign country, somewhat tolerant of Christianity, but not enamored with it either. How would you maximize your buildings, congregation, volunteers and finances to effectively impact your “foreign community?” Take a moment and think through this, for when a missionary goes overseas and when all the excitement of support raising has been accomplished, and all the adventure of travel and settling into a new country has begun to sink in, he or she eventually comes to the question which I remember asking of myself in India, “now what?” It is from that question that one derives all future passion, vision and activity. It is one of personal and ministry assessment, and it is also what the Lord asked Moses in Midian when he stood before the burning bush, “What is in your hand?”

What is in your hand? How can this be invested in taking your church into your community and being an influence for good? I’ve seen two churches standing side by side, one holding activities such as hiking clubs, MOP’s, day care, senior citizen lunches, community and political meetings, men’s BBQ’s, softball and basketball league participation, little league, and community road and parks clean up. This church I’m describing is seen as an asset to the community, contrasted with the neighboring church that never sees a car enter the drive until Sunday AM. As we look at a less than welcoming community, 1 Peter 2:12 reminds us to “live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

A Church looking exclusively at herself and her own ministries is in the beginning of a decline that, given enough time, leads to nonexistence. We’ve all been brought to tears when one of our own precious children trusts Christ as Savior; as wonderful as this is, let’s not be satisfied with this alone, but just as a missionary worth his or her tenure overseas diligently ministers in outreach, we too must actively seek ways to influence our community for Christ.

This influence requires vision and action. What is your vision for your community? *Is it so big that God has to show up?* Faith begets faith. The greatest affect for change is when people see genuine faith in action because of strong vision. Every man I know wishes for a moment when he can be a hero and make a strategic shift and positive change in someone’s life for good. Christ designed his bride to be his hands and his feet, in other words, you and I, the Church itself, are real life heroes reaching our neighbors with His love and forgiveness. (Part 2 will be in Aug. 2016 *The Liaison*)

Join us for our new weekly podcast at [www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org).

## Children's Home & Director Share #50

Our Children's Home in India and director Rev. Himmat Mohod have both reached the 50 mark. Early this month we called to wish him a happy 50th birthday and coincidentally, the enrollment in the home has also reached 50; we're so excited! Here's how we're helping more orphans with hope and help:

In May's issue of *The Liaison*, I wrote that 13 additional children, most of whom are orphans, were coming to the Home, then in late June Dr. Cook was asked to take in 10 more orphaned and needy girls from a nearby sister ministry that sadly has closed its doors due to lack of financial resources. Our team in India and here in the Colorado Springs office prayerfully felt we couldn't turn the girls away and now with everyone back for school, there is a much busier campus: we've gone from 27 to 50 children! We're trusting the Lord to bring in resources needed to care for these children, first for sponsors for the new children (\$35/month) and then for the additional housekeeping items needed (see insert, right).



Rev. Himmat and Mercy Mohod, Director of the Children's Home. We thank the Lord for their loving hard work and care for the children.



The total need is \$3,000, or, about \$130 to get each new child "set up," which 10 people partnering at \$300 each would meet. Gifts of all amounts are appreciated and will be used to ensure each child is well cared for.

You can donate online at [www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org) and in the dropdown menu choose "Children's Home Repair & Housekeeping Items," and if you'd like to sponsor one of the children kindly choose "Children Sponsorships." Thank you!

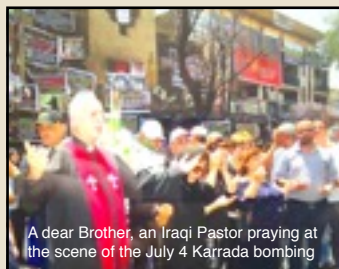
**Items Needed:**  
 Bunkbeds(15): \$120.00 ea.  
 Mattress (15): \$26.00 ea.  
 Bedding (15): \$4.00 ea.  
 Blankets (20): \$5.50 ea.  
 Towels (20): \$1.50 ea.  
 Dishes (20): \$4.50 ea.  
 Tables (8): \$31.00 ea.  
 Battery & Inverter (1): \$272  
 Total: amount: \$3,000

## Iraqi Pastors & Church Bring Comfort Following Baghdad Explosion

More disturbing news and pictures flooded our screens from the Middle East on July 4th that you may have chosen to turn away from. Very understandable. In an unending string of violence and pain not only "out there" but also in our own back yard, many of us are asking, what can we do? Perhaps we can help bring some hope and useful perspective to you from our Iraqi pastors.

Our eye witnesses in Baghdad report that over 500 have died from the massive car bomb ISIS detonated in a popular shopping mall in the Karrada district where many young teens and 20's go to have coffee, visit and shop. What's more disturbing is that Iraqis fear ISIS has a new weapon. The explosion was followed by a massive fireball that traveled through the entire mall and then into the basement where people had tried to escape and incinerated both the mall and many of the victims.

With ISIS claiming responsibility for this horrific act, it's important to connect a few dots. First, ISIS is losing ground in Iraq (this bombing was in retaliation for the fall of Fallujah) and Syria. A Sunni sect of Islam, ISIS is clearly at odds with Shiites, demonstrated by 13 Ramadan attacks worldwide (CNN 7/7/16 online report) including explosions in Medina, Jeddah and Qatif in Saudi Arabia. Concerns are heightened that ISIS is forcing civil uprising between the two sects, especially in Iraq.



A dear Brother, an Iraqi Pastor praying at the scene of the July 4 Karrada bombing

As our focus in ministry is to help the Church be an effective change agent in a very hurting world, we're concerned at how the Church in Baghdad is reacting and asked how can we help? Five Iraqi pastors spoke with IM CEO John Cook that week, each one working to help victims' families. One senior pastor summed up by saying, "*John, our people (Muslims) in Baghdad are very discouraged, troubled and desperate. God is breaking the hearts of our stubborn people and they see more and more that their help is not in their religion...we share the hope of Jesus with them each day when they come to us...they know that we Christians care and will not leave...every day I see more Muslims transformed and changed. Ask the Believers in the US to please continue to pray.*"

What can we do? **First, focus on truth.** While ISIS seems to be ultimate evil, Scripture states there is nothing new under the sun. This is not an equal struggle of good and evil...God reminds us that He is sovereign and in control, "Greater is He that is within you than he that is in the world." I John 4:4. ISIS has revealed intentions and shined light on Islam's darkness to Christians and Muslims alike. People are responding to the truth.

**Secondly, our prayers matter** (James 5:16) - Pray Scriptures over the Church, use our blogs as prayer prompts. **Thirdly, pray for and engage with us** as we church plant in the ME; help us support national pastors. With the Iraqi economy in crisis, **each pastor's salary we help provide keeps one more pastor in Iraq helping those who so desperately need them.** Hundreds of Iraqi pastors have immigrated to the US and other countries even as the Church is in desperate need of solid, stable shepherds. We have three pastors right now we can help at \$500/month; thank you for encouraging the Church, her pastors and the Body by praying for them and supporting the Global Church Planting Initiative. - Dee A. Cook



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[www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://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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## Middle East Backpack Project

School will begin soon, and since last year's backpacks were a big hit with refugee children in Iraq, we are once again raising funds for backpacks for children whose families left everything behind when they fled ISIS. This year we're also including our Egyptian kids in this project. The backpacks we provide through our national teams are brand new and filled with pencils, pens, paper, glue, and other supplies the kids need. Suggested donation is \$18 per backpack, but any amount will be a help, and the backpacks are guaranteed to bring great smiles!

Donate to this project at [www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://www.IndigenousMinistries.org); second one in the dropdown menu.

**Special thanks** to the children at the Awana West Coast Honors Camp who last month painted 700 beautiful memory verse tags for the children in our sponsorship programs in India and Egypt. The kids overseas will complete the crafts with washi tape this fall. The children took up a missions offering of \$2100 for the GBC library building. We're grateful to camp directors John and Penii Jo Trautwein, craft director Anita Clune and craft assistant Lori Taylor for their ministry. IM staff Dan and Linda Iles taught the children and we're so grateful for their ministry.



Linda Iles and helpers at the Awana Camp craft table

### Used Laptops Needed

We are looking for donations of laptops four years old and younger that will be used in the library and offices of Grace Bible College and the Children's Home. Please contact our office if you have one you'd like to donate.

**India June 2017** - Are you of College age and interested in working with children at a summer Vacation Bible School in India? Then you should really come with us next summer! Call our office 719-302-3028.

### Response Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Ph # \_\_\_\_\_

Donate online at [www.IndigenousMinistries.org](http://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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