



Releasing the Presence and Knowledge of Jesus Christ among unreached people groups of South Asia

SEPTEMBER, 2023 NEWSLETTER
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PLEASE PRAY...

Our website has much more information and galleries of photos for you to enjoy: www.5riversinternational.org

THE HAND OF GOD AND THE LOVE OF FRIENDS

As most of you know, during my last trip to India in June, I was in an accident. I was on the back of a motorcycle high in the Himalayas when we lost control and slammed into the side of an oncoming truck. My driver, a recent ISOM graduate with a heart to start a work in this very unreached region, had three breaks in his right leg and I had two breaks in my right femur.

Shortly after my surgery in India, a police investigator came to see me. He is Hindu and has investigated many accidents on that road. He told me that according to his investigation, my driver had lost control of the bike and had crossed the lane. He said if we had not hit the truck, we would have crossed the lane and gone over the cliff 1600 feet into the river. (In fact, one day before my accident a man on a motorcycle, very near the location of my accident, did exactly that, falling to his death.)



This Hindu policeman was explaining to me that the only thing that saved our lives was the truck we hit and the fact we hit the back tires. He kept throwing up his hand toward heaven saying, "Only the hand of God saved you. Only the hand of God!" He was obviously very impressed we had lived! (We say "Thank you, Jesus, for the truck and angelic protection.")



In the middle of all the pain, chaos of hospitals, ambulances, and surgeons during the next several days, what stood out the most to me was the love of my Indian friends. At great hardship to themselves, they covered me, protected me, and got me the best help possible every step of the way, often staying with me night and day. One dear brother held my blood transfusion against his chest trying to warm it up for me. Another went to a metal shop to have a brace made for my leg so I could travel in the ambulance.

Following the accident, after nearly 10 hours of travel down the mountain, we arrived at another hospital in a city I have been to many times. We reached at 4 a.m. and I had been in constant pain from bouncing around on the rough roads. When they opened the doors of the ambulance, it brought tears to my eyes as there were many friends up all night praying and waiting for me. The stream of visitors seemed endless.

Then, it was my friends who got me to another city and hospital, the best surgeon they could find, and were at my side during the recovery process. The doctor did not want me to travel for 6 weeks after surgery, and a family I had just met one year prior (from same city) chose to take me in for 3 weeks. For the last few weeks, another dear family I've known for 10 years took me in. All these wonderful folks fed me, cared for me, gave me therapy every day and prayed over my leg again and again. They gave and gave, asking for nothing in return. And my daughter flew to India for a week, then assisted with travel back home.



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Thank you to my amazing Indian family. You loved me, cared for me, and became Jesus to me when I needed you the most. May God repay you in ways that I never could! And what evidence of the Hand of God and the Love of Friends in my life on this trip – He saved my life and provided for my every need. Thank you to all those around the world who prayed – Jan and I so appreciate the prayers and the love!

ISOM UPDATE



Three weeks after my accident I was able to stand long enough to preach at an ISOM graduation in North India. It was a wonderful time as I spoke on “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings.” Philippians 2:10

Currently we have more than 300 men and women who have fully graduated with a diploma in Biblical Studies. More than 2,600 people are enrolled in ISOM classes now and approximately 500 are due to graduate by the end of this year. The Word of God is being taught, people are being trained for fruitful ministry and the Kingdom of God is advancing in North India!

HISTORIC FLOODING IN NORTH INDIA

Before I had left on my last journey a good friend left me a voice message about a prophecy she felt God had given her for North India. It was about rivers overflowing, old dams being opened, unprecedented devastation and flooding. That this was going to happen in the natural but also in the spiritual. I listened to it and thought, “I have no idea what she is talking about!”

Then, as I sat in bed recovering in North India, I looked out the window and the storms came. And they kept coming. Streets became rivers, cars began floating away, landslides washed out highways and huge buildings came sliding down the sides of the mountains...and the rain kept coming. All five of the main rivers in the north were at flood stage. Dams were opened to release the overflow that brought even more destruction to the towns down river. Once again, I listened to the prophecy and watched it being fulfilled before my eyes.



The Hindu people cried out to their gods, but the temples were being washed away and destroyed. Their gods could not help them. They said it was worst flooding in known history for this area of India. Most of this flooding happened in a state where Christians are highly persecuted. It is our prayer that what we have seen in the natural truly would happen in the spiritual. Please pray that the Kingdom of God would sweep through North India like a mighty flood and millions of people would come to know the Most High God and His Son, Jesus Christ! May the believers in India minister hope to all those affected by disaster.

PLEASE PRAY...

- For Dan and his friend to recover from their injuries quickly and fully.
- That ISOM training points will continue to be established and multiply throughout North India.
- For our ministry partners, (Ashish, Josh and Dinu) to be protected physically and spiritually, have the wisdom of God and continue to bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God.
- That our friends in Kashmir would have encounters with Jesus and become born again.
- That the persecuted believers would remain faithful, fearless and bold as they serve Jesus in very difficult places.

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