

Vision Beyond Borders
Prayer and Praise - December 8, 2017

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."

Matthew 5:10

Greetings!

Pakistan is the most religiously oppressive country VBB works in. The Open Doors World Watch List ranks countries where Christian persecution is highest. Pakistan is fourth on this list, just behind North Korea, Somalia, and Afghanistan. As the years have passed, we've witnessed many actions taken against Christians. One of the most famous cases is of Asia Bibi. In 2010, Asia, a Christian woman, offered her Muslim co-worker a bowl of water. Her co-worker refused it and said it was unclean because Asia was not a Muslim. She told her she needed to convert. When Asia refused, her co-worker accused her of blasphemy because she'd offended the religion of Islam. Seven years later, Asia is still in prison, waiting to see if her death sentence will be repealed.

Over the past month, an Islamic activist group has protested acts by the government that favor religious minorities. Fearing the activists' outbursts, the government has agreed to many of their demands. One of the requests the government has yet to respond to is for the death of Asia Bibi. Our contact in Pakistan said, "I think the Pakistani government would release her, but the Muslims - they control the country more than the government. And they say, 'if you release Asia Bibi, there's going to be an uproar all over the country and multiple bombings.' So, the government is scared a lot of times to do anything."

At VBB, we are passionate about uplifting and emboldening persecuted Christians. Even in Pakistan, where believers must often be quiet about their faith, they can be bold in how they live for Christ. Before the end of the year, we have a goal to raise \$60,000 to bring 10,000 Urdu Bibles to Pakistan. We want to give believers in Pakistan the hope and encouragement they need to stay strong despite the oppression they face. Please prayerfully partner with us as the year comes to a close. Your encouragement through the gift of a Bible could be the one thing a believer in Pakistan needs. To contribute to the Urdu Bible project, please visit visionbeyondborders.org/bibles-for-boldness/.

Looking for another way to help? Be a prayer warrior! Please pray for believers in Pakistan to be strong and to trust the Lord's plan. Pray the Pakistani government will not bow down to the TLJR activists' demands and that they will release Asia Bibi. Please pray the Lord will provide all the funds for the Urdu Bible project. His provision and will are greater and bolder than we could imagine! Thank you for your support and encouragement. We could not complete this project without you.

Prayer Requests

- Our contact in Burma shared, "children as young as 10 years old are taken by the army, the boys [are taken] to be soldiers and the girls to be in supportive military roles. Many children run away to the Buddhist monasteries because the soldiers do not bother the monasteries. But if a child who ran to the monastery goes home to visit his parents and the soldiers find out, they will come right away to kidnap that child." Our contacts have started a children's home to keep boys and girls safe from the military, yet they are out of room and cannot accept any more children. Our Winner Educare Center land project is working to change this. The center has a goal of \$45,000 to purchase land and build a new home. Please join us as we pray for the Lord's provision of these funds. You can visit visionbeyondborders.org/wec-land-project/ to learn more about how you can pray.
- Please pray for believers in China. In a southeastern county, believers are being forced to take down images of Jesus and replace them with photos of President Xi Jinping. Groups sent by the government are going to each members' home to convince them Jesus is not their Savior. The leader carrying out the campaign said, "Many rural people are ignorant. They think God is their savior... After our [team's] work, they'll realize their mistakes and think: we should no longer rely on Jesus, but on the party for help." Please pray believers will stand strong in their faith and trust the Lord through the oppression they face.
- In the red-light district in India, our contact is working hard to minister to show love to women by offering makeovers at a salon. As the business attracts more attention, there is a need for additional staff members. Please pray for the Lord's direction and provision for three more women to work in the salon. Pray they will be focused and ministry minded so they can also be a light in the name of Jesus.

Praise Reports

- Our Vision for Pastors sponsorship program is supporting almost 200 pastors and evangelists! Thank you so much for generously partnering with these pastors so they can spread the Word and hope of God. As the program has progressed, the Lord has put it on our hearts to support even more pastors in a closed Central American country. Praise the Lord for His provision and opportunities to advance the kingdom! If you would like more information about sponsoring a pastor, please visit visionbeyondborders.org/pastors/.
- Our contact in the red-light district in India has visited trafficked women to pray and uplift them. Recently, she's been encouraging them to attend a five-day medical, beauty and counseling camp. This will be a great opportunity for the women to be trained in new skills and embolden them to leave the red-light district. Praise God for opening doors so women can learn more about Him and the path He has for them!
- Thank you to all the trip attendees from 2017! You have given Bibles to believers, you have ministered to women in the red-light districts in India, and you have brought joy to orphans and disadvantaged children. Thank you for stepping out of your way to serve

others in the name of Christ - your work has changed lives! For information on next year's trip schedule, please visit visionbeyondborders.org/trip-schedule/.

Current Needs
Sewing Machines Wanted

In a closed Central American country, new clothing is hard to get because of the government's rations and prices – this is why sewing machines are so essential. They give the people a chance to mend and make new clothing. Our contacts in the country spoke with Patrick Klein, our Founder and Director, and told him they are in need of 2,000 sewing machines to distribute among their communities! Please partner with us by sending in your gently used sewing machines. It's a great testimony of the Lord's provision and love. Thank you to all who have donated! Your support is helping to change lives.