



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

DECEMBER, 2023 NEWSLETTER

HOME AND AWAY
INCREASED PERSECUTION
PLEASE PRAY...

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

We want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very blessed, Christ-filled Christmas. Jesus is not only the reason for the season, but HE is the reason we PRAY and we GO. Enjoy reading about how God MOVES when we PRAY & GO...and please PRAY with us!

HOME AND AWAY

HOME:

While I was in the Indian hospital recovering from surgery on my broken leg, I received a phone call from Hal Sacks of Bridge Builders. "Dutch Sheets has put out a call for a nationwide prayer initiative called Paint Your Borders. He has asked us to take the lead for the state of Arizona. Since you have nothing to do for a while, I want you to head this up for us. I am sending out an email to all our mailing list giving them your contact information. You can coordinate all those who want to participate." Since I was on a lot of pain meds and wasn't thinking clearly, I said "Sure, I'll do that."



Over the next several weeks my phone was blowing up as people began to contact me. Well over one hundred people, (that we know of), began to travel and pray all over Arizona. We created an online group where they could communicate with each other, saying when and where they were going, how others could join them, posting praise reports and pictures from their travels and cheering each other on as people released the Kingdom of God everywhere they went. It was an amazing thing to see so many people so fully activated to pray for our state. Several people who have lived here all their lives said they had never seen anything like it. It was truly a historic spiritual moment for Arizona.

When I got home in August, I was able to make several prayer trips and I have continued to connect with intercessors across the state. Now, moving into 2024, the Holy Spirit has given us a strategy for activating people to pray like never before. We are looking forward to what God has in store for the upcoming year here at HOME!

I stand in awe of God that He has allowed me to connect with Bridge Builders and be in such a wonderful position to lead prayer for Arizona. What a great joy and privilege to connect with wonderful prayer warriors who love Jesus and are contending for a move of God in their regions. God is on the move and the intercessors are leading the way in Arizona!



While "home," I have stayed active with our ministry partners throughout India - doing zoom calls, teaching on prayer, praying for them, encouraging them however I can. I may be absent in body but my spirit is still fully active there, as I continue to carry the burden of the Lord for unreached people groups.

For more information visit www.5riversinternational.org or email info@5riversinternational.org

Donations can be made online or sent to: 18204 N 6th Dr, Phoenix AZ 85023 (new 1/21)

AWAY:

While I have been restricted in traveling to India, the Word of God has not been restricted at all.

Right now, we have over 3,000 Indian leaders enrolled in the International School of Ministry (ISOM) with over 500 who have fully graduated with a diploma in Biblical Studies. We are seeing every person that has graduated increase in fruitful ministry as well as strong character and faith. God is using this training to multiply leaders with fruitful ministry all over North India. We continually thank God for giving us this powerful tool to advance His Kingdom amongst the unreached people groups of South Asia. (The picture is of 17,000 copies of ISOM training manuals and materials.)



INCREASED PERSECUTION:

While the church has been growing by leaps and bounds, the persecution to try to stop it has increased dramatically. Just recently, in one northern state, nearly 90 pastors were arrested for converting people to Christianity. The police would break into their homes in the middle of the night, catching them when they were away from their congregations and trying to instill as much fear as they could. With wives and children screaming and terrified, these men were torn from their families and placed in jail to await trial. If found guilty, they face 7-10 years in prison.

Another thing the government is doing is cutting off the ability of ministries to receive foreign funds. Just recently, one of the largest Christian organizations in the country (CNI church) had the ability to receive foreign funds stripped from them. The government is trying to financially choke ministries and has threatened to confiscate their property as well.

The persecution has become very intense, but in the middle of it the believers are showing great courage and faith. They are uniting stronger than ever before, taking care of the families of the pastors who have been arrested, praying together, and encouraging one another to stay strong. They continue to preach the gospel fearlessly, fully prepared to pay the price of being beaten or imprisoned. Some have already given their very lives for Jesus Christ.

These men and women need your prayers and support now more than ever. We must continually reach out to them in any way possible to let them know they are not alone. We must be faithful to fight for them through prayer and giving to support families that have lost their husbands and fathers to persecution.

PLEASE PRAY...

- That God will continue to open doors to take prayer teams across AZ praying for breakthrough & revival.
- That God would raise up small groups of prayer warriors who will pray for their regions throughout Arizona.
- For BridgeBuilders as they take the lead in equipping & providing resources to help people pray effectively so there would be a great move of God that would change the spiritual climate and transform culture.
- For our ministry partners to remain strong, full of faith and courage as the persecution increases and that believers will be united and move in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs and wonders more than ever.
- That the pastors who have been arrested would be returned to their families as soon as possible, and that God would use them during the time they are imprisoned to be a witness for Him.
- For the families who have lost their husbands and fathers, that they will be provided for.
- That ISOM will continue to multiply and train leaders to have fruitful ministry, and that all logistics and materials needed to train thousands of leaders will be supplied without interference from the government.
- For us to be able to continue to send support to our ministry partners and not have that ability taken away.