

# Gate Breaker News Digest

Matthew 16:18 "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against



## Reflections of Pakistan

I recently returned from my second ministry trip to the Punjab region of Pakistan. It was filled with leadership conferences, revival meetings, and visits to GBM PAK sewing centers. I praise God for His mercy to the people of that region. Christians were encouraged. People gave their lives to Christ, and others were miraculously healed.

In order to cover all of the important points efficiently, the report is divided into sections. Let's begin by considering some basic information about Pakistan and the Punjab.

### Pakistan

- Size: 796,095 sq. km (slightly less than twice the size of California)
- Surroundings: Iran and Afghanistan on the west, India on the east, China on the north, and the Arabian Sea on the south
- Climate: Mostly dry desert, but temperate in the northwest, and arctic in the northern mountains. There are forty mountain peaks over 25,000 feet high, including K2, second only to Mt. Everest in Nepal.
- Main river: The Indus river runs north to south
- Population: 187 million (6th most populous country)
- Language: National = Urdu. Government / official = English. Many re-



gional dialects.

- Religion: 95 % = Muslim, 1 - 2 % = Christian
- Average life expectancy: 66 years
- Average education: 7 years
- Minimum wage: 7000 Pak rupees / month (\$80 USD)<sup>1</sup>

### Punjab

Of the seven provinces in Pakistan, the Punjab is the second largest, but it has the largest population with close to 74 million people. Lahore, the capital of Punjab, is considered the cultural center of Pakistan, with a history that is over a 1,000 years old. It has a population of over 9 million people.

More Christians live in the Punjab province than elsewhere in Pakistan, but there are so many people that

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I think that God sometimes leads us into a storm. He wants to get our attention. He wants us to call out to Him. Ultimately, He wants us to have faith that our help and our peace are in Him.

## Prince of Peace

At the announcement of Christ's birth, the heavenly host of angels appeared to the shepherds near Bethlehem and praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to men!" (Luke 2:14).

God's Christmas gift to people is His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible calls Him the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Today, many people lack personal peace in their hearts. Their lives are full of strife. They fight self or others. They need the Prince of peace to bring peace to them.

I think that sometimes we wonder why life is so difficult at times. Why are there so many storms?

Jesus' disciples faced their own storms. In Mark 4:35-40 is the story of how Jesus once led His disciples into a storm on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples became afraid as the waves came into the boat. Jesus was

asleep in the stern. His disciples woke Him and said, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Jesus got up and said to the wind and waves, "Peace, be still!" The storm ceased. He then asked the disciples why they were fearful and why they lacked faith. Amazed, the disciples began discussing who Jesus could be that even the wind and waves obeyed Him.

Jesus did care about them, more than they realized. He wanted them to learn to live without fear, in peace, not basing their faith upon circumstances but upon the knowledge that He was with them.

Like this story, I think that God sometimes leads us into a storm. He wants to get our attention. He wants us to call out to Him. Ultimately, He wants us to have faith that our help and our peace are in Him.

"The peace offering" (Leviticus 3) of the ancient Israelites was given to bring peace and fellowship between God and man. The Hebrew word, *shalom*, means peace. It is used as a greeting.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He came to be our one-time eternal peace offering with God. The Bible says, that Jesus brought us "peace through the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:20). Because of Jesus, we can have *shalom* with God, not just peace but also fellowship.

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## Reflections of Pakistan (Continued)

Pakistan "has a higher number of unreached individuals per Christian worker than any other place in the world".<sup>2</sup>

The need for Christian ministry in the Punjab is great. I praise the Lord that He has led GBM to get involved there.

### Two Ministries

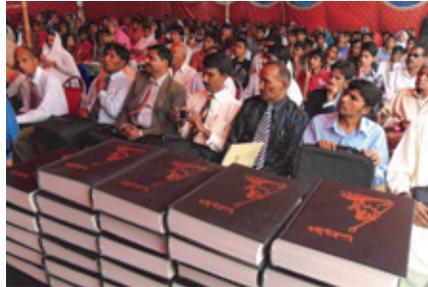
When the Lord led me to Pakistan in 2009, it was through two distinct and separate ministries. One was run by Asher Aziz and the other by Rizwan Fazal. At that time, they were both working in the ministry but not as lead pastors. Now both are lead pastors in churches they have started in Lahore. I am proud of both these young men. They are zealous for the work of Jesus in Pakistan.

Each month, through Rizwan's ministry, GBM helps with the needs of various widows. Through Asher's ministry, GBM has begun six sewing centers which it supports each month. On my recent visit, we held leadership conferences and revival and healing meetings through both ministries.

It is quite significant for young or old to embrace Christ in a culture where great pressure is put on any who are not Muslims.

### Leadership Conferences

Some of the most significant events to me were the times of encouraging the saints in various churches and speaking into the lives of Christian leaders. These are the ones whom God has raised up in that culture to take the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ to



About 200 Christian leaders and workers are attentive to the teaching. The books are the *Shepherd's Staff*, leadership manuals given by World MAP for the lead pastors.

those who do not yet know Him. They are use to ministering in a Muslim-dominated culture. They know the challenges, needs, and opportunities.

The conferences were organized and well attended. They included lead and assistant pastors, elders, women's ministry leaders, and others. Perhaps as many as a dozen churches participated.

The basic theme from Philippians 3 was "Pressing toward Christ Jesus", and the messages focused on perseverance, unity, and encouragement. There was also corporate worship, interaction, and prayer.

World MAP, whose headquarters are in Burbank, CA., provided leadership manuals as gifts for the pastors. These are called *Shepherd's Staff*. They are a great resource for numerous biblical topics. These books are translated into many languages, including Urdu. We are very thankful to World MAP for providing these.

### Outreach Revivals

There were eight organized revivals in villages within a couple of hours drive from Lahore. Both Christians and non-Christians came. The size ranged from 150 to 600. November is the beginning of their winter months. Even though it was a nice 85 F during the day, many people wore coats at night and some of the outreaches were done inside large colorful tents.

Praise God, that He loves people all over the world, including those in the Punjab. He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to tell people about the way to eternal life with God. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and after three days, He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and someday He will return for those who have asked Him to be their Lord and Savior. God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1st Timothy 2:4). This is His heart for men. Not all choose Him, but He reaches out to all.

In the Punjab revivals, hundreds made decisions to give their lives to Christ. I encouraged them to seek out pastors, attend a church, pray to Jesus every day, and, if possible, read a Bible.

It is important when anyone accepts Christ anywhere in the world, but in Pakistan, it can also result in persecution from Muslims.

Conversely, In Pakistan, it has been documented that Christians convert to Islam because of threats, harassment, and intimidation.



Children and adults stand and lift their hands to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior

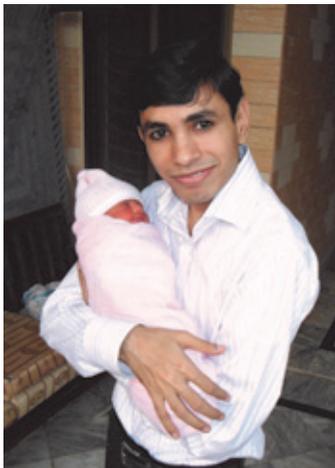
Pakistan's blasphemy law carries a death penalty for anyone who insults Islam. Even though execution has not been carried out in recent history, the law has been used to imprison offenders, and some of those accused of it have been murdered. Muslims who have converted to Christianity have been persecuted by those who accuse them of violating the blasphemy laws. Earlier in 2011, a Christian member of the President's cabinet, Minister of Minority Affairs, Shahbaz Bhatti, was assassinated because he wanted to reform the controversial blasphemy law.<sup>3</sup>

Most Muslims who convert to Christianity are nominal, meaning "in name only". However, Muslims from committed families also convert to Christianity. For instance, in one of our outreaches, I was introduced to Imran. He is from a conservative Muslim family. As I gave the altar call, he stood and committed his life to Christ. Please pray for Imran, that the Lord would keep him safe and use him mightily.

### Eid al-Adha

Eid al-Adha means "festival of sacrifice". It is a four-day festival celebrated at the end of the Hajj. It occurred in November while I was in Pakistan. Islam teaches that it was Ishmael, rather than Isaac, whom Abraham was willing to sacrifice. In contrast, Genesis 22:1-19 clearly

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Left: Rizwan, with new baby daughter, Stacey. He and Mehwish were married at the beginning of 2011. Right: Asher, Aneeza, and me. Asher and Aneeza will be married on December 12. The marriage customs include three days of ceremonies and celebrations.

### Culture

There are many differences between the culture of Pakistan and that of the West that I could mention, but one that stands out to me is in the politeness of how they greet one another. When a person comes into a room, that individual will go to everyone in the room and personally shake hands, sometimes hug, and verbally recognize each one.

The children also greet, but often they come and bend their head forward to an adult, wanting the adult to lay their hand on the top of the head and give a blessing.

## Reflections of Pakistan (Continued)

states that it was Isaac who Abraham was willing to sacrifice. Through his line came the Jews. However, Muslims look back to Abraham through Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar, Sarah's mistress (Genesis 16).

On Eid, Muslims sacrifice camels, goats, sheep, bulls, etc. to represent that God spared Ishmael. They try to kill the animals as humanely as possible. Eid al-Adha is a time for families to gather together and to praise Allah.<sup>4</sup>

However, there is no further need for sacrifice. The ram that Abraham sacrificed (Genesis 22:13 - 14) was predicting the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. John the Baptist said of Him, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). The author of Hebrews says, "Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation" (Hebrews 9:28).

### Healings

At the end of each meeting, people crowded forward who wanted prayer for healing. I was asked by the leaders to simply pray for them all at once, rather than individually. So, I would spend several minutes praying for them. Of course, it was being translated.

The people in the meetings pressed in with a great level of faith, and as Luke 5:17 says, "The power of the Lord was present to heal them." Below is a report from a host pastor who followed up to verify the testimonies.

"One young boy could not hear, but now he can hear. A woman had neck pains for five years, but now she is healed. A 16 year old girl could not see, but now she can see perfectly. One man had shoulder pain, but now he is well. A woman had pain for ten years, but now she is fine."

Praise the Lord for His mercy!

Thanks to all of you who were praying for me and for the power of the Lord to be released in the meetings. He heard your prayers.

### Caution

Many of the revival meetings were guarded by security personnel with various weapons, shot-guns or machine guns. On some occasions, there were also policemen present who made sure that there was no conflict between Muslims and



Several of the larger districts with sewing centers can be seen on the map of the Punjab

Christians.

As I understand it, in Pakistan, Christians are not allowed to go out into the streets to evangelize Muslims, but they are allowed to hold revival events. Muslims may attend these events and many do, especially for the healing prayers. Those attending can include both nominal and practicing Muslims.

At these revivals, the more conservative Muslims often stayed outside of the tents and listened. Sometimes, they brought chairs to sit outside of the official meetings, or they would sit on rooftops or fences next to the event. I praise the Lord Jesus that they also heard the message of salvation. At one meeting, one of the Pakistani pastors tried to get the conservative Muslims to come into the tent. After many came in, the police got involved and made them all

However, at one meeting, one of the Pakistani pastors tried to get the conservative Muslims outside to come into the tent. After many came in, the police got involved and made them all go back outside. They did not want an incident.

go back outside. They did not want an incident. On my trip in 2009, Muslims threw rocks in on one of the meetings and tried to



One of my guards, named Samson

shout me down, but there was no such incident this time. On a different note, I would like to caution any of you who may be receiving emails requesting financial help from people in foreign countries, including Pakistan. Sometimes people pose as Christian charity workers or even pastors, trying to lure in Americans and their money. Check out the sources before you get involved financially.

### GBM PAK Sewing Centers

I visited all six sewing training centers. Below, they are listed, along with their village and district. 1st: Shamir Pur, Sialkot. 2nd: Arraeyan Wala, Sheikhupur. 3rd: Khaliq Nagar, Lahore. 4th: Sohawah, Gujranwala. 5th: Dhair, Narrowal. 6th: Martin Pur, Nankana.

The sewing centers are doing what they were established to do; they are giving an opportunity for disadvantaged girls / women to be trained so that they can earn a living. I was told by one of the Pakistani pastors that prior to this opportunity, some of the Christian girls were forced to earn a living by working at the homes of certain conservative Muslim men who would take advantage of them. There

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## Books FOR SALE



*Lasting Legacy:* Discover the roots of Christian faith, the facts, legends, people, movements, and miracles from Christ to the Council of Chalcedon in 451AD.



*Islam and New Global Realities:* Know the current issues, history and doctrines of Islam. Learn what the *Koran* says about Jesus and how it can be used to share the Good News with Muslims.



*Servants of the Third Watch* is based on a prophetic vision that the Lord gave me about the modern Church. What is the midnight hour of the Church? It may be closer than you think.



*Gate Breakers* is now in two volumes. Book One equips Christians regarding cults, and Book Two deals with world religions and the occult.



These are great, easy-to-read resource books for individual or group studies. You don't have to be an expert to teach from these. A perfect gift for pastors and students of Christianity.

Book One is also available in Spanish.

**BOOK ORDERING:**

- **On-line:** Order and pay for books at Gatebreakers.com
- **Price:** \$12.00 each. \$3.50 shipping for one book. Add .50 cents for each additional book. Contact GBM for discount on orders of five or more.
- **Direct order:** Make checks payable to *Gate Breaker Ministries*. Send to: 2508 S. Abaco Way, Meridian, ID 83642. Please specify which books you are ordering.

## DVDs FOR SALE

**History of the Early Church:** Five hours of teaching, including full power point. Learn about what happened to the apostles, how the New Testament was formed, and much, much more. Perfect for church groups or individuals. It includes notes. \$30.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

**Worship and Prophecy Seminar:** Four hours of teaching: The Thirst, The Rain, The Well, & The River. Get washed in the Spirit. \$25.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

**Darkness to Light - Exposing the Occult:** Dr. Fleming shares at a youth event on the dangers of the occult. This video includes his own personal testimony. \$8.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Send check with request to GBM.

## Reflections of Pakistan (Continued)

were reports of rapes, abuse, and forced conversion to Islam if they wanted to keep the job. How widespread this problem was, I do not know, but it is part of the pressure that Christians face in Pakistan.

Since the goal of the training centers has been to help women gain skills that will increase their income, I was pleased to find out that all of the sewing centers are already receiving some income. Clients bring clothes that need repair, and others buy material and then contract to have clothes made. The income goes to the students.

The GBM PAK sewing centers are strictly Christian in daily devotions, but they are not restricted only to Christian women. All centers are open to include Muslim women or those of other faiths. Some of the centers already have Muslim students. Each day, there are prayers to Jesus and usually a reading from the Bible. Sometimes this is done by a pastor because girls in the villages, even trainers, may be illiterate.



Women at sewing machines in the fifth center. Some items they sewed are on the back wall.

The third sewing center in Khaliq Nagar is also teaching women to become beauticians. This includes not only hair styling but hand prints which can fetch a good income.

The training centers will now provide a one-year certificate and a two-year diploma.



Students practice creating hand print patterns on a piece of glass. These hand prints are popular in the Middle East.

### GBM Church Planting Operation

On Sunday morning, November 6, at the Church of Faith in Lahore, I had the privilege of preaching and encouraging the people of God. Seventeen people made a decision to accept

### Contact Information

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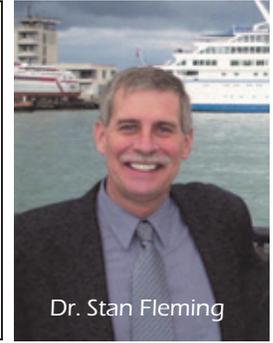
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**Questions:** For inquiries regarding articles and topics of interest, please email me.

**Prayer requests:** Send us your need and we will prayer for it.

**Board Members:** Cary Chrisman, Stan Fleming, Ron Hamel, Larry Starke



Dr. Stan Fleming

Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Before the church service ended, we took a significant step for Gate Breaker Ministries by commissioning Pastor John Sohail to become the first GBM church planting evangelist. He will be going into a community of Lahore called Dolokhoord and begin to plant a church, beginning with a Bible study in a home. GBM will be supporting his efforts every month.

Now, we are prayerfully thinking of beginning two other schools. One would be for the slave children of the workers in the brick factories in the villages. The other would be a GBM center in Lahore that would be a training center for (1) sewing, (2) cosmetology, and (3) midwifery.

Thanks to all of you who gave financially for the mission trip to Pakistan and for those who support GBM on a monthly basis. Thanks to all of you who prayed. God was glorified and many came to know Christ. Praise Jesus!

### Endnotes

1. CIA, The World Fact Book, <www.cia.gov>, Pakistan Demographics Profile 2011, <www.indexmundi.com>
2. M. Hanif Raza, *Souvenir Pakistan* (Islamabad: author, 2010), 11-34.
3. Aoun Sahi, Pakistani Christians Convert to Islam, March 16, 2011, <www.asianews.it>, M Ilyas Khan, "Pakistan Christians bury murdered leader Shahbaz Bhatti, March 4, 2011, <www.bbc.co.uk>
4. Ruqaiyyah Maqsood, *Islam*, (Lincolnwood, IL: Teach Yourself Books, 1994), 94-95.



Commissioning Pastor John Sohail. On left, Irfan Shahzad, my translator, in the middle, Pastor John and wife, Teresa. On right, Pastor Aziz, Asher's father.

## Website ☺

Please visit the website for updates, articles, donation options, book orders, email, and other terrific things.  
May God bless you!

WWW.GATEBREAKERS.COM

## Prince of Peace (Continued)

Some wonder how Jesus can be the Prince of Peace when He said, "I did not come to bring peace but a sword" (Matthew 10:34). Yet, what He meant by this was that His followers would have peace with God, but they would use the sword (Word of God - Ephesians 6:17) against the demonic and ungodly forces in the world.

Just prior to His crucifixion, Jesus said to

This does not remove the difficult times from life, but it brings comfort to Christ's followers because we know that God really does care. We are not alone; He is with us.

His followers, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you" (John 1 : 27 ) .

"These things I have spoken to you that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus did not stay in the grave, but three days later, He rose from dead and now lives as the eternal peace between God and men for all of those who become His followers. One of the first things that He said to His disciples after the resurrection was "Peace to you" ( Luke 24:36).

This does not remove the difficult times from life, but it brings comfort to Christ's followers because we know that God really does care. We are not alone; He is with us.

Paul wrote: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and all comfort, who comforts us in all of our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2nd Corinthians 1:2-4).

When you find your self in a storm, remember that Jesus is in the boat. Let His lack of anxiousness give you courage. He is your peace! Focus on Jesus and the problems of life will fade like a shadow in His light. He loves you and He cares for you.



We had a special time of baptism at Church of Faith in Lahore for people who had given their lives to Christ.