

Networking with an Effective Mission among Muslims

Together, in their roles as mission leaders, Swapon and Rachael Bose always seem to be wearing many hats in the various roles they perform. Although they find it difficult to leave their home and ministry – which is in a primarily Muslim region of South Asia – they are able to be in Canada this month.



Several activities of Faith Bible Center in South Asia

inquirers, seeking to discover what each individual Muslim believes. This approach, Bose suggests, is intended to help find a point by which to introduce Jesus to them. Thirdly, similarities in several beliefs between Muslims and Christians can be suitable connecting points for sharing the Gospel. Quoting the Koran, for example, has proven to be an effective way through which the Boses have encouraged Muslims to investigate who Jesus really is.

The focus of the Bose's ministry to Muslims is to simply present Christ as Saviour: not a good teacher, not a great leader, but as Saviour. They strongly encourage the missionaries they work with not to say anything, either good or bad, about Mohammed. Instead, they insist that missionaries focus on Christ alone. He is sufficient.

“NOW CHRIST IS FAR ABOVE ANY RULER OR AUTHORITY OR POWER OR LEADER OR ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS WORLD OR IN THE WORLD TO COME.”

~Eph 1:21

While in Manitoba, they are visiting with individuals and church groups, encouraging the believers here, and trusting God for prayer and financial support for their ministries.

In addition to being a pastor, a husband and a father, Swapon oversees 160 churches, supervises 105 staff, and teaches in the Bible School. His wife Rachel is equally industrious as co-pastor and principal of the Bible school. The church they shepherd is the second one they have planted in the city in which they live. Together, they lead a ministry focused on church planting and discipleship among Muslim people.

We asked Swapon and Rachael, “In a predominantly Muslim context, how does one approach mission work?” First of all, the Boses believe that there is no ‘single’ approach to sharing the Gospel with Muslims; each person and community is unique. Thus, they advise their Bible school students to go out and live among the people, get to know them, and share the Gospel appropriate to the context.

Secondly, Swapon urges missionaries to be

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God is at work through their ministry. In the first six months of 2008 they were privileged to baptize 325 Muslim background believers (MBB). This is simply a continuation of what God has been doing in the last few years. There is tremendous growth in the areas where they are working. Meanwhile, prayer is going up for ‘hard ground’ regions where the Gospel has yet to be taken. Hebol, an MBB currently studying at the Bose’s Bible school, is being considered as someone who could initiate the work in the most difficult of these areas.

The Boses left their native South Asia to arrive in Calgary earlier this month. From September 12-25 they are in Manitoba, before a concluding stay in Vancouver.

Passing of Narayan Paul



David Robbins, with our late brother Narayan Paul, opening New Life Association's Bible School earlier this Spring.

Together we mourn the passing of Narayan Paul, ambassador for God for 35 years in Andhra Pradesh, India. The New Life Association, a ministry which Narayan Paul founded, lives on as a testimony to his faithfulness to God.

After years of battling with malaria related infections, Narayan's body succumbed to the disease on June 12, 2008, and he went to be with his Lord.

As recently as March, 2008, David Robbins spent time with Narayan Paul, visiting Bethany Hospital, Cherish Bible School, and Mercy Children's Home, all outreach programs of New Life Association. He travelled in the mountains beside Narayan while he went through his daily schedule.

We ask that you please pray for New Life Association, and for Narayan's son Philip Timothy, who is stepping into his father's shoes as Director of the mission.

Violence in India

Within the past few weeks, we have been receiving alarming reports of extreme violence in India. In the northern-most state of Jammu & Kashmir, a conflict between Muslims and Hindus has left the region in complete disarray. On the eastern side of the country, the state of Orissa is experiencing similar devastations; violence there is being directed against Christians. It is estimated that 50,000 believers are now living as refugees and many have lost homes, churches, and family members.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ need us at this time. Our contacts in these regions are sending out a clarion call requesting that we labour in prayer for them.

Postponement

In light of the recent uprisings, our Regional Director in India strongly advised us to postpone the Leadership Training Seminars to India & Nepal which were scheduled for October 14 - November 4. This is the first group of seminars that AIM has had to postpone. Pray for us as we work out the details for the seminars one year from now.

Sharing God's Gifts

Imagine walking seven days to reach your destination. Then imagine that your purpose in going there was not for your own pleasure, comfort, or gain, but to bring the most precious treasure in the world to people who live in that remote place.

For the indigenous missionaries working in the Himalayas, walking is the only way to reach the very remote villages, so they do it. To be a missionary in those parts, you have to be willing to give up everything for the call of God. There is danger, fierce opposition, and little support. For this reason Philemon and Elishiba Chhetri prayerfully choose the people who work with their mission.

Astonishingly, there have been 127 church plants since 1990, and a Bible school was established in 2002.



The Chhetris near the Forks in Winnipeg

The Chhetris were in Manitoba in July. While here, they spoke at four different church services, and connected with believers in many different settings. In conversation they shared about the challenges and opportunities of their ministry.

In preparation for the visit of Philemon & Elishiba Chhetri, the staff at AIM took some time to reflect on Romans 1: 11-12: "For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine." Our prayer was that they would be encouraged by the faith among us and the believers here in Canada.

While we pray that the Chhetris were built up during their stay here in Canada, we also were built up and encouraged; not only were their stories inspiring, but also the gentle and humble spirit that they displayed. It was a great blessing to have them walk with us for three weeks.

