



LORD'S HARVEST INTERNATIONAL

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LHI Newsletter

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Pakistan Opportunity—Additional Information

We are very grateful for the response we have received from many about the Pakistan project. Many have encouraged us to pursue this project, but others have expressed words of caution about proceeding. Some want to be assured that we have carefully researched these contacts and verified that what they are telling us is true. Some are concerned that in light of the extremism and terrorism that is prevalent in Pakistan that perhaps this work is not all that it appears to be.

These are certainly legitimate concerns and we want to assure you that any relationship with individuals in Pakistan is based on accurate information.

Here is additional information that perhaps will help to clarify why we feel it is reasonable to proceed. The information about the work in Pakistan has come from a man who Anthony Buzzard and I know and trust. He has been to Pakistan a number of times and is acquainted with the evangelists and pastors of the churches. He has been connected with the work from the time it was started and has seen first hand its growth. He has nothing to gain personally from having these people join the General Conference. The only reason he has suggested an association with us is because the pastors have told him that they want to work in conjunction with other believers who share a common belief. They have not asked for funding, but if they lose their current support, it could curtail the development of the work. We felt that we should be prepared if funding is needed. But we will not be hasty about sending support. And individual churches will need to make their own appeal to join us. We will not be taking in a group of churches all at once.

We have received confirmation from other sources of the things that we have been told about the work in Pakistan through our primary contact. Also, we have gained information about Pakistan from other church organizations that are doing work in Pakistan. We also have a student at the college this semester from Pakistan who has been a valuable source of information. He and his family are Christians and have been for a number of years. He has confirmed that certain areas of the country are more predominantly Christian than others. Our student had a lot of praise for the former Pakistani President Pervez Mushariff. The leader of the country before him had seized all the mission hospitals and church property, but President Mushariff returned all of them to Christians and did much to support Christianity. In fact he attended a Christian College in Lahore in his earlier years. He has been replaced by President Asif Ali Zardari but apparently there has been no effort to reclaim the Christian properties at this time.

Some have wondered how the work could grow so rapidly over the past 7 years. First, the evangelists have received good training and because of our belief in the oneness of God they are able to make inroads among Muslims. Secondly, they also have good Bible study resources in addition to Systematic Theology by Dr. Huffer and Anthony Buzzard's writings translated into Urdu. And thirdly, there is

some degree of persecution against Christianity, and in the last two thousand years, the church seemingly has flourished the most during times of persecution.

The LHI Board had hoped to send someone to visit the work in late December, but there has been a flare-up in violence in the country and we are not only concerned for the safety of the one sent, but in no way would we want to endanger the believers who would meet with our representative. We still plan to send a representative to meet with the leaders and pastors of this work as soon as it is safe to do so.

I attended a seminar on ministry to Muslims here in Atlanta on October 10 sponsored by the Crescent Project. I learned a great deal about the beliefs of Muslims and how to reach them. Many Muslims are accepting Christ as the Messiah here in the United States as well as around the world. They already accept Jesus as a great prophet, but especially because most Christians call him God, they can't accept him as anything more than a prophet.

A few days ago I had a call from a Muslim in New York City, Sadiq Abdul Malik, who had visited Anthony Buzzard's website and was amazed to find that we do not believe in the trinity. He has been involved in a number of debates with Christians about the trinity. After a lengthy talk with him I looked him up on the web and listened to a debate he had back in April. It was quite amazing the arguments that he used against the trinitarians.

The LHI Board welcomes any additional questions or insights that you might have. And of course we are still interested in hearing from many more indicating if you want us to proceed with this effort and if so, if you would be willing to provide some financial support if it is needed. And support will definitely be needed to send someone to visit the work as soon as it is safe. As of the end of October, we have received commitments from 5 groups and individuals that amount to a little over \$400 per month.—David Krogh

Mexico Trip Report

Again this year we felt the hand of God present with us in our preparations, travel and ministry in Mexico. Many individuals had questioned the advisability of us making the trip this year with the turmoil around the border and with the swine flu epidemic. After much prayer and feeling no indication from God that it should be cancelled, we went ahead with our plans.

Team members for the trip were: Randy Barton, Rachel Carr, Lara Franco, Sarah Franco, David Hall, Randy Hall, Jennifer Koryta, Anthony Lawhon, Kim Musch, Judy Myers, Beth Osborn, Isabella Osborn, and Merry Peterson.

Sarah and Lara Franco, Randy and David Hall, Beth and Isabella Osborn and I left Illinois the morning of July 29th. The Countryside Bible Church group hosted us for dinner and a time of visiting that evening as well as providing motel rooms for us. On July 30th we arrived in Gatesville, Texas where we were entertained for dinner with a group from the Gatesville church. They housed us in their homes that evening. We arrived in Harlingen the afternoon of the 31st. Our plan was to pick Rachel Carr up at the airport around six and then take the members from there to dinner that evening. Storms in Houston had backed up all air travel so Rachel's flight was cancelled. We enjoyed time with the Williams over dinner and then picked up Merry Peterson when her flight arrived. On our return trip we were again hosted by the people in Gatesville and by members in Little Rock, Arkansas. We greatly appreciate the hospitality of these brothers and sisters in Christ in Missouri, Texas and Arkansas. A highlight of the trip each year is seeing these groups and renewing friendships.

On August 1st, the rest of our team was to arrive in Harlingen. Rachel managed to get a flight that morning, Jennifer around lunchtime but the three traveling from Atlanta had delays and missed their flight into Harlingen. After lots of maneuvering, they were able to fly into Brownsville and we picked them up there in the late afternoon. During all of the hours trying to figure out when the rest of the

team would arrive, the thought did cross my mind that perhaps we were being told something. Praise God, those were really the only problems that we encountered on the trip.

For the first time ever we took a child on the trip with us. This is the most amazing child I have ever encountered!! Only one time in the 8 long days of travel did I ever hear her ask if we “were almost there”. When I commented on that, her response was she was just anxious to see if Lois Worley’s cats remembered her and would let her pet them. She was a real joy on the trip and I think kept everyone else positive. In addition she was a great little helper and was really sweet and cute interacting with the children. We had a very good team this year with everyone pitching in and doing what they could. God blessed us with team members who were gifted in all the ways we needed.

We left early the morning of the 2nd to travel into Mexico. Though we had to stand about an hour in line, the process went very smoothly once we got to the counter. We did not see any reason to be concerned. There were guards but no more or less than in previous years. Travel was uneventful and we arrived in the village in time to set up for Bible school to begin the next morning. Vacation Bible school was held each morning Monday through Friday with an average of 71 in attendance. Last year our average was 73 so we were down a little this year. Children going into Secundario have to go to school 4 weeks prior to the beginning of the school year so they are where they need to be in their learning. Those classes began the week we were there. That kept at least 5 of our normal attendees from being in VBS.

For the past several years, we have spent afternoons doing cleaning and maintenance to assist Roberto and Lupe. Since Roberto’s death, we have felt this was a ministry that we could do which would be a blessing to Lupe as well as provide us with something useful to do in the afternoons. We have done painting, screen door repair, etc. This year we were blessed to have a licensed electrician with us on the trip and so Lupe’s house was rewired. One of his distributors provided the necessary materials for us to do this. Hopefully in the future we can replace the wires into the compound and do some additional work in the church building. Syd (Kirkpatrick) had pre-done new screens and a new screen door that Randy (Hall) had primed and then he assembled them on site. We also added two more coats of paint to the gate, repainted the church doors and window frames and replaced a broken window pane in the church.

Lupe asked that we express her deep appreciation to all who are a part of the ministry to her. It gives her peace and joy to know she has a loving “family” of Christian brothers and sisters supporting her in thought and prayer. -Judy Myers

Micro Financing

In 2006, the Nobel Peace prize was awarded to Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank for their pioneering use of small loans – microcredit – to lift millions out of poverty. Through Yunus's efforts and those of the bank he founded, poor people around the world have been able to buy cows, a few chickens or the cellphone they desperately needed to get ahead. "Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty," the Nobel Committee said in its citation. "Microcredit is one such means."

Since then, World Vision and other mission organizations have adopted some form of micro finance to help mission workers and others start small businesses that will enable them to survive, do ministry, and support their own ministries.

The LHI Board has decided to provide small amounts for the pastors on the Malawi and Mozambique Board to start a small business. As each pastor starts earning money, he will tithe into a fund to help future pastors to start a business. Only the initial funding will be provided by LHI, then the tithes will provide start up money for additional pastors. All future pastors will continue to tithe into the fund until all pastors have been funded and then the tithe money will be used to support the Africa mission work, making it self supporting. Each participant will have to agree to tithe on their earnings into the program before they are given funds. After the initial start-up, pastors to receive this help will be

selected by the Board of each country. We trust that this micro finance will help to strengthen the work in Malawi and Mozambique. This project will cost less than \$1,000. Funds for this project have been taken from undesignated mission funds which the donors said should be used at the discretion of the LHI Board.

The LHI Board also has decided to assist with the purchase of two motorcycles in Tanzania that could be used for business purposes to earn money to support the family of Jerome Chembe, provide some employment for several key leaders in the church as well as leading them to becoming self-supporting. In addition we will provide funds for training for 3 people, helmets, licenses (driver's and vehicle) and the first year's insurance for the two vehicles. The money will come out of the Un-earmarked fund. This project will cost about \$3,500. The motorcycles have been purchased and the 6-month training has begun.

We will keep you informed of how these micro financing projects unfold.

Projects That Need Funding

Here are some projects that your mission group may wish to adopt.

1. Pakistan - our goal is to receive commitments of a total of \$1,600 in funding is needed for this work. We will let you know if and when the funds are needed (\$416 has been committed thus far)
2. Benches for church in Tanzania - \$90 each - quantity needed - 34
3. Paint for new church building in Tanzania - We are currently checking figures for this need. In Tanzania as in many other parts of the world, the paint is mixed on the site and requires someone with knowledge to do it. We are working at obtaining what it would cost to paint a building of the same size here in the United States as well as checking prices for what the painter has told Jerome will be needed. When money is available to do this job, it will be painted on the inside and outside as well as the floor. The building itself is 20 x 50 feet with walls anywhere from 14 feet up to 23 feet.
4. Keyboard for Peru - \$200
5. Other - Eye glasses, money to purchase Bibles for Malawi and Mozambique
6. Sunday school material for Kenya - if your church has old unused quarterlies, please send them to us and we will take them to Kenya next summer

Please send your checks made out to LHI, to PO Box 2950, McDonough, GA 30253.