

CO-MISSION INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Double Stuff MISSIONS

1 GIFT = 2 ANSWERED PRAYERS

For years I have been saying, “**We** are **their** answer to prayer”—“**we**” being us Americans who give to help; “**they**” being the native missionaries who are carrying the Gospel to their own people. And the statement is still true. **They** pray for provision. **We** obey God, and give. **Their** prayer is answered.

But there is a counterpoint to the statement. It is this, “**They** are **our** answer to prayer. We have all prayed, “Oh God, please save the lost. Do something to reach the unreached. Send someone to carry the Gospel to the nations!” **We** pray and give. **They** obey God, and go with the Gospel to their own people. **They** go. **We** help make it possible for them to go—go to reach people we cannot otherwise reach—by supplying them food, shelter, and other material assistance for which they have prayed.

So, our financial gift answers two prayers. 1. **Their prayer** for material assistance to spread the Gospel of Jesus. 2. **Our prayer** to Jesus to send someone with His Gospel. **One gift=Two answered prayers.**

Our hearts were filled with joy and happiness to see souls being added to the Kingdom of God.

INDIA

Our Gospel meeting in Khatima village was just a few days after anti-Christian radicals in that place beat up our pastors and threatened them with dire consequences for preaching the Gospel. We were praying for boldness to carry on our Lord’s ministry, just as the early church had done, before setting out for Khatima. The Lord’s love motivated us further to go on with the meeting. Around 1200 people from the Tharu Rana tribe attended this meeting. The Lord moved the hearts of the people and many of them accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. One hundred and two people were baptized that very day. I encouraged the Tharu community believers to endure affliction for the sake of Christ and to stand for Christ in the midst of any opposition. The Lord be praised.

We went on to Peeladau village where we were to share the Gospel with the people of the Sikh community there. The journey to this place was a difficult one. We had to cross a large river to reach the meeting place. We sat and traveled in a small boat (the boat was full, with no place left even for stretching our legs) for almost two and a half hours. The Lord’s love touched the hearts of the people and many of the Sikh people responded to the altar call. Twenty-six Sikh people were baptized the same day. Our hearts were filled with joy and happiness to see souls being added to the Kingdom of God.

It was almost dark before we could start our return jour-



Pastor Charles and his team carry the Gospel to their own people, no matter what the sacrifices or dangers.

ney. But we could not return by the boat. We were told that it was dangerous to travel with boats at night because of the winds, which usually blow at night. The waves could overturn and drown the boat. So we had to go through the forest instead. We all sat in a big trailer which was pulled by a tractor through the forest. It was dark and the uneven roads made the journey very difficult. The Lord was with us, and He did not allow any wild animals (or people) to attack us. We were very tired and weary at the end of our journey, but joyful in our spirits, knowing that souls had been delivered, saved, and added to the Kingdom of Heaven. —Pastor Charles

Bulgaria



Testimony of George Petrov Ganev

My name is George Petrov Ganev. I was born in February 1992 in the town of Byala. My childhood was not very pleasant because I suffered from epilepsy. Even though I was sick I always wanted to prove myself—that I was as good as the rest of the children. When I became a teenager, I gathered boys and instruments and organized a heavy metal band in our town. I like music and I play the keyboard. But I did not get peace, and I was a troublemaker in the school.

One day, when I was at the central square in Byala, I met two young men, Asen and Rosen, who gave me Gospel tracts to read. I went back to my house and read them. I enjoyed them very much. I did not know God. I hoped to see those young men again so I could ask them some questions about God.

God answered my request and I met them again a few days later. They invited me to come to the church. Then they shared with me the Gospel. On Sunday I went with them to the church service. The songs were very special to me. The words of the pastor touched me too. I continued to go to the church and a few months later I received Jesus Christ in my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I became a very good student and my parents were proud of me.

One day while we were in a prayer meeting, I told about my need for healing from epilepsy. The church prayed for me—and I was healed. That was a few years ago. I am still healed, and feel myself very healthy.

A month ago I came to realize that I needed to make a greater commitment to my walk with the Lord. I obeyed the Lord by taking water baptism. Now I am playing Gospel music in the church and leading in the praise and worship. I no longer play heavy metal music. I play music only for my Lord Jesus Christ.

We care about what you care about. That's why we continue to send 100% of your gift to the native missionaries you read about in our newsletters. Only those gifts especially designated for "operations" are used for the expenses of this ministry.

**Nigeria
India
Nepal
Burma
Bulgaria
China
Russia**



Pakistan

I recently received a message from Pastor Khan in Pakistan that the situation there is very volatile, and seems to be deteriorating. He asked that we especially pray for him and the other believers. He directed me to search the news for more information, as no doubt his message could be intercepted and cause him much trouble.

Excerpts from SRNNews.com, Associated Press Writer Alessandra Rizzo (Rome), August 3, 2009.

... Hundreds of Muslims, allegedly spurred on by a radical Islamist group, stormed a Christian neighborhood in the eastern city of Gojra on Saturday, burning dozens of houses after reports surfaced that some Christians had desecrated a Quran.

Six Christians died in the flames, while two were killed by gunshots, as police did little to stop the attackers.

Christian leaders and Punjab Law Minister Rana Sanaullah said an initial probe had debunked the Quran defilement rumor.

"We are closing the schools to show our anger and concern," Bishop Sadiq Daniel told The Associated Press, noting the move was a peaceful tactic. "We want the government to bring all perpetrators of the crime to justice."

... Paramilitary troops and other security forces were patrolling the city Monday. Farhatullah Babar, a spokesman for Pakistan's president, said a judicial panel will probe the incident. It was not immediately clear exactly how many schools would be shuttered.

Christians make up less than 5 percent of Pakistan's 175

million people, and they generally live in peace with their Muslim neighbors.

Extremists, however, have made Christians and other minority religious groups a target. Earlier this summer in the Kasur area a group of Muslims set fire to dozens of Christian homes, according to local news accounts.

Shiite Muslims, also a minority when compared to the Sunni sect of Islam, are also often targeted. And the anti-minority phenomenon seems to be getting worse as the Taliban militancy has gained strength in Pakistan.

Minority Rights Group International, a watchdog organization, ranked Pakistan last year as the world's top country for major increases in threats to minorities from 2007—along with Sri Lanka, which was embroiled in civil war. The group lists Pakistan as seventh on the list of 10 most dangerous countries for minorities, after Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Myanmar and Congo.

Christians and other minority religious groups also are especially vulnerable to discriminatory laws, including an edict against blasphemy that carries the death penalty for derogatory remarks or any other action against Islam, the Quran or the Prophet Muhammad.

Anyone can make an accusation under the law, and it is often used to settle personal scores and rivalries.

The latest attacks on Christians began Thursday following reports that a copy of the Quran had been defiled. Hundreds of Muslim protesters set fire to several Christians' houses in the first two days, but the violence reached its peak Saturday.

CO-Mission International is committed to sponsoring indigenous mission workers and their families. 100% of your gift goes directly to overseas native missionaries.

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“And it came to pass . . .”

Mayode's Story

EDITOR'S NOTE: In February we ran the report about Ezekiel's son being kidnapped—and returned without them paying the ransom. We who were so closely involved rejoiced together over the closure of this tense and terrifying event. We praised the Lord for Mayode's deliverance.

Ezekiel is the director of the *Jesus Film Team* in Nigeria. We have been helping to sponsor his ministry for several years. Mayode's ordeal was a personal challenge, and victory, for me and the entire CO-Mission prayer family.

Recently I was speaking to Ezekiel about this dramatic episode and mentioned to him that I would like to hear Mayode's viewpoint about this dramatic event in his life. A few days later I received this report from Mayode and his father. Mayode is nine years old.

“Mayode, come. Your Daddy and Mummy says that I should take you to Lagos.” A young man called to me and motioned for me to go to him. I was on my way to school.

I told him, “My father is at home and he did not tell me that I should go to Lagos.”

Then the man said, “Okay, let me call your mother and tell her that I have met Mayode on the way and I am taking him to Lagos for her.” The man brought out a phone and just pretended to say he called my mother. The man said, “Hello Mummy. I have met Mayode and I am taking him to Lagos for the photo passport.” The man told me, “See. Now I have talked to your mother.”

I said, “Why can't you let me also talk to mummy?”

The man said there were no more credits [time] on his phone to talk longer, but I knew that the man was telling lies. He did not talk to my mother. He then stopped one motor bike rider who took us to a garage.

Then we got on a bus to Lagos.

When we got to Lagos, they took me to an upstairs house. They told me that my father will come to Lagos and that I should not worry. We met three more young men and one of them was called Kay. They said to me that I would stay with brother Kay until my father brings the money.

I ask them, “Why do you want my father to bring money for you?” They said to me that I should not ask so many questions.

In the night they gave me rice and beans and then they put me in a very nice parlor with a rug and color television, but with worldly film. I asked them to give me Christian films because my Daddy told me that a good Christian should not watch worldly films. But they told me that they don't have any Christian films. Then I told them to turn the television off. When they refused to turn it off, I laid down on the rug and began to pray that God should change their hearts. I begin to preach to them what I have heard from my Daddy. I told them my Daddy always preaches that whoever is looking at worldly films will end up with the devil. Then they began to call me “Little Pastor.”

I also saw that they do not pray in the night before they sleep and they do not pray in the morning when they wake up. At first I thought they may really be my father's friends, but then I saw that I was with bad people.

Then they started calling my father and asking for money. They told to my father that they would kill me if my father did not bring money. So even when they gave me food, I did not eat but just fasted and prayed to God for my release. I prayed that God would send the children's angel to come and help me.

On Sunday I told them to take me to church, but they told me that they don't go to church. Then I asked them, “How do you hear the Word of God?” They said

they don't need the Word of God. Then I said to them, "You are not my father's friend, because all my father's friends go to church. Why do you say that you are my father's friend and not go to church?" I told them that they should believe in Jesus and go to church to hear the Word of God. I said, "Only the children of the devil do not go to church." Then they said that my questions are too much for them and that I should stop my dirty mouth. I tried to preach to them, as my Daddy always says that we should preach the Gospel anywhere.

Here, Ezekiel picks up the story—

The people in the city were saying, "We want to see if this pastor gets his child back." Many people told me that I should come and worship their idol and the idol will cause confusion among the kidnappers and they will release my son. My response to them all was, "My God is able. My son is coming back. He is an 'ark of covenant' in the camp of enemy." My response sounded like an insult to them. They said among themselves, "We shall wait and see how his God will help him to see his son back."

I had told the police to take their hand off this case, because I did not want them to share in the glory of God when my son returned. They said, "If we do not come into the case, you will never receive your son back."

We kept on trusting God and we kept on praying for one week, until the 21st of January. Then I receive a call from the kidnappers. They said, "Your son is no more eating our food. We want nothing to do with him. He is a great problem. Come to Lagos and get him."

When we got Mayode back home, we told him, "The kidnappers said you did not eat. Why?"

Mayode said, "Daddy, I was fasting and praying."

What a wonderful response! We did not know that Mayode was so mature in the Word of God like that.

After we got Mayode back without paying the ransom, many people were praising God and confessing that God is indeed God. Many turned to the Lord. The occasion turned out to be a great testimony, as we are told in Luke 21:12 and 13, "But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. . . . This will result in your being witnesses to them."

A few other pastors and I took Mayode to the police station to tell them that we have found my son without paying the ransom. The Divisional Police Officer stood up from his desk and said to me, "Your God will be my God. Please pray for me, because you are a real man of God. I have many problems in this work. Please pray for me, Pastor."

The police officer took statements from Mayode into their records. He told them all that he saw, and all that he had preached to the kidnappers. The police officers were moved and gave Mayode a gift of two hundred Naira (\$10.)

We went to seven different churches to give thanks and testimony about Mayode's deliverance. Everyone wanted to see him. People said, "I want to see that small boy. I want to hear him." Until today people still want to see him and hear his message, "With God all things are possible. I was lost and I am found again."

Mayode always gathers his friends together and shares his experience with them, and he preaches to many of his friends at his new school.

And the name of the Lord was glorified among the unbelievers. It became a historical event, for it was the first time that kidnappers released someone without payment. It has never happen before. This is what the Lord used to tell the world that "with Him all things are possible."

Thanks for reading my testimony.

From Mayode and his family in Nigeria

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